



## Economic and Social Council

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### Commission for Social Development

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**Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and  
the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:  
priority theme: strategies for the eradication of poverty to  
achieve sustainable development for all**

### **Statement submitted by UDISHA, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council\***

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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\* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## **Statement**

An Umbrella Problem, When Addressed Effectively, Will Solve Many Other Problems, And When Other Problems Solved, The Problem of Poverty Will Be Solved.

### **Introduction:**

Poverty is a heart wrenching, a saddest reality of our human lives which we have had to deal with at all times and no one is untouched by it. What misery it brings and how hard hitting it is for the human rights of an individual is just bone-chilling, but we as a human race do not and should not give up and have been constantly working to eradicate poverty. Making right strategy for the eradication of poverty by all, especially by developed nations, international organizations like UN and Development Organizations and civil societies is a first strong step in this direction

### **Objective:**

The objective of this statement is to make a realisation that poverty is an umbrella problem covering various other socio-economic-political-environmental problems which have a cascading effect. The efforts put in should be directed towards solving these correlated problems and recognise that by solving these problems we solve the problem of poverty and empower our future generation to achieve sustainable development.

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this statement made by Udisha is that to identify those socio-economic-political -environmental problems which are not only separate problems themselves but also coherently aggravate the problem of poverty. If we take a holistic view, these problems- the socio-economic-political –environmental-are like chapters of the book called poverty. The monster needs to be tackled from all sides. This statement tries to highlight solutions already there in society and improvements required wherever necessary. Also, different players of society are discussed in this regard keeping in mind the Indian democracy with a special focus on NGO work.

### **Overview of the issue as it relates to the work of the NGO:**

The statement recognises the different needs of rural and urban areas and how NGOs should increase their efforts with this perspective in mind, how the government work towards the eradication of poverty in one of the largest democracies of the world and how NGOs' more proactive and collaborative effort could bring significant change in the situation.

Udisha believes that the problems of the youth, women and children, farmers, educational challenges, unemployment, food, water, power, labour, housing, sanitation, disaster management, manufacturing sector, federalism are a few subheads of the bigger issue of poverty to be tackled keeping in mind the vastness of these areas as problems. This statement dwells upon a few of them where the primary focus of Udisha lies.

### **Labour challenges and migration leading to poverty**

Indian labour market has a sharp divide between organised and unorganised sector. The unorganised sector whether in the urban areas or rural areas suffers from

problem of migration, low wages, bad working conditions and uncertain employment prospects. Women labour constitute major segment whose work is rarely seen or recognised. Schemes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, Atal Pension Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Rojagar Protsahan Yojana, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushal, which are parts of National Rural Livelihood Mission, address these issues being rural and urban specific.

Udisha has provided employment through free job-oriented training to hundreds of unemployed in the areas of computing, web design, beauty and health care, garment drafting, construction and security under the schemes of the Indian Government and Non-Government Organisations. It becomes very important for these sections of society to acquire some skills and make entry to the organised sectors and reduce migration to over populous urban mega cities. Udisha by providing these trainings and educating masses, wishes to be a part of this transition in the best possible way. We also focus on vocational education and empowerment of girl child to be specific in our approach to bring them into main stream labour market in the organised sector.

### **Unemployment: Poverty, Youth and Manufacturing Sector**

Developing countries like India largely depend on manufacturing industry for growth and employment. Indian economy which has traditionally been agriculture-based is taking big leaps towards promoting manufacturing but its contribution to employment sector and growth is well below its true potential. The restrictive and rigid labour laws, abundance of unskilled workforce over skilled workforce, lack of technology innovations is some of the factors contributing to this. The diversity of resources and the varying degree of skills and qualification of the available labour makes it essential to understand the importance of both the small as well as large scale industries. The small-scale industries largely depend on the strengths of our traditional skills and knowledge, creates large employment opportunities, helps in the alleviation of poverty and brings out equitable distribution of income and wealth.

The National manufacturing policy aims at enhancing the share of manufacturing, empowering the rural youth by imparting necessary skill sets to make them employable. The recent budget of the Government attempts at efforts to provide favourable environment and facilities to promote domestic as well as international industry by simplification, rationalization and digitization. A recent initiative like “Make in India”, Skill India, Mudra, SETU, AIM etc. are aimed at encouraging the spirit of entrepreneurship and making India the manufacturing hub of the world. The government is working towards favourable labour laws with a special focus on women workers.

Udisha aims to specially cater to skills required for these small-scale industries, bring the youth out of poverty by encouraging them to get livelihood with dignity. our focus has been to cover varying degree of skills and qualification.

### **Relating poverty and sanitation:**

The Government is committed to spending a large sum of money over the next few years on urban waste management, construction of toilets public education on the issue of hygiene and cleanliness in close cooperation with the state government and private sector like industries, corporate bodies, NGOs etc. in the form of SWACHH BHARAT ABHIYAN

Special attention needs to be paid to the people whose work is to ensure cleanliness of the sewers, latrines, offices and municipal spaces rests. There are

numerous sanitation workers who are working at very low wages and suffering inhuman conditions of work. Socially, many of these workers belong to the weakest section of society. Clearly, questions relating to their inclusion in mainstream and dignity need to be fore-fronted and to be tackled with more determination. Rural and urban needs of sanitation are different, one requires provision of sanitation facilities and breaking stereo types, the other one needs to focus more on awareness and healthy habits.

**Role of NGOs:**

The NGOs can play a key role by getting involved in monitoring the implementation of plans and checking the utilization of funds. Udish's plans to adopt rural and urban specific approach in its future endeavours for contributing its bit in eradication of poverty. The plans include, creating open learning platforms digitally to have maximum reach, adult education, skill development programmes to make our youth self-sustainable economically by making them aware, educated, skilled and independent enough to get out of their miserable conditions.

**Conclusion:**

When we work together and tie all ends keeping in mind a structured approach that address these problems through joint effort and not independently, we would be able to eradicate poverty and achieve the goal of upliftment of all sections of the society. The Indian government has already started in this direction through various skill development and poverty alleviation programmes and economic reforms like demonetisation for curbing black money, bringing a unified system of tax- Goods and Services Tax, budget modification and less cash economy.

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