

# 2019

## Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality \*

In order to address world inequality development models and processes that disempower people and communities, exclude the most vulnerable and concentrate wealth and power must be overturned.

Global economic integration and technological change, though important for development, are often sources of exclusion and inequality when they take place under unfettered market conditions and poor institutional frameworks. The dominant business model, which is centred on maximizing shareholder value, has produced unacceptable levels of inequality in multiple dimensions, in turn leading to the capture of institutions and legal systems by powerful interests. The space for the collective bargaining of workers, farmers, indigenous people and communities and their capacity to defend their interests continue to contract. While the benefits of economic activity are increasingly concentrated in a few hands, the economic, social and environmental costs are borne by the most vulnerable.

Environmental degradation, further exacerbated

At the request of the Economic and Social Council and in fulfilment of its mandate, the Committee examined the

capacity should also take into consideration the wide disparities among firms in terms of capacities and access to finance and technology. Failure to do so may mean that

innovation and technological development could create further gaps.

## **Universal social protection and mechanisms for participation**