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Statement submitted by the Centre Africain de Recherche Industrielle (CARI), 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 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Statement

Evidence

This issue is an interesting reminder for African leaders who set out to tackle development by means of budgetary, fiscal and monetary techniques without the slightest concern to incorporate science and technology in the planning process. They forget that, without the help of science and technology, the African population would have been decimated by all sorts of epidemics. Here is one historic example:

Since ancient times, an ailment known as Egyptian haematuria was prevalent across a vast area of North-Eastern Africa and was later identified with Cape haematuria, which was widespread in South Africa. The presence of blood in the urine and bladder pain, sometimes spreading to the kidneys, are the first symptoms.

Various, sometimes serious, complications may occur, particularly in the vicinity of the bladder, kidneys and genital organs.

The ailments linked to these parasites were called bilharziasis after Theodor Bilharz: vesicular bilharziasis and intestinal bilharziasis are no longer resistant to clinical treatment.

The history of bilharziasis is analogous to other spheres, such as the chemical processing of coal, the transporting of methane gas from one continent to another, the industrial use of solar energy, the use of antibiotics in animal feed, etc.

Support from the United Nations Organization

Despite all the evidence showing that there is no true development without a contribution from science and technology, there are still some Member States that do not believe in their benefits. They prove it by allocating insufficient funds to scientific research sectors, and even to education for all.

The Way Out

In order to break the deadlock, and thereby save global sustainable development, there must be a return to the idea of a broad partnership which goes beyond the scope of governments to reach non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

The Johannesburg Summit launched the inspired idea of approaching global sustainable development by involving governments, non-governmental organizations that are partners of the Economic and Social Council and the business community in order to support efforts backing such development.

Education for all and science and technology will be areas for collaboration between partners in any one State, so as not to put all the eggs of a whole nation in the same basket, as is currently the case.

Broad partnership will be applied selectively: in States where substantial care is taken of the population, the partnership will be more malleable and notional. On the other hand, in States where education, science and technology are neglected, as is the case in Africa, the partnership will be more meaningful.