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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 the Congregation of the Mission, International Association of Charities, Sisters of Charity Federation, Daughters of Charity, and the International Confederation of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, non-governmental organizations 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

As the 56th Commission for Social Development considers strategies for eradicating poverty, it would benefit from assessing the Vincentian Family Global Alliance to End Homelessness. This project engages partnerships in addressing the multifaceted problem of housing exclusion, which leaves so many behind.

The Vincentian Family Global Alliance for Homelessness is a new initiative of the Vincentian Family, a worldwide grouping of religious congregations, lay associations and charities who claim their origins and mission descend directly from the work of St Vincent de Paul (1580–1640). This movement encompasses over two million members working with the poor and marginalized in 150 countries.

The aim at of the Famvin Homeless Alliance is to assist in alleviating homelessness in the countries in which we work. For the purposes of this initiative we are using the Institute of Global Homelessness definition of homelessness:

- People living in the streets,
- People in refugee camps/IDP's and asylum seekers
- People living in inadequate housing (slums and favelas).

Of the 17 U.N. Sustainable Development Goals three are particularly relevant to the work of the Famvin Homeless Alliance.

SDG 1 — Eradicating poverty in all its forms — If we are to end poverty then we must end one of its most visible signs which is people living on the streets of our cities or in temporary shelters.

SDG 3 — Ensuring healthy lives and promoting wellbeing for all at all ages. Housing is a social determinant of health and there is overwhelming evidence that homelessness is associated with ill health and dramatically lower than average life expectancy.

SDG 11 — Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe resilient and sustainable. This goal includes providing safe adequate housing for all. By definition this includes preventing and addressing homelessness. We aim to lobby that all countries be required to measure street homelessness and include ending street homelessness as an indicator in achieving this goal.

In helping the UN to deliver these goals the Famvin Homeless Alliance will:

- Lead on the development of additional services in 150 countries
- build a strong network with groups working across the broad spectrum of homelessness.
- Provide bespoke training programmes for existing and emerging leaders in homelessness.
- share best research and effective models of working through our on-line best practice hub.
- lobby for structural change in partnership with the Vincentian Family delegation present at the UN.
- Educate the world about homelessness using our membership and academic institutions
- Finally, with the help of the newly founded Institute of Global Homelessness based at DePaul University in Chicago, end street homelessness in 150 cities across the world by 2030 in collaboration with other partners. Our first 10 cities have already signed up.