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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 Interregional Union of Life Help for Mentally Handicapped Persons “Sail of Hope”, 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

Employment of persons with disabilities in Russia

Poverty leads to disability and disability leads to poverty, thus provoking deterioration of not only a state of health, but also further deterioration of human potential. Employment of disabled people is an important step in their professional adaptation, in addition, work allows a disabled person to have a decent standard of living. The economy of the cheap worker is leading to total degradation not only of the worker, but also of the economy itself.

In accordance with the Decree of the Ministry of Labour and Social Development of Russia № 643 of 29.12.2012 “On the monitoring of employment needs of unemployed people with disabilities of working age, opening of their own business”; Instruction of April 3, 2013 “On the implementation of measures aimed at promoting employment of persons with disabilities” research is conducted annually.

Analysis of monitoring of this problem in 2015 led to the following conclusions:

- the need for employment of unemployed persons with disabilities of working age is very high — about 77% of the disabled respondents are in need of employment or change jobs, about 5% of the number of disabled people surveyed want to start their own business;
- level of professional education of persons with disabilities rather high — more than 61.6% of the disabled respondents have vocational education, including higher professional education — 14.7%, secondary vocational education — 46.9%;
- the need of persons with disabilities in vocational training is also quite high — about 20% of disabled people have expressed their desire to undergo vocational training.

The main reasons for unemployment of persons with disabilities include prejudice of employers concerning their lower productivity; physical inaccessibility of workplaces; lower level of the general education and absence or lack of vocational training.

“Sail of Hope” projects on professional-social adaptation:

- “New start”
- “Macro-enterprise development”
- “Free from Edit” (training and professional adaptation in the sphere of video editing, obtaining profession — film editor — with subsequent employment in the field of video and film production)
- “Job Search Skills”
- Advice and Information

“Sail of Hope” creation of labour places, as models:

- interactive museum space “Peace to the touch”, which created 25 jobs, 19 of them are special jobs for totally blind people;
- printing house (printing of address folders, greeting cards, letterhead etc.);
- creation of websites;
- creation of computer programs;
- support of employment of disabled people in the field of food production, development of landscape design, garment production.

Objectives of the projects include:

- Development of recommendations for a national strategy in the field of disability on the basis of existing legislation on vocational rehabilitation, training and employment;
- Introduction of modern methods of rehabilitation of individual and professional development;
- Improvement of coordination and cooperation between the centres of vocational rehabilitation, employment services, and social and community organizations;
- Improvement of the quality and effectiveness of vocational rehabilitation;
- Provision of equipment required for vocational rehabilitation and assessment of professional capacity in a rehabilitation centre;
- Dissemination of the experience of the pilot projects in other regions of Russia.

The purpose of new policy of employment for people with disabilities is their integration into the open labour market with the participation of people with disabilities themselves in development of policy acts.

Recommendations:

- Individual rehabilitation program
- Quotas for jobs
- Organization of special jobs by employers
- State support of specialised enterprises and organizations of disabled persons
- Vocational retraining of persons with disabilities
- Vocational guidance and psychological support of persons with disabilities
- Specialized job fairs
- The tripartite agreement between the government agencies, trade unions and employers
- Municipal Committees of the local organs of power on employment
- The organization of self-employment and entrepreneurial

- Targeted services in the promotion of employment of persons with disabilities, including through the support service for persons with disabilities in their employment
- Create a barrier-free environment in higher education
- Accompanying the students and graduates with disabilities with the assistance of special centres to promote graduate employment, created on the basis of higher educational institutions
- Poverty and disability makes a vicious circle. Decent work for all is a human right for all. The society as a whole is responsible for its realization.

“Poverty is not an accident. Like slavery and apartheid, it is man-made and can be removed by the actions of human beings” (Nelson Mandela).
