

***NGO Committee for Social Development
Values Statement**

Core Values

1. We strongly affirm the basic premise of Copenhagen that all development should be **people-centered**.
2. We insist that the social development of all people be seen by governments as a **moral imperative**. Governments are responsible for promoting a "**society for all**" and development for **every member across the life cycle**.
3. In our daily experience we recognize that **poverty is a multidimensional reality** impacting every part of human life *and disproportionately affecting women*. Poverty not only renders people hungry, it marginalizes them by depriving them of access to health services, education, social participation, decent work, a safe and healthy environment and effective political participation. Access or the lack thereof, is key to understanding poverty. Because of this, **we no longer accept that persons living in poverty be called 'the poor'. They are richly endowed human beings who have much to contribute to society and should be referred to as 'persons living in poverty.'** *To label people as 'the poor' is to depersonalize them. It can reduce them to passive recipients of the action of others, rather than active participants in their community, their society, and their own lives. Poverty refers to the lack of access to the basic means to gain control over their living situation.*
4. *Climate change, in its dimensions, presents another threat to the capacity of countries, communities and individuals to achieve the human and social development that is the right of each of us.*
5. We believe it is the responsibility of governments and civil society to promote **attitudes of social integration/inclusion**, all the while respecting diversity. this basic attitude must inform all policies and programs and ensure open access to all public services.
6. Governments need to be attentive to offsetting the disproportionate effects of crises (e.g. food, energy, climate change, natural disasters, etc.) on those who are living in situations of poverty and other marginalized groups.

A Human Rights Approach

7. For us, **social justice** demands that social and economic development models ensure our brothers' and sisters' **right to a sustainable livelihood and decent work, right to education and health care, right to safe and secure environment and their right to economic, political and social participation**. These human rights are **universal, inalienable and indivisible. As such they cannot be limited by borders.**

8. **Multidimensional education is the right of every person and essential** to their personal development and the development of their communities. Popular education can be a powerful instrument to **raise awareness and empower all members of society**. **Basic education** is an essential but not sufficient building block of the development of a society. Broadening access to secondary and higher education will help to develop a greater pool of competent and effective leaders in the society. Education should be geared both to the **development of people's potential** and to equipping them with **skills needed for the labor market**.
9. **Employment and decent work** are the best means for enabling people to get out of poverty. However, that does not excuse governments from their responsibility for ensuring social protections for all their peoples.

Basic Principles

10. The **principle of "equity"** must inform both the process and the goal of government policy to foster social integration and build an all-inclusive society while embracing diversity and respecting differences.
11. We affirm the **principle of participation** so central to Copenhagen. The human person must be at the center of the development agenda. Every human being is entitled to participate in, contribute to and benefit from economic, social, cultural and political development.
Too often, those most affected by social policy are excluded from the development and monitoring of those policies. The principle of participation demands inclusion of those so often ignored (e.g. women, children, youth, the elderly, persons living in poverty, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, immigrants, refugees, trafficked victims, persons living with HIV/AIDS, people in prison, etc.)
12. Capacity building of local NGOs from the neighborhood level up is essential to the promotion of informed and effective participation by all affected by social policy. With the encouragement and active support of governments, NGOs are prepared to share their skills and help enable all citizens to become advocates for social justice.
13. We strongly affirm **the principles of mutuality, reciprocity and subsidiarity**.

Systemic Issues

14. **The economic, political and social structures that sustain poverty and unjust relations require transformation to rebalance today's extremes of poverty and wealth throughout the world.**
15. Through identifying the social and systemic causes for social exclusion we come to understand how to foster social integration/inclusion.

16. We recognize that **gender equality needs to be a central focus**. Gender cuts across all other social categories and is a marker of identity and inequalities between men and women in all societies.
17. We are convinced that social development in today's globalized world is conditioned on our **addressing the systemic causes of poverty and inequality**.

Effective Social Policy

18. The **coherence of economic and social policy** is essential to foster measurable, sustainable social advancement for all members of society.
19. **Building on effective models** of social inclusion could help to identify **social indicators to be used to measure the implementation of policy**. Among these should be a **measure of social equity** which evaluates social integration/inclusion.
20. *The impact of social policy on those living in poverty and groups who are marginalized and excluded* must be a priority concern of government policy.
21. We recognize that long-term social integration/inclusion in society fosters social harmony and reduces violence, conflict and abuse.

Emerging concerns needing more reflection/discussion, especially in view of CSocD 10-11:

Principle of subsidiarity

Concept of solidarity

"Green jobs"

Common good

Common goods

Integrated thinking

Holistic, integrated development

Degree to which people themselves transform their societies

**All Changes are in Italics*

Revised by the Writers/Gleaners Task Force 2010-2011