



# Economic and Social Council

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## Commission for Social Development

Sixtieth session

7-16 February 2022

**Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and  
the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:**

**Priority Theme: Inclusive and resilient recovery from  
COVID-19 for sustainable livelihoods, well-being, and  
dignity for all: eradicating poverty and hunger in all its  
forms and dimensions to achieve the 2030 Agenda**

### **Statement submitted by VIVAT International and Fondazione Proclade Internazionale Onlus, non-governmental organizations 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

We, VIVAT International and Fondazione Proclade Internazionale Onlus, International Faith-Based Non-governmental organizations represent 13 Catholic religious congregations composed of more than 20,000 religious female and male working in 139 countries to promote sustainable development and protect human rights.

It is time... high time... for “We the people” to not only take seriously what we say. It is one thing for all stakeholders in and around the United Nations to speak “nice” words, agree on policies, develop goals and another for those who forced to live the consequences of “nice” words only partially or not realized at all.

Our members live and share the life of those living in poverty and the hungry, especially in time of COVID-19 pandemic. They are mostly homeless people, street children, small vendors, small business owners, daily wages workers, and construction workers. Domestic violence against women and girls has increased significantly due to the decline of household income generation. The children of low-income families find it difficult to learn online from home because of a lack of access to the internet. Those who die daily have suffered an immense lack of adequate health care in normal times, even more so during a pandemic. We find that people who live with poor health conditions are often left to fend for themselves. Lack of social protection and access to essential health care forces poor people and families to live in poverty and hunger, suffer from domestic violence and economic neglect, and even take their lives.

An inclusive and resilient recovery urges an immediate agreement on the necessary systemic changes to assure that the recovery needed by those living in extreme poverty, including those who have lost the gains they may have achieved in the past. All must be allowed to share in the benefits that the very few have accrued during the pandemic, be they individuals, countries, or corporations. This will demand a decidedly great amount of political will. It is time. Inclusive and resilient recovery will need courage, truth and will. We have agreed in principle on social protection for all. More and better is needed, as so much is lost through inaction and impunity when faced with corruption in its multiple facets.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAA), Agenda 2030, and the Sustainable Development Goals all speak of hope for cooperation, Official Development Assistance (ODA), and so much more to help right the wrongs in our world. Why is so little being done so slowly? We are not eradicating poverty. More are dying of hunger. We are not assuring a good education for all girls and boys. We are not assuring good secure and well-paid work for all adults. The arms race continues even while we speak of wanting a peaceful world. More now live without a house and home, more Too many find themselves obliged to migrate due to climate change, violence, and extreme poverty. Indigenous Peoples find themselves abandoned by society, as do those living with disabilities. Basic services such as potable water, electricity and internet access are well available, but not for the poor and those living in rural areas, even when they are the ones who produce the food others depend on.

And yet, we do not live despair or hopelessness. Together we are better than this and we can do better.

Let us act. Let us reduce inequality. Let us assure a life of dignity for all.

To do this we must protect our Mother Earth and be willing to listen to and work with those until now left behind. They will be part of the solution if we allow them a seat at the table.

We recommend:

- Providing social protection floors for all by ensuring access to essential health care and ensuring basic income security for the poor and the most vulnerable including the homeless, informal workers, and their families.
  - Ensuring access to continued learning online and offline for all children (girls and boys)
  - Creating new job opportunity for informal and daily workers.
  - Combating corruptions by deploying transparency and accountability systems to the use of public funds.
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