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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 Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice, 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

Introduction

In the last 12 years, during the momentum period of the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda under the United Nations, Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice together with the Global Call to Action against Poverty has fought against extreme poverty — the purpose of the world free of poverty and injustice — going through group activities (2005-2016): the Whiteband Campaign and the policy advocacy engagement across governments internationally achieving the Goals with Official Development Assistance. And, we have appreciated the United Nations' efforts to alleviate the global poverty rate by half for the past ten years seeing such a decisive momentum and movement.

But you cannot help but be reminded of the truth of both: (1) the same period of time has seen one loophole of poverty repeating in the specific countries — an estimated 767 million people living below the international poverty line of \$1.90 a day, among them 42% of sub-Saharan African still leaving behind in the extreme poverty, in particular just under 10% of the workers living with their families on less than the poverty line; (2) the time has coexisted the other loophole of waste repeating — somewhere food losses and waste amounts to roughly \$1.8 billion a day, ... and elsewhere nuclear weapons modernization plans to averagely \$0.1 billion a day.

We, deeply concerned about such paradoxical loopholes, have recognized the significant number of simultaneous security and humanitarian crises that the world currently faces, and the strain that this places on development resources of the United Nations system; now we all together should take such self-contradicting circumstances into consideration of these fundamental questions: “why, in spite of an increasingly conducive environment, investments for achieving the Goals continue to lack scale.”

Our answer is the Partnership for the Goals: ‘sustaining peace, justice and strong institutions’ must be add on an essential prerequisite for the End of Poverty.

Objective and Purpose

This statement, in view of achieving ‘the Goal 1: No poverty + the Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions = the Goal 17: Partnerships for the goals’, was under review of the cohesion between these Goals and suggested an alternative strategy, based on Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, intensively taking note of the Secretary-General's report [72/124](#).

Overview of the Issues

We, wishing a successful hosting of the CSocD56, eagerly looks forward to making good progress in that priority theme, approaching a more realistic point of view on the contemporary social, economic and political issues as follows:

A. Issues of the Goal 1: structural poverty and inequality, slowly progressed in stalemate

The End of Poverty was a half success, and a half failure: the absence of accountable leaderships by nature has caused the Grant Programme still being lacking scale and going under in the threat of exit strategy; of course such a grant finance by

governments has been widely acknowledged as development effectiveness to eradicate poverty; yet we have recognized the fact that the United Nations development system is depend heavily on the top-down development and leverage investments from each government's project — like as 'the White man's Burden' (William Easterly, 2007); why the system to aid the developing countries has overloaded with possibilities so much and has worked so little good in finance development.

In matters of the fundamental question, we suggest the bottom-up development system to reduce financial risks with the model of Public-Private Partnership Bonds under a strong market leadership to dissolve deadlock state — structural poverty and inequality. In the Private Activity Bond markets, such bonds are considered an alternative model of the Public-Private Partnership Bond to increase not only development finance but also development effectiveness; since private investors with the markets know they are taking a risk, and it's themselves theirs choice whether or not to do, so that those could realized sustainable finance system naturally, as if investment vehicles with social bond markets are doing reasonably — like as 'Dead Aid' (Dambisa Moyo, 2009); why aid is not working and how there is another way for there.

We emphasize private investors will aggressively intervene Development Impact Bond Markets, and request each government highly raises mutual confidence with matching funds to support private investors — e.g. strong multinational-cooperation system to reduce development-financial risks, shortage and blind-sector, including refugee costs, humanitarian assistance, debt relief to reduce to unexpected Political-risks, contributions to pooled programmes and funds based on multilateral agreement on finance: all financial measures are considered effective to challenge against structural poverty and inequality on the agenda "No One is Left Behind", when we have considered the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

B. Issues of the Goal 16: Corruption, bribery, unaccountable and opaque institutions, neglectfully regulated under threats to international peace and security

In the recent tensions raising again the invisible spectre of threats to international peace and security, we, especially recalling the Secretary-General's report, have personally realized the fact that "a strengthened focus on the humanitarian-development nexus or related linkages to peace and security have no choice but to lead to a diversion of funds or to gradually shift in focus from financial development" to short-sighed objectives and military policies: weapons aid or trade is regarded as a deterrent against armed conflicts, provocations and boycotts by quite a few countries under the guise of diplomatic cooperation or humanitarian aid — e.g. nuclear umbrella based on diplomatic ties, missile defence based on bilateral project, cancellation of counter-proliferation.

It goes without saying that strengthens of justice and strong institutions are backing away from the United Nations system, and are gradually fragmented by each governmental activities; we recognized the last 12 years have seen corruption, bribery, unaccountable and opaque institutions: a privatized official-development-loan for using personal capital, or a mental-reconstruction campaign ignores public interests and human rights — e.g. resource diplomacy based on energy-related loan, new communities model for rural-development based on top-down development paradigm that is merely effective without human rights sensitivity.

We emphasize that world leaders show their leadership and will of adamant about the End of Poverty, beyond the economic sanctions against political and security risks in some countries, and that the government must absolutely kill such corruptions and bribes in development finance system for sustainable; the United Nations could realize sustainable finance system.

C. Issues of the Goal 17: Economic cooperation and development in unpredictable environment

We, seeing in the issues of both the Goals, have reaffirmed cross-sector partnerships such as a blending of capital remaining challenging-projects for many governments that need more support to attract, leverage and mobilized investments, including the private sector; in particular, recognizing the lack of risk reduction strategies of political and economic policies: unpredictable political-risks or security-risks affects a major impediment to draw the Partnerships for the goals in the various cooperation sectors — e.g. free trade agreement based on fair trade system, foreign direct investing funds, official development assistance based on bilateral project.

The way forward

We are focusing on the Goal 17 for achieving the Goal 1+16: we are monitoring financial fragmentation in the government's development system, in order to prevent leading to other objectives, such as military factors, from financial development; are willing to advise governments to accelerate the establishment of nuclear-weapons-free zone with the new treaty on prohibition of nuclear weapons as well as disarmaments in any form it takes; are striving for accountable leaderships and global partnerships to world leaders and governments for common good in the international civil society. Now, for these, we join the Abolition 2000 Working Group on the 2018 United Nations High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament in accordance with the Goals.

Conclusion

The Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice, we, has always been concerned about the existence of economic powers in the world, where is one of the natural characteristics of modern society but has been delicately intended, causing structural poverty and inequality.

“There is no question that we can deliver on our shred accountability to put the End of Poverty, leave no on behind and create a world of dignity for all.” (Ban Ki-moon, 2015)

We reiterate that the Goal 16 must be add on an essential prerequisite for the Goal 1 — i.e. ‘the Goal 1+16 Strategies’ as an alternative and financial measure as achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the Goal 17 is key factors to the cohesion between the Goals.
