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 Miss CARICOM International Foundation CIP 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

I am honored to represent Miss Caricom International Foundation CIP INC, a non-governmental organization with consultative status at the United Nations, as we address the priority theme of the 62nd session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD62) on “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.”

Miss Caricom International Foundation CIP INC has been at the forefront of promoting sustainable development and fighting poverty through its work in 9 countries. With a focus on teaching life skills and advocating for gender education, our organization has successfully graduated over 250,000 students. And we are proud to report that 30% of these graduates have ventured into starting their own businesses, contributing to the economic growth and social development of their communities.

We firmly believe that fostering social development and social justice is crucial for accelerating progress on the implementation of the 2030 agenda and ultimately achieving our shared goal of poverty eradication. As we enter the Decade of Action for the SDGs, it is imperative that comprehensive social policies are developed and implemented to address the multidimensional facets of poverty and inequality.

The 2030 agenda places a strong emphasis on leaving no one behind and ensuring that every individual, regardless of their socio-economic background, has equal access to opportunities and resources. To achieve this, it is essential to foster social development through targeted policies that address the underlying causes of poverty and social exclusion.

Firstly, investing in quality education and skills training is a fundamental step towards breaking the cycle of poverty. Miss Caricom International Foundation CIP INC has witnessed firsthand the transformative power of providing life skills education to marginalized populations. By equipping individuals with the necessary tools and knowledge, we empower them to become self-reliant, productive members of society. We urge governments and international organizations to prioritize education as a key instrument in eradicating poverty.

Secondly, promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment is pivotal for achieving social justice. By addressing the systemic barriers that hinder women’s access to resources and opportunities, we can create a more inclusive and equitable society. Miss Caricom International Foundation CIP INC has been actively involved in advocating for gender education, which has resulted in increased entrepreneurship among women in the communities we serve. We encourage governments to adopt policies that promote women’s economic and social empowerment, ultimately contributing to poverty reduction.

Furthermore, social protection systems play a crucial role in ensuring that vulnerable populations are not left behind. Comprehensive social safety nets and targeted policies must be put in place to provide necessary support to individuals and families facing poverty and social exclusion. By establishing effective social protection mechanisms, we can safeguard the well-being and dignity of all members of society.

In conclusion, fostering social development and social justice through social policies is a prerequisite for accelerating progress on the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. Miss Caricom International Foundation CIP INC remains committed to actively working towards poverty eradication through our extensive life skills and gender education programs. We urge the international
community to prioritize social policies that address the multidimensional aspects of poverty and inequality, ultimately leading to a more just and equitable world.

Thank you.