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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 SOS Éducation, 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

We should like to express our gratitude to all participating in this gathering and to all who are striving to bring about social development in their country.

Social development is a crucial development issue for a country, in particular when it takes due account of the dispossessed.

At the present time numerous countries in sub-Saharan Africa are forced to do without the infrastructure required to meet their populations' fundamental needs. Such populations have no running water, electricity, dispensaries or schools to educate their children. While the situation is slightly better in towns and cities, it is of grave concern in the rural areas.

Governments must therefore work on this problem, because life is sacred and we are all born equal. Major investments must be made in these villages and encampments, for the well-being of the populations. Such States must also receive support from the United Nations so as to ensure that their activities undertaken on behalf of the poor are effective.
