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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: rethinking and strengthening social
development in the contemporary world**

Statement submitted by New Future Foundation, 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

After the 20th anniversary of the Copenhagen World Summit for Social Development, we have witnessed joint efforts and positive outcomes from achieving the goals and principles of the Commission for Social Development. New Future Foundation is very grateful with the two major outcomes of 2015. First, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development between 13 and 16 July 2015 that contains a strong commitment delivering social protection and essential public services for all and to end poverty in all its forms everywhere and finish the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals, a commitment to a new social compact. In this effort, the Heads of State and Government and High Level Representatives will provide fiscally sustainable and nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, with a focus on those furthest below the poverty line and the vulnerable, persons with disabilities, indigenous persons, children, youth and older persons. Second, Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015 on 25-27 September in the same year, particularly with regards to Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

In this context, New Future Foundation supports and endorses the E-Dialogue on Rethinking and Strengthening Social Development in the Contemporary World Organized by UNDESA/DSPD in collaboration with UNDP that was held 6-24 April 2015. We would like to highlight three major points in relation to the challenges and opportunities to social development: Firstly, social movements are becoming key in the framing of issues and possible alternatives to solve them. The high level of social networking in an interdependent world presents challenges and opportunities to both governments and civil society. People are increasingly sharing their experiences and views on different matters, and together can create synergies and policy options. The second point is on changing dynamics of jobs and education. High incidences of unemployment and underemployment, coupled with increasing debt burdens on new graduates. Lastly, is the trap of middle-income countries, which in good times invest heavily in social welfare policies which can hardly be sustained in times of crisis, created a false middle class that comes and goes with poverty.

New Future Foundation focuses on the importance of education and employment for young people in all countries and expresses the importance of youth and their involvement in economic, social and environmental goals. The importance of training and investing in youth to protect such goals is essential.

New Future Foundation believes that access to education and educating youth for a better future is crucial to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Providing for and investing in youth with resources gives them more opportunities for a better future.

It is essential to involve youth in politics, as they should have a voice at the governmental level. In the Youth Forum held on 2-3 February 2015, UNDP Administrator Helen Clark stated that, "Put simply, young people deserve a better deal. Compounding these challenges are the relatively low levels of participation by young people in decision-making. Voter turnout among youth is often low, and few

young people are members of formal decision-making bodies, such as national parliaments.” New Future Foundation strongly advocates for youth NGO programmes worldwide, as well as The World Program of Action for Youth as it promotes solutions and tackles issues faced by youth.

Finally our Harlem Outreach Preventative Health Education Programme is aimed at facilitating the adoption of new technologies by healthcare providers and thus to improve the quality of care and business within the community. It is focused on the adoption of technological systems, in particular by women, and on advancing a “health first” agenda to ensure the achievement of Agenda 2030.

The New Future Foundation is working to empower women to become leaders in the movement for constructive economic and social change. Financial freedom starts when we are committed to becoming our best selves, regardless of circumstances. That is precisely the challenge and opportunity in front of us. This is a process that can be led by women and geared to bringing about a change in health, business, social integration and financial freedom for women and girls around the world.
