Commission for Social Development
Sixty-first session
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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 Community Economic and Environmental
Rights Initiatives, 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

Promoting Economic Values and Environmental Sustainability for Social Development

On behalf of Community Economic and Environmental Rights Initiative (CEERI), we are honoured to present this written statement at the 62nd Commission for Social Development (CSocD62). As an NGO devoted to ensuring economic values are achieved while safeguarding our environment, we recognize the significance of this platform in addressing social development issues and fostering sustainable change.

Key points to be addressed:

1. The Importance of Economic Values for Social Development:
   a. Economic values play a crucial role in achieving social development and reducing poverty levels.
   b. Equitable access to economic opportunities, decent work, and fair income distribution are fundamental elements in promoting social well-being.
   c. Recognizing and addressing the challenges faced by vulnerable groups, including women, youth, and marginalized communities, is essential for inclusive economic growth.

2. Environmental Sustainability as a Pillar of Social Development:
   a. The protection and conservation of our environment are vital for safeguarding the well-being of present and future generations.
   b. Environmental degradation exacerbates poverty and inequality, and threatens the basic rights and livelihoods of communities.
   c. Investing in sustainable practices, circular economies, and renewable energy sources can drive economic growth while mitigating environmental impact.

3. Integrating Economic and Environmental Policies:
   a. Collaborative efforts are needed to integrate economic and environmental policies, ensuring synergies between social and environmental objectives.
   b. Implementing sustainable development frameworks, such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), can guide policy formulation and facilitate holistic approaches.
   c. Strengthening public-private partnerships and fostering innovation will enable the effective implementation of sustainable practices.

4. Engaging Local Communities and Empowering Marginalized Groups:
   a. Local communities must be empowered to actively participate in decision-making processes that impact their economic rights and environmental well-being.
   b. Strengthening grassroots movements and civil society organizations is crucial in promoting sustainable development at the local level.
   c. Special attention must be given to marginalized groups, such as indigenous peoples, refugees, and persons with disabilities, ensuring their inclusion in all aspects of social development efforts.
Recommendations:

1. Encourage Member States to adopt and implement policies that promote inclusive economic growth, decent work, and fair income distribution.

2. Advocate for the integration of environmental sustainability into economic policies, fostering sustainable business practices and supporting green industries.

3. Support the development and implementation of sustainable development frameworks, incorporating the SDGs into national strategies and action plans.

4. Promote knowledge sharing and capacity building initiatives, facilitating technology transfer and innovation for sustainable development.

5. Strengthen the participation and representation of marginalized groups in decision-making processes, fostering inclusivity and empowerment.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, CEERI urges all stakeholders to prioritize the integration of economic values and environmental sustainability in social development efforts. By embracing a holistic approach that addresses the interdependence of these factors, we can collectively work towards a fairer, more sustainable, and inclusive world.

Thank you.