

Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Loreto Generalate (IBVM/CJ NGO) Oral Statement - CSocD61

Thank you Madam Chair for allowing me to address you today, in my capacity as the Youth-Representative of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Loreto Generalate, a faith-based NGO serving in over forty countries.

With only 8 years left for us to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the economic setback posited by the Covid 19 pandemic and rising unemployment is of grave significance, not only to families and companies but to the international community at large. Millions of people have lost their jobs, and the most vulnerable people, especially the youth, women, and other minorities, have been exposed to economic hardships and infringement of basic rights.

The current employment scenario for young people, exacerbated by the global economic crisis, while their voices are unheard and their experiences overlooked, poses an urgent challenge with long-term implications. Young people question the quality of education they received: whether or not it is relevant to available jobs, how their knowledge and skills will serve them in the long term and the extent to which decision-makers are committed to needed investment to improve the status quo. In most cases, when young people do obtain jobs, they have low wages and poor working conditions, including long hours, job insecurity and lack of health and other benefits, leaving them unable to provide for their families.

Furthermore, despite important gains in education among young women, their employment outcomes continue to lag behind those of men. They face higher

unemployment compared to their male counterparts and when employed, they are also more likely to be in traditionally female occupations and unstable, part-time and lower-paid jobs, perpetuating gender-biased roles.

Decent jobs not only contribute to young people's lifetime employment success but also have a proven multiplier effect on family well-being, the health of national economies and societies at large. Young people require financial and social investments to fulfill their potential, transition into adulthood and be active and engaged citizens. As our economies and societies recover from the aftershocks of the pandemic, this is our opportunity to create a future that provides decent opportunities to everyone without any bias and allows them to secure their future and well-being. Therefore, we call on the United Nations and its Member States to commit substantially to the following:

1. Provide support to women and youth-led businesses which leads to more job creation for women, helping in reducing the gender gap in the workforce.
2. Focus on skill-based education that is relevant to the needs of the dynamic market, and emphasizes on the practical application of theoretical knowledge;
3. Find better ways of communication to allow the public to offer their insight and influence legislation that directly affects them, enabling them to embrace the role of stakeholders, rather than just benefactors.

Thank You