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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 Mayama, Asociación Civil, 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

Mayama, A.C. is a civil society organization based in Jalisco, Mexico founded in 2008 by a group of individuals concerned about the situation of abandonment, violence and marginalization of Mexican children. Mayama, A.C. has focused its work on helping to ensure that children and their families suffering from violence, poverty, abuse and exclusion, develop capabilities to overcome the difficulties of their social context and improve their quality of life. Through the search for developing individual capabilities, children and their families become agents of transformative social, economic and cultural change. Mayama, A.C. works with an innovative and systemic education model that operates for five years with every child and their family. These years are used for skill-developing, prevention and education for peace and gender equity, which aims to ensure that children do not suffer from marginalization, early pregnancy, educational underachievement and school dropout, organized crime or street-living conditions. We aim for our children to be registered, enrolled in school and empowered, allowing them to achieve their own personal and professional goals by assuring their rights. Mayama, A.C. is an accredited non-governmental organization with the Economic and Social Council, and other national coalitions working in favour of children's human rights.

We welcome the recent adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals during the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. We acknowledge the important role the United Nations have had in global development during these 70 years. No other institution in the world has promoted human dignity as much as the United Nations has, and our organization is highly committed to the purposes and objectives agreed in the Charter. The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals marks an important standpoint for the international community to achieve a more just and liveable world for all by 2030, particularly for children.

According to the United Nations Children's Fund, in Mexico more than half of the 40 million children and adolescents live in poverty, and out of those 4.7 million experience extreme poverty. Around 6.1 million children between 3 and 7 years old do not attend school, and between 55 and 62% of teenagers have suffered some form of abuse at some point in their lives. 2.1 million children and adolescents between 5 and 17 years old are working, and 6.6% of children born in the country are not registered before their first year of life. 76% of the population aged 0 and 17 years old have at least one social deprivation, and only 14.8% of the expenditure budget of the Federation in 2014 was allocated to programs for children and adolescents. Only 1% of these resources are used for the protection against violence, abuse and exploitation. At the national level, we identify an urgent need of expanding investment and attention upon children's issues.¹

Mayama, A.C. calls upon Member States to adopt comprehensive national and local development policies to prevent children suffering from all kinds of exploitation, street work, or end up as victims or participants of organized crime. Investment in development programs committed to develop capabilities for assertive decision-making processes for children and thus break the cycle of poverty and violence should be adopted in the short term. We advocate for policies based on

¹ UNICEF México. (2014). Informe Anual. 19 November 2015, from UNICEF website: [http://www.unicef.org/mexico/spanish/InformeAnualUnicef\(1\).pdf](http://www.unicef.org/mexico/spanish/InformeAnualUnicef(1).pdf).

international human rights law instruments, particularly in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other applicable regional and national documents.

Development policies in the follow-up mechanisms of the Sustainable Development Goals must ensure the full and diverse inclusion of children and youth in decision-making processes, as well as in the evaluation of global, national and local outcomes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. During the consultation process of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, we witnessed a leading and responsible role by children and youth, and this must also be reflected in continuing institutional efforts towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Children's participation in this agenda will be fundamental for its success in the next fifteen years, and governments should at all times ensure these stakeholders are represented at all levels.

We acknowledge that human rights of all children are inseparable from development. This development should rely and be strengthened by the access of water, food, housing, participation, education, play and freedom from violence throughout their lives. As stated in the Sustainable Development Goals, Mayama, A.C. envisages a world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity, as well as a world that invests in its children and in which every child grows free from violence and exploitation.

We recognize that poverty, inequality and violence are among the greatest obstacles to global advancement and well-being. Deprivations in health, education, nutrition, safety, representation and many other issues highly impact on children's lives. As such, a central priority in the success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development shall at all times focus on economic and social justice, taking into account that these issues are multidimensional. Member States should place strategies focused on root causes of poverty and the protection and promotion of human rights. An unequivocal recognition of human rights will key as development is reshaped in today's world.

With the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Summit on Social Development as grounding for the work of the Commission for Social Development, we must work together to transform, reshape and adapt social development to changing environments, such as inequality, globalization, unsustainable economic system, climate change and its impacts, oil and food prices, food security, lack of access to water resources, the spread of communicable diseases, environmental degradation, migration and urban growth, as well as the expansion of global unemployment. All of which directly impact upon children and women.

Children in Mexico, especially those in vulnerable contexts, must be ensured life-time opportunities that help them acquire the knowledge and skills needed to participate fully in society. We must provide children with a nurturing environment for the full realization of their rights and capabilities. To do this, we must focus on the role local and national governments play, but especially on the valuable and progressive contributions of non-state actors, such as Civil Society Organizations.

We urge the international community to integrate the following specific recommendations in the discussions of the 54th Session of the Commission for Social Development "Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world":

1. Ensure, promote and respect human rights of children, with special emphasis on those living in vulnerable conditions. This guarantee must be fully reflected throughout the implementation and monitoring processes of the Sustainable Development Goals. Children must continue to be part of national and local decision-making processes to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2. Recognize the importance of expanding funding for sustainable and children's development at all levels and with the inclusion of all stakeholders, regardless the economic status of middle income countries such as Mexico. Mayama, A.C. believes in the valuable contributions of all members of society to achieve this Agenda. This expansion shall be consistent with children's needs at all times.

3. The Sustainable Development Goals must be communicable, accessible and popular for children. They should consolidate national educational programs for empowerment and incorporate new forms of innovative educational models. Unlike the Millennium Development Goals, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development presents a unique opportunity for development education than ever before.

4. Member States should invest in innovative educational programs as a means to prevent violence and inequality, as well as systemic methodologies that combat these problems progressively.

We reaffirm our commitment to work hand in hand with Commission for Social Development to achieve a more equal and sustainable world for children. Furthermore, we call upon Member States to facilitate the conditions to increase non-state actors' participation in decision-making processes. The success of the Sustainable Development Goals will highly depend on collective partnerships and Mayama, A.C. is fully committed to these purposes and objectives.
