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 International Association of Independent
Journalists Inc., 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.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.
Statement

A Positive Mandate for Humanity

The International Association of Independent Journalists Inc. (IAIJ) would like the Commission for Social Development to consider grouping all social groups under a concept called the “Positive Mandate for Humanity.” This concept aims to increase happiness for each individual in the world, and I would like to tell you about an experiment and in-depth report we published about social problems and best practices to live a fuller and happier life.

The experiment was called “The Fortress Experiment” and focused on what was important in our lives and ultimately how we should all live our lives. The conclusion of the experiment was that as individuals and as a humanity we should, in addition to laws and other cultural and religious aspects of our lives, strive for the greatest expression of our mental and physical abilities, not only because it makes rational sense in enriching our culture and bringing forth all ideas to solve whatever problems may befall us; but most importantly because it makes us happy.

So, if allowing the fullest expression of our abilities makes us happy, to deny freedom of expression by social exclusion or inequality would make us unhappy by restricting ideas and cultural development and most importantly personal development. Therefore, a culture fostering free expression would seem to be desirable, but could this result in any negative side effects? We can answer this concern by stating that in the 13 years we followed all participants, no harm was done to their families, their communities, and their nations. This concept is simple, easily understood by all, and the elasticity of use and sureness of theory is broad and strong enough to be published as a report and concept called “A Positive Major Mandate for Humanity at the United Nations.”

By looking at social problems through the viewpoint of this goal of freest expression of humanity’s physical and mental abilities, we see that this concept solves many social problems with the adoption of this broad mandate. Many parts of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights such as Article 19 now become self-evident to all because they are needed to allow us the freest expression of our mental and physical abilities because it makes us happy. Social inequalities such as deliberate systemic exclusion from higher education, career opportunities and even social growth such as dating and marrying whoever you want, are now looked at as restrictions of our fullest expression in those areas and thus all are addressed by this one concept alone. Adopting a mandate such as this would seem to have the largest benefit to all people on earth and at the lowest cost and other resources.

We truly hope you consider this Positive Mandate for Humanity as a concept worthy of further consideration at the United Nations. Our organization will be more than pleased to offer the Commission for Social Development all our material to further any possible interest in this concept and possible mandate at the United Nations. We at the International Association of Independent Journalists Inc. thank you for your attention.