



*American Model United Nations*

## **Commission on Social Development**

The following executive summary is a compilation of the reports that came out of the Commission for Social Development (CSD). Both of the reports that came out of the CSD enjoyed a wide range of support from countries from different social, economic and geographical backgrounds. This summary is on our work on disabilities and the re-evaluation of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD).

The report that the CSD compiled in regards to people with disabilities consisted of four sections: the definition and corresponding legislation for rights of persons with disabilities, the social and legal applications regarding disabilities, the non-governmental organizations, and the current implementations.

The first section reaffirmed the definitions already in place by the World Health Organization and the World Program of Action Concerning Disabled Persons. The report recognized the considerable limitations of the current definitions. In particular, physiological and anatomical structure function disabilities are often ignored as well as certain mental disabilities, but none-the-less require recognition.

The second section worked off the rubric created by the Ad Hoc Committee on Convention on Persons with Disabilities. This rubric is defined by prevention, rehabilitation, treatment and integration. The body encouraged member states to adopt or enforce safer working environments and conditions. Factors such as land mines, toxic waste, war residue, and unspent munitions, were cited as directly contributing to preventable disabilities. The body would call upon the UN to increase support for rehabilitation programs for those with disabilities in society in order to increase independence among those persons.

Section three commended certain NGO's for their role in the protection of human rights of people with disabilities especially where the United Nations is unable to increase the rights of persons with disabilities, or when nations are unable to take the necessary steps but are willing to do so. Section four is comprised of specific examples from regions and member states concerning successful policies in regard to further promotion of equalization of opportunities and protection of human rights for persons with disabilities.

The Sub-committee of NEPAD under the CSD dealt with various issues of great importance to NEPAD. While we applaud the positive results of NEPAD, there are also some short comings that need to be addressed: good governance, infrastructure, and mobilization of resources as they relate to social issues.

In the areas of education we found that adult literacy initiatives should be expanded; that young people should have greater opportunities to receive higher education and especially to combat brain drain; and that more primary education facilities should be constructed. Regarding healthcare, our sub-committee believes that there should be equal access to affordable medicines; that the high infant mortality rates in Africa should be combated; and that the shortage of trained health care professionals should be addressed. The first issue that we reported with regard to agriculture, food, and water is the lack of potable water available in many African countries. We also discussed the need for education of farmers in agricultural techniques that do not require machinery as well as the need for more efficient irrigation. We conferred on the necessity for the conservation of fresh water. Our final topic under infrastructure was transportation. We concluded that there needs to be an increase in accessible roads, and infrastructure for rail,

shipping, and air transport as this is necessary to stimulate economic stimulation.

We reported on the need for economic integration and regional cooperation within Africa. We recognize that trade is an important factor in poverty irradiation and achieving full employment and therefore urge the member states to work towards the elimination of trade barriers. We address that while trans-national corporations (TNC) can sometimes do harm, they also do much good. We also discuss the need for the African Peer Review Group, NGOs, the UN and other groups to work together to ensure that the interest and economies of African nations are protected. We also see a need for micro-financing by alternative organizations and NGOs to be implemented.