

# Eradicating Poverty

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It was a pleasure for me to take part at the NGO's Sub-committee on Eradicating Poverty, at the United Nations. The NGO Sub-Committee for the Eradication of Poverty was founded on October 13, 1999, by members of the NGO Committee for Social Development, to aid the United Nations in working toward the pillar of the World Summit for Social Development Copenhagen in 1995 on the eradication of poverty: "Eradicating poverty in the world, through decisive national actions and international cooperation, as an ethical, social, political and economic imperative."

The NGO sub-committee is enriched by different member organizations from around the world. The committee accords high priority to finding resolutions on the crisis of Global Poverty, and the meeting I attended was based on that very issue. Following the discussion, there was a palpable optimism about the possibility of eradicating poverty. This seemed to stem from the attention and momentum generated by the search for solutions to this intransigent global problem.

Global poverty is something that continues to menace our world today. It is disturbing to talk about poverty in a world that is rich with resources, resources that could easily benefit everyone, if only they were well distributed and shared.

There has always been a general acknowledgement that conditions such as the marginalization of certain people in society, poor governance, unemployment, environmental degradation, and ethnic and religious antipathy constitute formidable obstacles to poverty alleviation and community development.

Therefore, individuals and institutions must work together to take up this challenge. The Subcommittee for the Eradication of Poverty advocates at the United Nation for the recognition of the efforts and experience of those who live in poverty and for systemic change that is people centered, rights based, participatory, and which facilitates the eradication of poverty in all its forms and ensures equity for all. It is from this understanding that some goals for the eradication of poverty put the individual at the center, so that the affected person might reclaim his/her dignity, a sense of worth and confidence to improve his/her condition. However, there should be some help to make people realize their potential, like the help that good parents render to their children. This implies that, at every level of society, institutions must serve as channels through which talents and abilities of individuals can be enhanced in the service of all humanity.

It is under this framework that the NGO's Sub-committee on Eradicating poverty met. The Subcommittee reviewed some of the goals and strategies on poverty alleviation and evaluated whether the intended outcomes were being fulfilled. Some of the key issues on the agenda for the meeting that took place on 19th June 2013 were:

1. Reviewing and updating of priorities for the next year based on the Vision Statement,
2. Sharing on the insights gleaned
3. Response to the High Level Panel Report 'A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development.'