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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT****Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development**
Third Session of the Team of Specialists on Entrepreneurship in Poverty Alleviation
Geneva, Switzerland, 12 February 2003**REPORT ON THE THIRD SESSION**

1. The 3rd Meeting of the TOS on Entrepreneurship in Poverty Alleviation was held on 12 February 2003 at the Palais des Nations. Experts from 13 countries - Republic of Belarus, Croatia, Hungary, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States of America -, 8 international organizations - Junior Chamber International, SEE Youth Resource Centre, ILO, UNAIDS, UNCTAD, Youth Business International, Youth Employment Summit Campaign Secretariat, World Youth Bank - and several NGOs attended the Meeting. Mrs. Golden Rachel from the USA chaired the Meeting.

2. Due to the fact, that the former Chairperson resigned, the Meeting review its chairmanship and took the following decision:

Chair: *Mrs. Stasa Baloh-Plahutnik*, State Secretary of the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs (Slovenia)

Vice-Chairs:

Mrs. Golden Rachel, President of the Golden Foundation (USA)

Mr. Yuri V.Sosyurko, President of the All-Ukrainian Leasing Association (Ukraine)
and

Mr. Jean-Claude Strebel, Director and Vice-President of the W.A. de Vigier Foundation (Switzerland)

3. In order to meet the requirements of the First Regional Forum on Youth: Security, Opportunity and Prosperity, held in August 2002, the 2nd Meeting of the TOS decided to focus on youth employment.

In order to consider the modest human and financial resources, the 3rd Meeting of the TOS agreed

- (i) to rename the TOS as Team of Specialists on Youth Entrepreneurship; and
 (ii) to narrow the TOR as following:

- Exchange experiences and ideas to reduce youth unemployment through entrepreneurship;
- Identify modalities, organizational forms and support services, that could assist young generation to acquire entrepreneurial skills and become a self/employed;
- Identify problems related to the youth generation in the filed of security, healthcare, family and social affairs, education, culture and unemployment;
- Raise awareness to solve youth-related problems;
- Organize seminars/workshops/forums on youth, especially in sub-regional context;
- Assist Governments, at their requests, in designing entrepreneurial and income-generating programmes;
- Assist Governments and local-governments in development of school businesses;
- Collect and disseminate government policies in assisting to solve youth-related problems;
- Collect and disseminate best practices on youth entrepreneurship promotion schemes;
- Create portrait gallery of excellent youth entrepreneurs in arts, crafts and oriented towards the knowledge-based society; and
- Collect and develop projects, including programmes, promoting youth entrepreneurial activities, in ECE member States that were successful in alleviating youth unemployment and poverty.

4. The 3rd TOS elaborated its programme of work for the next biennium 2003-2004 including the following orientations and tasks:

4.1 Working with international initiatives.

In order to fulfil the aims of the Millennium Declaration on Youth, the TOS would focus on its efforts on the following:

- (i) Youth Employment Network established by the UN Secretary General.
 Responsible: TOS secretary and ILO
- (ii) Youth Employment Summit Campaign established as an international NGO.
 Responsible: YES Campaign Secretariat and TOS secretary
- (iii) Youth Business International – YBI will search for expanding its activities with selected CITs
 Responsible: *Mr. Andrew Fiddaman*, YBI
- (iv) Junior Chamber International
 Responsible: *Mr. André Götti* and *Mr. Pierre Parneix*

4.2 Raising awareness on youth-related issues. Organising sub-regional workshops and forums:

- (i) Workshop on “Promotion of SMEs – Strategic Direction in the Development of Youth Entrepreneurship” to be organized within the framework of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation on 27-28 March 2003 in Chisinau (Republic of Moldova)
 Responsible: *Mr. Sergiu Coropceanu*, National Youth Council of Moldova
- (ii) Sub-regional Conference on Youth
 Responsible: *Mr. Youri V. Sosyorko*, Vice-Chairman of the TOS;
- (iii) Elaboration of a concept of a youth-related event for Southeastern Europe to be held in 2004
 Responsible: *Mrs. Stasa Baloh-Plahutnik*, Chairperson of the TOS;
- (iv) Elaboration of a youth-related event for Central-Asian Transition Economies in 2004
 Responsible: *Mr. Idrisov Abdul Aziz*, Youth Exchange of Labour, and *Mr. Almaz Borubaev*, the Permanent Mission of Kyrgyzstan to the UN Office at Geneva.

4.3 **Development of School Businesses**

- (i) Development of a pilot project between Communicare (Sweden) and Fazekas Mihaly Grammar School (Hungary)
Responsible: *Mr. Jan Olefsson* (Sweden) and *Mrs. Valeria Ládi* (Hungary)
- (ii) Development of a project on creation of a unified system of practical teaching and coordination for students and youth companies.
Responsible: Center of Bridging Training and Certification, Research-Training Center and Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation.

4.4 **Creation of a project on match-making** of needs and requirements using the web-site of the UNECE.

Responsible: *Mr. Bogdanic Tomislav*, President of the World Youth Bank

4.5 **Preparing a Youth Entrepreneurship Report** based on the presentations made at the First Regional Forum on Youth

Responsible: TOS Secretary and ILO

5. The Meeting took note, that the Governments of Croatia and Germany rejected issuing visa for young people having an official invitation from the organizers to attend this Meeting and the Youth Summit held recently in Zagreb.