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 Eloise Hylton 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

Eloise Hylton Inc. is honored to contribute to the important discourse on fostering social development and social justice through social policies to accelerate progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Our company is deeply committed to the realization of the overarching goal of poverty eradication, and we recognize the crucial role that the promotion of inclusive growth and development plays in achieving this noble objective. Additionally, we acknowledge the relevance of the emerging issue regarding the influence of digital transformation on inclusive growth and development, as it serves as a critical path to realizing social justice.

In the contemporary era, the transformative power of digital technologies has reshaped the social landscape, opening up unprecedented opportunities for progress and development. However, it is imperative to ensure that the benefits of the digital revolution are equitably distributed across all segments of society. While digital transformation has the potential to foster inclusivity and promote socioeconomic advancement, it also has the capacity to exacerbate existing inequalities, leaving vulnerable populations, including older adults, at risk of marginalization and exclusion. Therefore, our statement emphasizes the critical need to implement robust social policies that not only harness the potential of digital innovation for inclusive growth and development but also safeguard the rights and well-being of older adults, enabling them to continue contributing meaningfully to societal development.

Intergenerational Equity and Inclusive Social Policies

Social development revolves around the idea that change begins at the grassroots level, in our communities and neighborhoods. It’s a recognition that the most effective path to social justice and poverty eradication is one that empowers individuals and communities. This empowerment is a catalyst for the development of inclusive, sustainable societies, where every member has an equal opportunity to thrive. In the pursuit of fostering social development and social justice, it is imperative to adopt an intergenerational perspective that recognizes the interconnectedness of diverse age groups within society. Achieving sustainable development demands a holistic approach that integrates the unique contributions and concerns of both younger and older generations. Building bridges between generations fosters a sense of community, facilitates the transfer of knowledge and skills, and cultivates a supportive environment that nurtures the well-being and development of all individuals, regardless of age.

One of the fundamental pillars of promoting intergenerational equity in any society is the establishment of inclusive social policies that prioritize the needs and aspirations of all age groups. By designing and implementing comprehensive social protection programs, education initiatives, and employment opportunities that cater to the specific requirements of older adults, societies can ensure their continued participation and contribution to the fabric of community life. Policy frameworks that encourage active aging, lifelong learning, and accessible healthcare services not only empower older persons but also fortify the foundations of social justice, fostering a more equitable and cohesive society.

Harnessing Digital Transformation for Inclusive Growth and Development

The rapid advancements in digital technology have the potential to revolutionize the socioeconomic landscape, offering unparalleled avenues for inclusive growth and development. The digital sphere has become a vital platform for fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic empowerment, thereby presenting a gateway to uplift
marginalized communities and bridge the gap between the developed and developing world. By leveraging the transformative capabilities of digitalization, societies can create an enabling environment that fosters the participation of all segments of society, including older adults, in the digital economy and social sphere.

However, it is crucial to address the digital divide that hinders the inclusive participation of older adults in the digital realm. Access to affordable and user-friendly technology, digital literacy programs tailored to the needs of older individuals, and targeted support for the integration of older adults into the digital workforce are indispensible components of an inclusive digital agenda. Moreover, ensuring the protection of older adults’ digital rights, safeguarding their privacy and security, and promoting digital inclusion initiatives that prioritize accessibility and usability are vital steps in harnessing the potential of digital transformation for the aggregated development of society.

Safeguarding Older Adults’ Ability to Contribute to Societal Development

The invaluable contributions of older adults to the fabric of societal development must be recognized, respected, and protected. Their wealth of experience, wisdom, and expertise serves as a cornerstone for intergenerational knowledge transfer and sustainable progress. Upholding the rights of older adults and ensuring their active engagement in decision-making processes are essential for fostering an inclusive and just society that values the diverse contributions of all its members.

To safeguard older adults’ ability to continue contributing to societal development, it is imperative to implement policies that promote their active participation in the workforce, civic engagement, and community activities. Creating age-friendly work environments that accommodate the evolving needs and capacities of older employees, establishing mentorship programs that facilitate the transfer of skills and knowledge to younger generations, and fostering intergenerational collaborations that promote mutual learning and understanding are crucial steps in upholding the dignity and rights of older adults now and into the future.

Furthermore, promoting age-inclusive social welfare programs, healthcare services, and cultural initiatives that cater to the comprehensive well-being of older adults are imperative in ensuring their continued participation in and contribution to the social fabric. By cultivating a supportive and nurturing environment that values the unique perspectives and experiences of older individuals, societies can harness the full potential of their contributions, fostering a more inclusive, equitable, and resilient social order.

In conclusion, Eloise Hylton Inc. reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the promotion of social development and social justice through inclusive policies that prioritize the well-being and empowerment of all segments of society, including older adults. We emphasize the importance of fostering intergenerational equity, harnessing the transformative potential of digital innovation, and safeguarding the ability of older adults to continue contributing to societal development. By embracing a thorough approach that integrates the principles of social inclusion, equity, and sustainable development, we can accelerate progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and realize the overarching goal of poverty eradication.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the vital discourse on this critical issue.