



General Assembly

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Agenda item 89 (a)

Eradication of poverty and other development issues: implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

Qatar:* draft resolution

Role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/193 and 52/194 of 18 December 1997, 53/197 of 15 December 1998 and 58/221 of 23 December 2003,

Recognizing that microcredit programmes have succeeded in generating productive self-employment and proved to be an effective tool in freeing people from the poverty trap and reducing their vulnerability to crisis, and have led to their growing participation, in particular the participation of women, in the mainstream economic and political processes of society,

Recognizing also the need to facilitate access for people living in poverty, especially women, to microcredit in order to enable them to undertake microenterprises to generate self-employment and contribute to achieving empowerment,

Recalling further its resolution 53/197 of 15 December 1998, by which it proclaimed 2005 the International Year of Microcredit and requested that the observance of the Year be a special occasion for giving impetus to microcredit programmes in all countries, particularly the developing countries,

Encouraging the holding of and supporting regional and subregional events on microcredit, and in this regard, welcoming the holding of the Asia-Pacific Region Microcredit Summit Meeting of Councils, in Dhaka, from 16 to 19 February 2004, the Middle East/Africa Region Microcredit Summit Meeting of Councils in Amman, from 10 to 13 October 2004, and the Eighth Inter-American Forum on Microenterprise in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, in September 2005,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

Noting that the international community is observing the period 1997-2006 as the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) and preparations for the International Year of Microcredit, 2005;¹

2. *Emphasizes* that the observance of 2005 as the International Year of Microcredit will provide a significant opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of microcredit in the eradication of poverty, to share good practices and to further enhance financial sector developments that support sustainable pro-poor financial services in all countries;

3. *Recognizes* the importance of scaling up microcredit and of using the Year as a platform to find ways of enhancing development impact and sustainability through the sharing of best practices and lessons learned;

4. *Reiterates* its invitation to Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society to collaborate, including through making voluntary contributions, in observing the Year, to raise public awareness and knowledge about microcredit and to make voluntary contributions and/or to lend other forms of support to the Year, in accordance with the guidelines for international years;

5. *Recognizes* that access to microcredit can contribute to the achievement of the goals and targets of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in particular the targets relating to poverty eradication, gender equality and the empowerment of women, and requests the Secretary-General, in this regard, to include in his reports for the high-level event of the General Assembly in 2005, in accordance with the modalities to be set by the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, the role of microcredit in attaining these goals and targets;

6. *Decides* to devote two plenary meetings at its sixtieth and sixty-first sessions to the consideration of, respectively, the outcome and the follow-up to the International Year of Microcredit, with a view to broadening and deepening the discussion of this issue;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the observance of the International Year of Microcredit, 2005 and on new and innovative application of microcredit schemes for income generation and consumption and on best practices showcased during the Year and to submit it to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session under the item entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)".

¹ A/59/326 and Add.1.