



## Economic and Social Council

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### Commission on the Status of Women

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**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”**

### **Statement submitted by Yayasan Pendidikan Indonesia, 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

The world has showed that the Millennium Development Goals are very much worthwhile as an instrument to address critical development problems. Here, it must be underscored that the Millennium Development Goals are a useful tool for countries to focus on achieving some specific development agendas, prioritizing some particular development objectives, and mobilizing development resources and stakeholders to achieve common goals. In fact, the Millennium Development Goals have become the world's common platform used by countries to work collectively to tackle the crucial problems of development. As the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals will be completed by the end of 2015, most countries are now preparing for carrying out a new global agenda called the Sustainable Development Goals, becoming a sort of holistic framework for the world to set a thorough arrangement towards sustainable development. Indeed, the Sustainable Development Goals are a universal set of goals, targets, and indicators that are agreed by United Nations member states to be used as an outline for their agendas and social-political policies over the next 15 years. As arranged, the Sustainable Development Goals are expected to transform the world by 2030.

The Sustainable Development Goals are viewed as a new paradigm of international development which comprises at least three basic elements: equality, prosperity, and sustainability asserting that all people — wherever they reside in the world — should have equal rights to access to all development resources. The United Nations-led consultation forum has made global consensus proposing 17 development goals, as follows:

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation

Reduce inequality within and among countries

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

The Sustainable Development Goals are indeed relevant to the idea of inclusive development since they are intended to involve all groups of people — regardless of social and cultural background — in the development process. Inclusive development is indicated by the participation of all citizens in the planning and policymaking processes, showing that they have the chance to contribute to creating economic opportunities and share the benefits of development. The concept of inclusive development ensures that all marginalized and deprived groups are involved in the development process meaning that development should not leave anyone behind, especially the most disadvantaged groups. Basically, inclusive development is a critique of growth-based economic development as many groups of society are excluded from development because of either socio-cultural backgrounds (ethnicity, race, gender and disability) or geographic characteristics (remote and peripheral areas, outermost islands, underprivileged regions). Furthermore, inclusive development essentially seeks to address social exclusion, inequality, and poverty. In this sense, inclusive development should apply at least four basic tenets: participation, non-discrimination, transparency and accountability. There are many elements for a nation to consider in pursuing inclusive development. Some vital considerations are, among others, how (i) to facilitate people to get access to economic opportunities along with financial resources and (ii) to create productive and gainful employment that result in poverty alleviation. These important things should be paired with effective and efficient social safety nets to protect those who cannot work or who earn too little.

In the context of inclusive development, the issue of inequality is very central since it can lead to social grievance and create global instability. This is why the goal on addressing inequality has attracted the very wide public attention and is considered as the most innovative and transformative one to make the world just and stable. Indeed, inequality is the main source of social exclusion and poverty and these grievance problems need to be tackled seriously through a collective action by promoting equality of social and economic opportunities. In this regard, the Sustainable Development Goals clearly recommended national-level solutions: “Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.” In connection with this goal, one needs to consider the issue of accessing financial resources for all to support economic activity and increase productivity, as many people across the world face some difficulties. Therefore, it must be properly regulated for the sake of global equality. A number of studies have shown that unregulated finances in the global level have been identified both as a factor of inequality and an obstacle to development. Nevertheless, most developed countries in the North have a tendency to block

participation of United Nations member states in the South to raise this issue to be global discourse.

As the United Nations member states are scheduled to adopt the new goals in September 2015, the Sustainable Development Goals meet historical momentum as the international community is committed to forming a balance in North-South relations and re-arrange a new architecture of the global economy. This new approach aims to create global equality that eventually results in prosperity for all alongside poverty alleviation. The social and political significance of the Sustainable Development Goals rely mostly on the comprehensiveness of the goals, targets, and indicators as they deal with a wide variety of development issues. It is important to note that the Sustainable Development Goals are grounded on the very basic principles. First, sustainability — this is the obvious global sustainability goal as a new model of people-centered development with the primary objective of alleviating extreme poverty in the world. Second, forward planning — it is important for all states to consider the concept of a problem-solving “plan” that will help global communities create sustainable futures. Third, empowerment — this interpretation of the goals would be centred on the idea of participation asserting that the entire global community, not just states, are shaping and delivering the future development agenda. Fourth, universality — the common ground for this frame could be founded in the universal preference for education, healthcare, jobs, and honest and responsive governments as people across the world maintain their aspiration.

The Sustainable Development Goals seem ideal, but some view that those goals are too ambitious and large-scale as the Sustainable Development Goals cover almost all strategic development issues. More importantly, the Sustainable Development Goals require the availability of abundant resources for implementation. In this regard, it is important to acknowledge that the success of the implementation of the goals mainly depends, to mention just a few, on financial support, collective action among stakeholders, and the capacity of a country. This asserts that the application of the Sustainable Development Goals should not merely rely on public sector but also civil society and private sector.

In support of the global massive projects through the Sustainable Development Goals, the international community should work together shoulder-to-shoulder by establishing an intergovernmental committee of experts on sustainable development financing. They need to calculate the cost of the Sustainable Development Goals while searching for an alternative financial source for them. That is why the Sustainable Development Goals clearly state: “Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.” In this sense, creating public-private partnership to finance the Sustainable Development Goals is obviously vital, in addition to tax reforms and crackdown on illicit financial flows and corruption. This should be the main concern of all countries in the world including Indonesia.