



## Economic and Social Council

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### 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: strategies for the eradication of poverty to  
achieve sustainable development for all**

### **Statement submitted by Mayama, 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.

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\* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## Statement

Mayama, A.C. is a civil society organisation based in Jalisco, Mexico founded in 2008 by a group of individuals concerned about the situation of abandonment, orphanage and marginalisation of Mexican children. Ever since, Mayama, A.C. has focused its work on ensuring children and their families suffering from violence, poverty, abuse and exclusion, develop skills to overcome the difficulties of their social context and improve their quality of life. Through the search of developing individual capacities, children and their families become agents of transformative social, economic and cultural change. Mayama, A.C. works with a systemic education model that operates for five and a half years with every child and their families. These years are used for skill-developing, prevention and education for peace, which aims to ensure children do not suffer from marginalisation, early pregnancy, educational underachievement, organised crime or living in an orphanage. We aim for our children to be registered, enrolled in school and empowered, allowing them to achieve their own personal and professional goals. Our organisation has aligned its work with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to contribute to its achievement and outreach at the local level. Mayama, A.C. is an accredited non-governmental organisation with the Economic and Social Council, and other national collations working in favour for children's human rights.

As of today, the United Nations Development Programme estimates that 1.5 billion people in the 101 developing countries covered by the Multidimensional Poverty Index live in multidimensional poverty. This means that at least 29 per cent of the population in these countries are deprived of health, education and a sufficient standard of living. Close to 900 million people are vulnerable of experiencing poverty if financial, economic or environmental setbacks occur. In the Latin American region, it is estimated that approximately 28 per cent of the population was living in multidimensional poverty in 2014, with high levels in countries such as Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala. In Mexico, the National Council for the Evaluation of Development Social Policy reported that in 2010, there were 52.0 million people in multidimensional poverty (46 percent of the total population). Around 40.3 per cent of the people in multidimensional poverty in the country, 40.3 per cent were considered moderate, while 11.7 per cent were considered to live in extreme poverty.

The Copenhagen Declaration adopted at the 1995 World Summit for Social Development considers poverty as a multidimensional problem comprising various structural and complex issues whose origins are situated in the local, national and international domains. Poverty is inseparably linked to lack of control over resources including land, skills, knowledge, capital and social connections. Without such resources people are easily neglected by policy makers and have limited access to institutions, markets, employment, public services as well as the realisation of their human rights. Multidimensional poverty is an indicator that incorporates lagged levels of the population in different categories and in two areas of nature: economic welfare and social rights. A person in multidimensional poverty is one that cannot meet their basic needs, and does not have the resources, services and assets to cover those needs. Multidimensional poverty severely affects children

around the globe, calling upon setting the international community's attention into the specific development needs of children worldwide.

According to the United Nations Children's Fund, 79 per cent of the richest children in the world under the age of 5 have births registered but only 51 per cent of the poorest enjoy the right to an official identity. Around 20 per cent of the world's poorest children are twice more likely than the richest 20 per cent to be stunted by poor nutrition and to die before their fifth birthday. Nearly 9 in 10 children from the top 20 percent wealthiest households of the world's least developed countries attend primary school. In comparison only about 6 in 10 from the poorest households attend primary school, with young girls most likely to be affected.

Worldwide, girls are the most affected from lack of schooling. In Latin America, the vast majority of boys and girls in relative poverty also face absolute deprivation including reduced access to general welfare and protection standards; malnutrition and mortality, as well as gender inequality which severely impacts a child's future.

In Mexico children are among the most affected by poverty and inequality. In 2010, studies led by the United Nations Children's Fund estimated that out of the 46 per cent of the Mexican population in poverty, 53.8 per cent were children. The co-existence between dimensions of inequality affects the fulfilment of children's human rights in Mexico.

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals — particularly Goal 1— will require redoubled efforts from all stakeholders involved in development, especially those at the local and national levels. Through the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Member States of the United Nations have reaffirmed their commitment to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions in every corner of the globe. Poverty eradication continues to be the greatest challenge for sustainable development. As such, the international community should be able to take action on poverty eradication not only in terms of income, but as a multidimensional and structural problem. These efforts should strongly focus on children and their development needs.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls upon the creation of global, national, regional and local strategies to eradicate poverty in all its forms. It also requires for stronger partnership-building processes and the support of stakeholders across sectors to not only provide basic services and human rights, but to also influence and put forward public policies to protect children.

Mayama A.C urges the international community to integrate the following specific recommendations in the discussions of the 55th Session of the Commission for Social Development Strategies for the eradication of poverty to achieve sustainable development for all:

1. Ensure, promote and respect human rights of children, with special emphasis on those living in poverty. This guarantee must be fully reflected throughout the implementation and monitoring processes of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 1. Member States should redouble efforts on securing children's rights to identity, education, family, recreation and a life free of all forms of violence.

2. Expand and promote poverty eradication strategies that take into account the transformation of our societies through human development approaches and awareness on multidimensional poverty. This should include investment in innovative educational programs as means to prevent violence and inequality, as well as systemic methodologies that bet to alleviate poverty in all its forms.
3. Build upon resilience efforts that allow children to go beyond the complex contexts of our society. This includes the minimising of risks for the most disadvantaged children and focus on strong and new models of partnership from across sectors.
4. Establishment of public policy programs focused on achieving individual life plans based on liberty and human rights. Countries should highly encourage innovation systems to scale new ways to work on poverty issues severely affecting children worldwide.
5. Generate communities of empowerment and capacity-building to alleviate poverty. These communities of empowerment should strongly focus on the ability to convene multi-stakeholder partnerships and implement solutions on the ground. Development actors should interconnect and help build creating workspaces capable of forging solutions that contribute to equality, access to services and goods, as well as opportunities and rights for everyone.
6. Adopt multidimensional approaches to poverty that consider diversity, gender sensitiveness, local and national traditions, as well as people's opinions and actions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals at all levels.

We reaffirm our commitment to work hand in hand with the 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.

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