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 Achievers Mission Foundation, 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 Education and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development and Gender Equality

Introduction

Our foundation is committed to promoting education and youth empowerment as catalysts for sustainable development and gender equality. We firmly believe that empowering women and girls through education results in stronger communities and lays the foundation for a more equitable and prosperous society.

Key Points to be addressed:

1. The Transformative Power of Education:
   a. Education is vital for personal, social, and economic development, enabling individuals to reach their full potential.
   b. Access to quality education for women and girls leads to enhanced gender equality, reduced poverty, and improved health outcomes.
   c. Investing in education fosters social cohesion and empowers marginalized communities, breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty.

2. Youth Empowerment and Active Citizenship:
   a. Empowering young people through skills training, mentorship, and leadership development initiatives allows them to actively participate in decision-making processes and contribute to societal progress.
   b. Promoting entrepreneurship and job readiness programs equips youths with the necessary tools to navigate an evolving job market and create sustainable livelihoods.
   c. Harnessing the energy and creativity of young people is essential for driving innovative solutions to social and environmental challenges.

3. Gender Equality: Empowering Women and Girls:
   a. Achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls requires removing barriers to education, providing access to quality schooling, and promoting equal opportunities.
   b. Addressing the gender digital divide, ensuring access to technology, and promoting digital literacy are crucial for empowering women and closing the gender gap in the digital era.
   c. Eradicating harmful practices such as child marriage, gender-based violence, and discrimination contributes to the overall well-being and advancement of society.

Recommendations

1. Encourage governments and stakeholders to prioritize investments in education, allocating adequate resources to enhance access, quality, and relevance.

2. Advocate for inclusive and comprehensive sexuality education to empower young people with knowledge and skills to make informed choices, reduce gender-based violence, and protect their sexual and reproductive health and rights.
3. Strengthen partnerships between governments, NGOs, and private sectors to create opportunities for vocational training, skill development, and entrepreneurship for youth, with a special focus on girls.

4. Promote policies that remove gender-based barriers to education, ensuring equal opportunities for women and girls in STEM fields and digital literacy programs.

5. Advocate for the inclusion of youth perspectives in decision-making processes at all levels, fostering intergenerational dialogue and collaboration.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, Achievers Mission Foundation calls upon the international community to prioritize education and youth empowerment as fundamental drivers of sustainable development and gender equality. By investing in the education and empowerment of women and girls, we can create a more inclusive, just, and resilient society for all.

Thank you.