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**BUILDERS OF AN  
EQUITABLE SOCIETY**

## **Social Inclusion Integration**

Social inclusion as described the United Nations white paper below adheres to the principles of Synocracy, which is a more holistic application of governance.

Synocracy is a form of government that means working together, operating together as in cooperation, laboring together as in collaboration and acting together as in co-action. The goal is to accomplish a larger or more challenging task that can be accomplished by individuals working separately.

Many international organizations advocate the need for people to participate in the governance of society, but in practice there is no social inclusion process mainly because:

1. Government are making unilateral decisions
2. The people are disinterested to participate and do not want to take responsibility, which is the primal causality for their exclusion.

Therefore most decisions are made at the top without the participation of the people who's lives are directly affected.

In effect to succeed with a process of social inclusion; it has been proven that the people who have a stake in the outcome, educate themselves and engage with the decision process and take full responsibility for decisions that directly affect their lives. (Consequences) In parallel owning equity in an enterprise provides people with a stake in the enterprise and its operational success. Equity gives people an incentive to participate, work together and attain long-term prosperity and stability for all participants. The collective benefit for people to engage with a process of social inclusion is to improve government's ability to optimize the use of resources.

This report was inspired by a draft publication from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations. A warning about the current globalization process is that social inclusion is being omitted at the expense of the people, for the benefit of corporate entities.

The objective of the Universal Alliance and its partners is to ensure that our institutions who are supported by governments globally and partially funded by tax payers money, support projects that will empower the people at community level to become self-responsible and self-sustainable through a process of social inclusion. During these times of change and uncertainty we stress the importance

to maintain, social, political and economic stability at all levels of society.

This draft, globally recognized, has been summarized by the Universal Alliance and portrays solutions proposed by international mainstream participants, which are part of our social integration programs implemented in collaboration with Community Development Partners and local governments.

Social Inclusion Integration presented by the Universal Alliance board of directors updated June 2018.

**“Creating an Inclusive Society:  
Practical Strategies to Promote Social Integration.”**

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/egms/docs/2009/Ghana/inclusive-society.pdf>

As a result of the United Nations development agenda this document contains a vision for an inclusive society as well as the role of local governments in promoting social inclusion and participation.

The World Summit for Social Development, held in March 1995, established the concept of social integration to create an inclusive society, “a society for all”.

Delegates from 186 countries and representatives from 811 non-governmental organizations are amongst those who participated.

The following defines key terminology extracted from this paper, which is aligned with the Universal Alliance methodology.

1. Social integration is understood as a dynamic and principled process of promoting the values, relations and institutions that enable all people to participate in social, economic, cultural and political life on the basis of equality of rights, equity and dignity.
2. Social inclusion is understood as a process by which efforts are made to ensure equal opportunities for all, regardless of their background, so that they can achieve their full potential in life.
3. Social exclusion may mean the lack of voice, lack of recognition, or lack of capacity for active participation.
4. Social cohesion refers to the elements that bring and hold people together in society. In a socially cohesive society all individuals and groups have a sense of belonging, participation, inclusion, recognition and legitimacy.
5. Social participation is understood as the act of engaging in society's activities. It refers to the possibility to influence decisions and have access to decision-making processes. Social participation creates mutual trust

among individuals, which forms the basis for shared responsibilities towards the community and society.

This paper expresses the urgency of the global situation and we quote:

“The failures of social integration will lead to “social fragmentation; widening disparities and inequalities; and strains on individuals, families, communities and institutions as a result of the rapid pace of social change, economic transformation, migration and major dislocations of population, particularly in areas of armed conflict”.

It covers important aspects like:

1. Democratic and participatory governance
2. Eradicating extreme poverty
3. Achieving universal education
4. Social Justice
5. The rule of law
6. Effectiveness of public policy
7. Cooperative framework for social development
8. Promoting a culture of peace
9. Protection of the environment
10. Sustainable development
11. Shared responsibility
12. Every individual, each with rights and responsibilities, has an active role to play

The primary role of the Network of Community Public Foundations as proposed by the Universal Alliance is to create Social Cohesion. The blueprint to empower the people to build an equitable society through the establishment of a Network of Community Public Foundations is as follows:

1. Agree on the guiding principles to work together
2. Recognize the supremacy of the International Declaration of Human Rights
3. Elect and financially support individuals to establish and operate your Community Public Foundation
4. Create a network of Coordinators as proposed by the Universal Alliance to coordinate efforts between community, small and medium Enterprises, charitable organizations and local governments
5. Populate the Universal Assembly to facilitate the adoption and implementation of proven solutions
6. Create and share blueprints in collaboration with alliance partners
7. Initiate the development of a sustainable economic model through the network of Community Public Foundations

8. Map holistic methodologies using existing technological solutions
9. Build a database driven information system for society to increase the efficiencies of enterprises
10. Openly share templates and methodologies to reduce the replication of efforts
11. Extract indicators for reports allowing for better planning and decision making
12. Empower Community Public Foundations to operate and be supported by local enterprises through a sustainable loyalty program, with funds used to create additional equity employment opportunities

The Universal Alliance architecture will contribute to organize the various types of information, while community consultation and collaboration takes place with the support of international Alliance Partners. This will provide reliable information and guidance to Community Public Foundations, through the support of the network of coordinators.

In conclusion, the UN paper clearly states and we quote:

“Each policy or strategy must be reviewed as to whether it is inclusive, and if participatory measures are installed in the policy formulation, implementation and monitoring processes. This approach is particularly useful when tackling the structural aspects of social inclusion/exclusion, in areas such as poverty eradication, employment and education. Institutional structures need to be transformed and institutional capacities need to be strengthened to promote social inclusion. Strategies need to be devised for enhancing visibility, taking into consideration the individual’s needs and concerns, facilitating dialogue, and promoting community participation.”

### **The Universal Alliance Conclusion**

The focus of this UN paper is oriented towards starting at the community level. We want to emphasize the importance to focus more specifically towards engaging rural communities, where we can collectively reverse the process of urbanization generating stress on larger cities around the planet. Using a bottom up approach, where higher levels of society can implement inclusive practices and policies of social interactions all the way from community to national level as proposed in this video located at [www.universalallianceadmin.org](http://www.universalallianceadmin.org) and then select alliances.

The Universal Alliance recommends the practical implementation suggested by the essence of this paper. We acknowledge the high importance and credibility of this content for community groups anywhere, to get involved for positive change in the world starting at community level.

**Below we have included the most relevant information extracted from the paper.**

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/egms/docs/2009/Ghana/inclusive-society.pdf>

“To achieve social integration and social inclusion, voices of people and their needs and concerns, need to be heard. Not only some but all members of society with different backgrounds must have a say and a stake in *their shared* society. This inclusiveness of society creates and maintains stability as well as a readiness to embrace change when necessary.” (P 8)

“In very basic terms, “International human rights law requires governments to respect individuals’ civil and political rights – such as their rights to free speech, fair trial, and political participation – and to promote their economic, social and cultural rights – such as their rights to health care and education. In an inclusive society, members not only have the right to education or the right to political participation but actually take part in the process, using the right to education and having a vote that actually counts in a political process. What is most significant in creating an inclusive society is the engagement of the individual in the process by which society is managed, ordered and represented.” (P 8)

“Social justice refers to the principles, values and belief that every individual and group is entitled to fair and equal treatment, which is necessary for the achievement of a society in which all people have equal access to rights, not only under law, but in all aspects of life, and all people get an impartial share of the benefits as well as carry a fair share of the responsibilities of society.” (P 8 -10)

“Every member of society, no matter what his or her economic resources, political status, or social standing, must be treated equally under the law. Legal instruments ensure the guiding principles that will guarantee equity, justice and equal opportunities for all citizens. Violators of human rights should be brought to justice. The judiciary which serves to protect just societies must be impartial, accountable and inclusive to giving weight to the opinions of those who defend the inclusiveness of the society at the local, regional and national levels. *Maintaining the security* of all individuals and their living environment is paramount in creating a feeling of inclusion and an atmosphere of participation in society.” (P 9)

“In order to encourage all-inclusive participation, there must be *universal access to public infrastructure and facilities*. *Effective leadership* is crucial to the development of an inclusive society. Where leadership is not representative of the society, a disconnection between the people and their leaders may eventually result. The most common way of addressing this critical element at the local level is by engaging in open consultations with members of society about municipal issues such as the budget, and enhancing the free and timely flow of information

to citizens and other stakeholders.” (P11)

“A society with no vision for the future indicates a society in decline. Societies that maintain a unity of purpose, or a shared vision embraced by the community, and encourage broad-based stakeholder participation in the formulation of that goal, will be more inclusive as every member will be working synergistically towards a unified objective.” (P 11)

*“Inclusion is community. No one becomes included by receiving handouts, even if these handouts are given by public bodies and with public resources. No one becomes included by being treated by a program in which they are no more than a number or a statistic. Inclusion is connection to the network of community development, it is to become more than a speck of dust, to have a forename and surname, with one’s own distinctive features, skills and abilities, able to receive and give stimulus, to imitate and be imitated, to participate in a process of changing one’s own life and collective life.” (P 11-12)*

“Exclusion conversely is a process and a state resulting in lack of access to full participation in mainstream society.” (P 12)

“The process of social inclusion needs to take place simultaneously at multiple levels, from the individual, community and local levels, to the regional and national levels, as social inclusion is a subject which concerns all stakeholders in society.” (P 12)

*“Steps to promoting social inclusion.*

- 1) **Visibility:**
- 2) **Consideration:**
- 3) **Access to Social Interactions**
- 4) **Rights:**
- 5) **Resources to fully participate in society”** (P 14)

**Table 1:** *Dimensions and elements of Social Exclusion and Inclusion (P 16)*

“For successful social inclusion to take place, it is useful to examine the areas in which inclusion is weak and where exclusion is most prevalent; where engagement is least successful and participation is faltering. How and why are people being left out of the processes that make up society? Who does it affect and what are the economic, social and political environments in which the problem is most apparent? Structures, processes and relations of power that exist within societies, which result in the inclusion of some and exclusion of others, need to be examined. As a starting point, the next section examines some key areas where social inclusion perspectives need to be incorporated, as well as which groups of people are typically excluded.”(P16)

“The notion of social exclusion can contribute to the understanding of the nature of poverty, as well as help identifying causes of poverty that may otherwise be neglected. Almost by definition, poverty limits the access of people to the most basic levels of social inclusion. Not only directly, in the form of material deprivation, such as the inability to afford shelter and buy food, but also in regards to agency; the poor are often without the willingness and capacity to act, and psychologically disempowered, as they feel excluded from the greater society, discouraged of becoming visible, participating and contributing. If the poor are systematically excluded from mainstream society, their exclusion can impede social progress and endanger social and political stability. The degree of inequality in a society is considered to be more closely correlated with crime levels than poverty. Even though there is no direct causal relationship between poverty and violent conflict, the poverty associated with high degree of inequality and exclusion/marginalization can be a major contributing factor to higher crime rates and higher risks of social tensions, social disintegration, and ultimately violent conflict. Poverty reduction strategies and efforts are therefore some of the most important fronts in promoting social inclusion.” (P 17)

“Exclusion of the weakest groups from the labor market and lack of gainful employment represents another threat to social inclusion and cohesion. For the poor, labor is often the only asset they can use to improve their quality of life, therefore, unemployment can have extremely damaging effects on the livelihoods as well as well-being of individuals, households and the entire community. Global unemployment is at a historical high at nearly 200 million in 2006, with a more than 20 percent increase in official unemployment over the decade.” (P 18)

“It is important to reduce existing barriers to labor markets, not only by instilling ‘social responsibility’ practices, but also by creating incentives for creating diverse workforces in the private sector. This includes public policies promoting equal opportunities, providing social and economic incentives to enterprises and organizations that promote inclusive values and practices, creating a new vision for inclusive organizational culture based on the basic premise that every individual is entitled to equal opportunities and self-realization.” (P 19)

“Young people between the ages 15 and 24 years, constituted 18 per cent (1.2 billion) of the world’s population in 2007, and are considered to be best educated youth generation in history. They are also better equipped to explore abundant and diverse information and knowledge worldwide through information and communication technology. However, these advantages do not necessarily bring benefits to many young people, especially those living in developing countries. They are facing exclusion in economic social and political participation. Unemployment and underemployment is significantly higher among youth in many countries in the world.” (P 23)

#### “IV. APPROACHES TO PROMOTING SOCIAL INCLUSION

*Promoting respect for democracy, the rule of law, diversity and solidarity and removing institutionalized inequalities are critical to successful social integration.*

Social inclusion, as a multi-dimensional process to create conditions, which enable full and active participation in all aspects of life, is a concept with universal appeal. It is evident that social inclusion must be and has become a priority in international policy discourse. However, the challenge lies at the core: how to apply the concept in real life situations, and how to operationalize it through mobilizing all actors in society, at the local, regional, national, and international levels.” (P 29)

#### “V. CONCLUSION

“If a vision can be created which is communicable to the masses and stems from a collective agreement that promotes diversity, tolerance, empowerment, inclusion, participation and community-minded action, then important steps can be made. Fostering a common purpose in all members of society, which has input from all sectors is crucial.”

“If this concept of social inclusion is promoted, cycles of exclusion and traditional blockades, structural and perceived, will begin to dismantle. This would constitute an important step towards an inclusive society. Equally, while the actual fiscal responsibilities involved in creating inclusive societies may initially present a challenge, the viewpoint should be promoted that the investment in motivating participation in all sectors of society is an investment in a successful and sustainable future and a more balanced society, meeting the needs of all its members, where investment in inclusion and the resulting change in society are actually beneficial to all.”

#### **Chapter two: Role of Local Governments in Promoting Social Inclusion and Participation**

“New challenges posed by globalization affect not only national governments, planners and policy-makers, but also regional, provincial and local governments who need to cope with new dynamics operational at a level beyond their direct control. How people set and meet their goals and aspirations depends to a large extent, on their immediate economic and social environment. Successful policies to respond to globalization need to start with local communities. Indeed, it could be argued that it is at the local level where contemporary social and economic transitions have the most fundamental impact.” (P 42)



“While, it would be overly-simplistic to hold that the city, as an administrative unit, has the possibility to promote inclusion rather than exclusion in isolation from all other administrative units existing within a country, local governments (or local areas) do occupy a potentially pivotal position when it comes to the promotion of economic, social and cultural inclusion, especially if their actions are:

1) coordinated with other administrative structures operating in the area, and

2) validated by national policies that acknowledge the key role local governments play in the promotion of inclusion. Managing this process will inevitably pivot on the formulation of new responses to and a rethinking of urban governance, urban strategy, urban policy and urban practice in order to meet the challenges and capitalize on the opportunities that will arise.” (P43)

## ***II. Challenges and opportunities for local governments in promoting social inclusion and combating social exclusion***

“There are also other challenges; how the bottom-up decisions are coordinated with national policies and/or strategies; how to reconcile with existing legislative framework; how to ensure that the capacity of those excluded are built; how to address the existing power imbalances; and how to make local governance truly inclusive. Another area, which needs more attention, is the capacity of local government in data collection for planning, policy analysis, and monitoring. In particular, data disaggregated by gender, age, or other social attributes are important for mapping out where exclusion exists, and insufficient data is a challenge.” (P 46)

### **Local Governance: Local representation and civic participation**

“As the political environment at national and local levels significantly affect the way in which decisions are made, the legitimacy of participatory processes, however, need to be carefully examined.” (P 46)

“There may be a case in which individuals with stronger power or incentives may be selected unfairly, which can result in a significant barrier to inclusion of the excluded. Equally, “community groups themselves can become the barrier to inclusion because they are so issue focused and do not see or want to see the bigger picture and how it affects a larger group or the whole community” (FCC, 2008). It is often the case that excluded people or groups are neither participating nor represented in decision-making processes.” (P 46)

“In many cases, the excluded are ‘invisible’, as they are often not included in the official statistical data and are often absent in societal institutions and processes. Getting people to engage with government, not only casting a vote in selecting their representatives, but also being involved in contributing to decision-making processes that affect their lives can be even more difficult.” (P 46-47)

### ***III. Promoting Social Inclusion at the local level***

“As the issue of social integration and social inclusion has become a reality of local governments, they must recognize the diverse nature of the challenge, and that initiatives to promote social inclusion need to take place in various fronts at multiple levels. A social inclusion strategy should be the starting point for identifying a series of practical objectives and actions that can positively impact processes to decrease the levels of social exclusion, and poverty, and improve the quality of life of every member of society.”

#### **Multi-stakeholder processes to promote coordination**

“Multi-stakeholder processes (MSP), which foster dialogue across stakeholders to build common understanding on certain issues, and set common goals, allow people to engage with an idea in a safe and supportive environment. In any given situation, stakeholders will represent a wide range of people. In terms of inclusion, often it is the excluded themselves, the greatest stakeholders in their own lives, who are left out of policy design and its resulting implementation. It is the place of their local governments to find and make heard their voices and create leaders and representatives from distinct community groups and furthermore to facilitate relevant interaction with other stakeholders, government, the private sector, various social groups, and other members of society.” (P48)

“It is recommendable to institute a coordinated, flexible and multi-faceted response to the challenges presented, across all relevant sectors. Programs to promote single elements of economic, social, cultural, political and demographic inclusion (etc.) all have a place in a broad-based approach, but inclusion may best be operationalized through the institution of a variety of perspectives, working together in a coordinated manner in an effort to support the necessity to perform well economically, while ensuring social cohesion and sustainability.”

“A key factor of socially inclusive and sustainable development is that communities take ownership of program components. Communities are represented by civil society but also include private sector interests. From the outset communities would have to be involved with the process in the planning, intentional design, and establish consensus on the kind of change that local governments would like to implement. It is therefore imperative that the mapping of stakeholders is undertaken before any strategy is devised or plans put into operation. The challenge that local governments have is ensuring that they have an exhaustive list of all Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), which are representative of all communities, and that in working with communities, the CSOs identified are indeed their legitimate representatives. This might entail sponsoring forums to enable communities to elect representatives or form community based organisations (CBO's) that would be representative of their interests.” (P 49)

## ***V. Conclusion***

“Planners and policy-makers of local governments have the clear responsibility to foster unity among diverse populations and create a vision for a common future that pivots on the acceptance of difference and animation of societies with a view to harnessing the strengths that are inherent in diverse societies. A key challenge will inevitably rest with the need to ensure that all people are able to engage with society and benefit from the possibilities inherent in contemporary life and therefore that all people are included, irrespective of their social attributes. In this process ‘the local matters’. Local governments have a critical role in promoting social inclusion, and programs and policies need to be tailored to address specific local needs.” (P 60)

“The real challenge for local government lies, not simply identifying and including all relevant actors, but in the need to encourage a real level of engagement in the process among potentially reluctant parties. This chapter has endeavored to outline what the challenges are for local governments in promoting social inclusion and why it is important that a new form of coordination and engagement is instituted if local governance models are to be truly socially inclusive.” (P 60)