



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
15 November 2023

English only

Commission for Social Development

Sixty-first session

5–14 February 2024

Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: Priority Theme: “Fostering social development and social justice through social policies to accelerate progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieve the overarching goal of poverty eradication”

Statement submitted by European Union of Women, International Council of Women, Kolping International, Soroptimist International, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and member organizations of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family*

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.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

We the undersigned international non-governmental organizations, in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council and member organizations of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family, recognize that several current events require both short and long-term reactions and actions to eradicate poverty in all its forms, as well as providing support to groups of people affected by inequality including widespread poverty in families throughout the world. Further new, along with existing strategies, need to be endorsed, and re-endorsed, to set up partnerships that enable the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals to offer well-being and dignity for all, including families worldwide, in particular in support of the observance of this year's 30th anniversary of the United Nations International Year of The Family in 1994.

To ensure truly sustainable Social Development, a holistic and strategic approach is necessary. We recognize that especially countries, that were already experiencing high and continually rising inequalities, had already added aggravated pre-existing socio-economic inequalities, affecting people's well-being, but above all, the poorest and most vulnerable. Prevention measures, taken during the recent Covid-19 pandemic, have also intensified structural and systemic discrimination especially in health and education systems.

We recognize that further ecologic, economic and societal changes are necessary to achieve stability and well-being for all. This includes the eradication of gender inequality and social groups, including those based on age, race, ethnicity, migrant status and disability.

Further actions are also required to support the poorest and most vulnerable in emerging and developing countries, since they are not seldom affected, by both political and armed conflicts, as well as by the effects of climate change. To ensure truly Sustainable Development, a holistic and strategic approach is needed especially enabling developing countries to escape from poverty, and become empowered to build up a social system, enriched by equality for every single being, regardless of their social status or gender, as well as providing, full and productive employment and decent work for everyone.

To achieve further improvement in the eradication of poverty, and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, national and international partnerships are required to ensure social and economic enhancement. Developing and industrial countries are in urgent need to connect, and to form new partnerships, as well as improving existing agreements to overcome poverty and inequalities in all its aspects.

In a globalized and interconnected world, governments and societies need to develop a holistic approach to ensure well-being and dignity for everyone, as true social development should lead to the growth of all individuals, and their experience of freedom. This would additionally support the acquirement of capabilities, containing knowledge, skills, and competencies, to build up sustainable societies, and enable economic and environmental changes, leading to better living standards and environments, for all individuals, including those of families worldwide.