Position Paper for the United Nations General Assembly Second Committee

The issues before the upcoming session of the General Assembly Second Committee are: Women in Development, The Impact of Migration on Development, Adapting to Globalization: The New International Economic Order and Green Economy. Appreciating the necessity of universal human rights and dignity, the Principality of Monaco (Monaco) is committed to promote human rights and sustainability.

I. Women in Development

Over the last decades the United Nations (UN) have started attempts to equalize possibilities offered to women and men. Nonetheless, as of yet women face unequal treatments regarding education, the working sector and their position in society. Monaco is convinced that the right to education is the most efficient way for women to break the cycle of poverty and exclusion.

Monaco aims to improve the quality of life of women and girls by intensively supporting the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization’s (UNESCO) program Education for All (EFA). Additionally, Monaco supported the project “Promoting the Schooling of Girls in Burundi” by the UNESCO in November 2014. The General Assembly (GA) adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (A/RES/34/180, 1979), and underlines the need for an action plan to end discrimination against women and the right to vote. The GA has to continue to put focus on other possible projects on how to improve the living conditions of women and their families in rural areas, especially in African countries (A/RES/66/129, 2011). In 2012, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UN Women and UN World Food Programme (WFP) have agreed to lead a five-year initiative in support of rural women’s economic empowerment through joint actions. UN Women implemented the Conference Sharefair 2014 in Nairobi to support rural women farmers to exchange their experiences in a professional context.

Monaco encourages UNESCO to increase its efforts regarding education of women and girls by implementing the African Educational Program (AEP). The UNESCO project in Burundi should be used as a role model for introducing a project in Rwanda. Monaco calls upon the GA to support the attempt to implement the AEP in Kigali, Rwanda in January 2016. It shall be organized by the UNESCO in cooperation with UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and the World Bank. To provide the funds for AEP, Monaco addresses the UNESCO’s Malala Fund for Girls’ Right to Education to become financial supporters. Monaco proposes to the FAO, IFAD, WFP and UN Women to implement an educational system, called Education for African Agriculture (EFAA). It shall concentrate on how rural women in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) get adequate access to resources and information regarding the improvement of their agricultural output. To achieve this target, qualified experts shall be located in the DRC and set up a system of weekly information days in different areas. EFAA shall be introduced in January 2016. Monaco encourages IFAD to provide financial sources as well as UN Member States and private donors. Moreover, Monaco invites the UNFPA to implement a micro finance initiative in the DRC in 2016. It shall build a network of women who receive special education by UNFPA and therefore can lead local women groups. Additionally, every women can purchase a loan in order to start their own business and to be able to support their families. This initiative will lead to a higher regional economic power. Monaco calls upon all representatives and their country governments to participate and donate to the initiative in the DRC in order to guarantee a successful implementation.

II. The Impact of Migration on Development

Global Migration has increased rapidly in the last decades. With it come great chances towards poverty reduction and sustainable economic development. To use these chances to their maximum possible output, migration needs to be managed properly to prevent negative effects.

Monaco faces higher population growth rates than other European countries. Monaco has signed and ratified the Human Trafficking Protocol (2001) and Migrant Smuggling Protocol (2001). It welcomes the actions undertaken by the Multilateral Framework on Labor Migration (MFLM) of the International Labor Organization (ILO). It calls for the adoption of measures that would encourage migrants in reporting abusive treatment or exploitation from individuals or entities. The European Union played a key role in cooperating closely with emerging economies, developing countries and social partners during the adoption of the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization (2008) and the Global Jobs Pact (2009). The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the South American organization MERCOSUR organized a workshop on
human rights for migrants. To improve the situation and the treatment of migrants and to protect the migrants’ rights the ILO set up a database to exchange and share best practice programs and policies.

Monaco invites the IOM and the ILO and their experts on migration as well as representatives of the GA to come together for a five day Conference for Sustainable Migration (CISM) to share best practice programs and policies. Their findings shall be edited to guidelines which shall be sent to the GA and its representatives. Monaco suggests to hold the CISM in Monaco in December 2015. Monaco addresses the IOM Development Fund to support the CISM financially. Monaco underlines the need for a global network to offer protection to migrants from abusive treatment. The Network Protection for All Migrants (PFAM), organized by the IOM, shall offer migrants who are confronted with violent actions as well as discrimination shelter. Monaco suggests that IOM cooperates with the ILO to introduce a PFAM pilot program in 2016. This program shall consist of several PFAM country offices which are coordinated by the IOM and offer a refuge to migrants in need. To finance the program Monaco encourages the UN Member States, to participate and donate. A report has to be presented to the GA at its annual meeting in 2017. Monaco underlines the potential of migration to implement and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and respectively the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The added goal shall turn the global focus on the protection of migrants against discrimination, oppression and freedom to move. Monaco encourages all members of the Open Working Group (OWG) to add migration to their agenda during their meeting in New York in June/July 2015.

III. Adapting to Globalization: The New International Economic Order and the Green Economy

It is inevitable to discuss an adaption of globalization in terms of the Green Economy, since the effects of globalization affect every nation. Monaco therefore appreciates the possibility to work on an adaption of Globalization and is ready to contribute financially as well as administratively.

In October 2008, Monaco hosted the Second International Symposium on the Ocean in a High-CO2 World (SOHCO2). The result was the Monaco Declaration which stated that ocean acidification is already detectable and will have socioeconomic effects. In 2011, Monaco hosted a workshop about the sustainable use of oceans with focus on the Green Economy, organized in cooperation with the bureau of the United Nations Conference for Sustainable Development (UNCSD) to contribute to the outcome document of SDGs. This workshop resulted in the Monaco Message which underlines the need to integrate the sustainable development of oceans in the post 2015 framework. H.S.H. Prince Albert II recently declared Monaco’s ambitions to become carbon neutral and to reduce carbon emissions by 80% until 2050 as declared on the UN Climate Summit (A/RES/43/53, A/RES/44/207, 1990, 2014). The SDGs will need to include new aspects such as the use of sustainable and renewable energies. Furthermore, the international community works against gaps between developing and developed countries (A/RES/S-6/3201, 1974). The United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) was established in order to finance humanitarian actions immediately when needed the most.

Monaco proposes to set up an OWG in order to create a guide for developing and less developed countries about how to make use of the ocean. Monaco invites all participants of the SOHCO2 to join this working group as well as the members of the UNCSD. The OWG shall meet for two weeks. Monaco offers to host the working group in its Oceanographic Institute. The first meeting should be in early October 2015, the following meetings shall take place in an interval of three months each. The guidelines shall be presented to the GA in summer 2016. Monaco emphasizes that humanitarian assistance to developing and less developed countries may depend on the current financial situation of the donating states in times of crisis. Monaco therefore purposes to extend the responsibilities of the CERF to supporting long-term humanitarian action. Monaco proposes to create a subfund under the patronage of the CERF, called Central Crises Response Fund (CCRF). To finance this 15% of the annual donation to the CERF shall be reserved for the CCRF. To cover all expenses Monaco calls upon all UN Member States to increase their contributions towards development aid. The Monaco Declaration pointed out the urgent need to raise the awareness and to improve the understanding of the impacts of the ocean acidification by promoting research in this field. Monaco would like to invite representatives of governments and researchers on the area of oceanology to a Discussion Forum in the end of June 2015 organized by the UNCSD. The outcome of the Discussion Forum should be a collection of ideas about how to inform the population about the respective issue. The participants will be able to cooperate with each other in order to improve information transfer. The results will be published in a database to exchange best practice programs and policies with other Member States.