Commission for Social Development
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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 the Creators Union of Arab 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

Introduction

The main challenge facing the international community in the twenty-first century is to achieve sustainable development and social justice in a complex and changing environment.

We believe that the United Nations is working towards achieving this goal through the Sustainable Development Agenda for 2030, which aims to improve the quality of life for people and protect the planet.

Priority Theme: Promoting Social Development and Social Justice

Social development and social justice are considered one of the key priorities in the context of the Sustainable Development Agenda for 2030.

Achieving social development means ensuring that economic progress does not come at the expense of the poor and marginalized, and social justice means ensuring that all individuals have equal opportunities and rights.

Our Role as a Civil Society in Achieving the Key Priority

Civil society plays a crucial role in achieving social development and social justice through social policies.

This role includes a diverse range of activities and efforts:

1. Monitoring: monitoring the performance of governments and institutions and demand transparency and accountability, and also monitor the implementation of social policies and verify the achievement of goals.

2. Awareness and Education: one of the most important goals is raising the awareness among the public about issues related to social development and social justice, it can spread awareness about the importance of these issues and push for changes in social behaviours.

3. Participation in Policy Formulation: we as a civil society should have a role in shaping social policies, which can provide advice and expertise to governments and institutions to ensure the development of effective policies, so we recommend expanding civil society’s participation in the development and formulation of social policies through constructive input and proposals to enhance policies’ sustainability and promote social justice.

4. Implementation of Social Projects: we are working hard to implement innovative projects to contribute to achieving social goals and provide economic and social support to the poor and needy, so by providing moral and financial support to civil society for the execution of innovative projects aimed at eradicating poverty and promoting social justice, this support enables direct access to marginalized groups by offering essential services such as education and healthcare.

5. Collaboration and Partnerships: We constantly strive to extend collaboration with non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and governments to develop joint projects targeting social development and social justice, such partnerships enhance efforts and amplify the impact of activities.
6. **Communication and Transparency**: Fostering open channels of communication with the public and effectively channelling various voices and opinions to ensure public support for its goals and activities.

7. **Continuous Learning and Sustainable Development**: We endeavour to invest in continuous learning and knowledge acquisition to enhance efficiency in achieving objectives and implementing programs.

**Challenges and Opportunities**

As a civil society we face several challenges in achieving this key priority, including:

- **Lack of Resources and Funding**: Many non-governmental organizations often grapple with a shortage of funding and resources, limiting its capacity to execute projects and programs aimed at achieving social justice, this may be unsustainable or insufficient to address social needs.

- **Complex Social Landscape**: The world is a complex and rapidly changing place, and social issues require multi-dimensional responses, this makes it challenging to identify solutions and ensure the attainment of social justice.

- **Cultural Resistance**: Some communities face cultural resistance to change, and the implementation of social reforms, traditional values and beliefs can serve as obstacles to efforts to achieve justice.

- **Poverty and Lack of Awareness**: Certain communities encounter challenges due to a lack of awareness about their rights and their impoverished conditions, so accessing necessary resources and opportunities to achieve justice can be difficult for these communities.

- **Environmental Challenges**: Environmental challenges, including climate change, resource depletion, and environmental degradation, can impact social aspects and make it difficult to achieve social justice in an environment threatened by deterioration.

- **Discrimination and Marginalization**: Some segments of civil society may face discrimination, limiting their full participation.

- **Biases**: Sometimes civil societies may be influenced by political biases and alliances.

Despite these challenges, there are also numerous opportunities for civil society:

- **Information Technology and Social Media**: Technology provides new opportunities for communication, dissemination, and organization, allowing civil societies to reach a wider audience.

- **Networks and International Collaboration**: We can collaborate across borders to exchange knowledge and experiences.

- **Participation in International Institutions**: We can participate in international activities and decisions through committees and international organizations.

In conclusion, achieving social development and social justice depends on the cooperation of governments, institutions, and civil society. Civil societies must play a pivotal role in this effort by monitoring performance, participating in policy formulation, and raising public awareness. Achieving this key priority significantly contributes to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda for 2030 and the goal of eradicating poverty and promoting social justice worldwide.