



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
1 December 2016

Original: English

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### Commission for Social Development

#### Fifty-fifth session

1-10 February 2017

**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 Corporativa de Fundaciones, 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

The 1995 Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action identified poverty as multidimensional and reached a consensus on the need to put people at the centre of development. Poverty has various causes including, structural causes. It is a complex multidimensional problem with origins in both the national and international domains. Poverty is linked to lack of income and productive resources; hunger and malnutrition; ill health; limited or lack of access to education and other basic needs; increased morbidity and mortality from illness; homelessness and inadequate housing; unsafe environments; and social discrimination and exclusion. Poverty is also characterised by a lack of participation in decision-making and in civil, social and cultural life. It occurs in all countries: as mass poverty in many developing countries, pockets of poverty amid wealth in developed countries, loss of livelihoods as a result of economic recession, sudden poverty as a result of disaster or conflict, the poverty of low-wage workers, and the utter destitution of people who fall outside family support systems, social institutions and safety nets.

Women bear a disproportionate burden of poverty, and children growing up in poverty are often permanently disadvantaged. Older people, people with disabilities, indigenous people, refugees and internally displaced persons are also particularly vulnerable to poverty.

Poverty in its various forms represents a barrier to communication and access to services, as well as a major health risk. People living in poverty are also particularly vulnerable to the consequences of disasters and conflicts. Absolute poverty is a condition characterised by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information. It depends not only on income but also on access to social services.

Twenty years following Copenhagen, the international community reaffirmed its commitment to eradicate poverty in all its manifestations with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. However, challenges to achieve Goal 1 on ending poverty in all its forms everywhere will continue unless we focus on multi-stakeholder partnerships and mobilisation of resources from a variety of sources, including the creation of sound policy frameworks at the local, national, regional and international level. Such policies need to be based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions. These multi-stakeholder partnerships can highly benefit from the experience and community-based approaches of Civil Society Organisations. Poverty eradication remains as one of the top development challenges around the globe for all social actors. The work of Civil Society Organisations cannot be separated from the role of eradicating poverty itself, as they provide direct services and influence government policies affecting the poor. Civil Society Organisations represent a diverse group, which creates strength for development approaches to eradicate poverty.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognises the need of all social actors to play a key role in developing strategies for poverty alleviation. Civil Society Organisations serve as first-hand articulators of peoples' voices and development needs. They have closed the gap left by the private and public sectors'

failures to provide basic social services and eliminate poverty. They mobilise and clarify the demand for services, so that people are able to achieve its development goals. Civil Society Organisations also seek to improve the access of communities to the services provided by the State and engage in advocacy to influence public policies. Civil Society Organisations constantly develop creative and diverse schemes to cover peoples' priorities by designing and implementing innovative programs that contribute to increase the quality of life of those communities in the most vulnerable conditions. In many cases, Civil Society Organisations represent the voices of poor people and have made it easier to work with impoverished communities at the grassroots level, which the government has not yet reached.

Effective policy frameworks for poverty alleviation in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development must address the root causes of the problem, taking into account technical, financial and political challenges. As a fundamental development actor, Civil Society Organisations' experiences at the grassroots levels show people-centred and human rights-based approaches that promote the inclusion of people in the development of policies, programs, implementation, evaluation and monitoring. Civil Society Organisations have advocated for the expansion and strengthening of development governance. In addition, Civil Society Organisations have engaged in processes to tackle financial inequality and implement models that trickle down the international financial infrastructure and corporate globalization which increases the inequality gap and impoverishes millions of people around the globe. They have a long list of advocacy experiences at the local and national levels on including the voices of the poor in legislation and political transformations. Civil Society Organisations are crucial to the achievement Sustainable Development Goal 1, especially through enabling environments, decentralised development cooperation and territorial approaches that ensure ownership, bottom-up actions, effectiveness and transparency processes.

Corporativa de Fundaciones, A.C. is a leading community foundation based in Jalisco, Mexico. As an organisation, we lead efforts that contribute to the transformation of our society, strengthen the cultural values and the common good of all social actors. Through professional, responsible and collaborative work, we seek to empower Civil Society Organisations to achieve sustainable development. In Corporativa de Fundaciones, A.C. we envision Civil Society Organisations are key actors of sustainable development as their work is intrinsically linked to the needs, aspirations and interest of the community.

As such, Corporativa de Fundaciones, A.C. enhances sustainable development through the creation and promotion of partnerships between social investors and Civil Society Organizations. We respond to the critical issues of our community by promoting and supporting the institutional strengthening of our community's non-profit sector. In seventeen years of operation, Corporativa de Fundaciones, A.C. has witnessed significant transformations in many Civil Society Organisations. Through scientific monitoring of their projects and the implementation of advanced accountability systems, we measure the impact Civil Society Organisations have had in their communities. We provide institutional strengthening mechanisms that reflect continuous improvement and adaptation, better services, greater effectiveness, a wider social impact, financial and environmental sustainability, as well as articulated visible and well-informed advocacy efforts.

We applaud the efforts of the Commission for Social Development for its continuous commitment towards sustainable development. Corporativa de Fundaciones, A.C. calls upon Member States to consider the following recommendations in this 55th Session “Strategies for Eradicating Poverty to Achieve Sustainable Development for All”:

(a) Develop a stronger international cooperation partnership to support countries to eradicate poverty and provide basic social services. This international cooperation partnership must strongly focus on locally-based Civil Society Organisations leading efforts to achieve Goal 1.

(b) Focus on real poverty monitoring and measurements socially relevant for strategy implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Current poverty measures rarely take into account the concerns of people at the very bottom in terms of relative deprivation, shame and social exclusion.

(c) Monitor progress in assuring that no one is left behind with the inclusion of all social actors. This incorporates the participation of Civil Society Organisations in local, national, regional and international spheres, in which monitoring progress is also a task of non-state actors.

(d) Promote a sustained economic growth that offers equal opportunities to people and formulates, strengthens and implements national eradication policies that tackle all forms of poverty. These policies should focus on a multidimensional approach which not only allows human basic needs to be fulfilled, but also include individual growth and the realisation of all human rights.

(e) Promote the expansion of enabling environments and participatory process that will enhance the creation of Civil Society Organisations that contribute to poverty eradication at the local and national levels. This should consider a system in which policies and frameworks are fair, clear, concise and democratically adopted for the successful implementation of Goal 1 at the national and local levels.

(f) Ensure effective means of implementation that attract financing, strengthen trade and promote investment.

De-centralised development cooperation could be used as an adequate mean for the successful implementation of Goal 1.

We reaffirm our commitment to work hand in hand with the United Nations for a more just and sustainable world. Furthermore, we call on the Commission for Social Development to facilitate the conditions and support States to achieve open, transparent, accountable and functional Sustainable Development Goals that leave no one behind, as well as to expand the participation of Civil Society Organisations and other stakeholders in this process.

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