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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 Asabe Shehu Yar'Adua Foundation, 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

Strategies for the eradication of poverty to achieve sustainable development for all

The Sustainable Development Goals were launched in 2015 and ASYARF has been working on a strategy to adopt and achieve some of the goals related to the aims and objectives of the organisation. In line with the priority theme of the forthcoming CSocD55, the need to access the impact and contribution of education in combating poverty is essential. “Poverty is a vice just as corruption and HIV”. Some of these victims are unaware of their status, while some are seeking survival measures.

In line with the above description, ASYARF hereby propose that the Commission for Social Development focus on finding solutions to the problem of corruption and lack of quality education in all communities and localities to promote literacy, gender equality, and agriculture for food security, among others. Policy is not enough to combat these issues but rather, strong advocacy, government implementation and intervention, monitoring and post evaluation is required. In terms of education for poverty eradication, these include empowerment and skills training, entrepreneurship training, research programs for youth in undeveloped, developing and developed countries, agricultural tools and grants. Once these support structures and tools are put in place, the possibility and margin of sustainable and continuous development can be achieved.

For ASYARF, 2016 marks a new start of intervention strategies for achieving this priority theme. Research shows that poverty is sometimes caused by lack of information, education and economic status. Calling on stakeholders and governments, ASYARF has developed a literacy initiative which evolved out of partnership with UNESCO to celebrate and promote Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2016. This program is aimed at identifying vulnerable and less developed rural communities in Sub-Sahara Africa, Asia and other developing areas with a high number of children and youth who are either out of school, unable to fund their studies, orphaned or vulnerable. These categories of persons contribute to over 50 percent of poverty rate. ASYARF aims to use media and information literacy (MIL) as a tool to achieve not just the priority theme of CSocD 55 but all 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

In addition, once a community is well informed, educated, with information and communication technology infrastructures, the level of poverty can be reduced. ASYARF is using this medium to call upon the Commission for Social Development to use this tool to create a policy that will bring together stakeholders, governments, civil society organisations and grassroots organisations and adopt this in addition to others, in order to eradicate poverty and achieve the SDGs.