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Development and the twenty-fourth special session of
the General Assembly Priority Theme: Addressing
inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through
fiscal, wage and social protection policies

Statement submitted by Fundación Luz María, 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

My name is Luz Maria Utrera, founder of Luz Maria Foundation. I'm very glad to be able to have my voice and the voice of my foundation heard through this statement. I've decided to write this statement to the Commission for Social Development for their 57th session to address the following factors that relate to the selected priority theme: inequalities and challenges to social inclusion.

As the founder of an NGO dedicated to advancing the support provided to women in domestic violence situations, I hope to contribute to the discussion on inequalities and development of social inclusion. As a woman fighting for women, I believe we've entered a time period that values open-mindedness and one prepared to take on challenges. We see this continuously in the support of women through the Time's Up and Me Too movement, voter movements created by young women, and for women by women social organizations such as The Wing. In this statement I present the need to widen the diffusion of movements aimed towards the strengthening policies that are truly utilized the best of the ability targeting equal pay and women targeted healthcare benefits, as well as ownership policies on international levels.

During the 55th and 56th sessions of the Commission for Social Development, strategies to reduce inequalities and poverty were discussed as well. As I address inequalities present in the world, I think about strategies that have been previously mentioned and keep in mind the goals I've witnessed the United Nations make for a better future. I consider the relationships between developed and developing countries and, as someone from a developing country, I've seen the dangers of poverty traps and international loans that cause more harm than good. I stand by the belief that through humanitarian support we can increase chances of people breaking out of the poverty cycle and support inclusive growth and empowerment of independence and entrepreneurship. Organizations providing educational programs dedicated to teaching roads to financial independence, women health, and childcare can further make an impact on future generations from the moment they're born.

Exclusions within societies can be found in many different ways and, as someone who works in hope of a brighter, more diverse future, I believe we communities can achieve social inclusion by integration of people with differing wages, races, religions, and sexes. One thing that's genuinely amazed me about social movements today is the active role of social inclusion that plays into events. I've participated in many marches and have seen the immense gathering of cultures and people of all different communities coming together and fighting for a collective idea they believe in. This is how I hope to see the future: a collective disregarding for the things that make us different and acknowledging the things that make every single person unique and important. Coming together to discuss and question systems in place that don't support our needs and desires, and actively working to change them.

Recently I partnered with an organization based in Argentina to raise money for a women's shelter, one of the only shelters available to women in Argentina. These women remind me every day that the system we live in is not deemed for us; for women, migrants, impoverished, and minority communities. Being able to participate in these platforms, such as the one this statement is dedicated to, makes me believe in a better future. The young women that rise up and argue the standards imposed on them every day makes me believe in a stronger future. Participating in the development of the Sustainable Development Goals and witnessing the efforts dedicated to making these goals happen makes me believe in a future that strives to constantly improve.
