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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: Affordable housing and social protection
systems for all to address homelessness**

Statement submitted by African Cultural Promotions Inc, 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

Inspired and guided by the purposes and objective of the Commission on Social Development and its 58th session, and recalling the UN Agenda on SDG-10 and Targets, the Irene Menakaya School Onitsha and the African Cultural Promotions Inc. align with the theme “Affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness” and note that culture and education of people in communities will go a long way to address homelessness through cultural and social protection systems.

Going by the principles of communal habitation, communities adopted skills and initiatives that helped them to provide housing through the utilization of building material and resources from the community. They were comfortable and happy because it was made possible by their efforts and affordable resources without debt or loan. The product provided them with both land and housing ownership.

African Cultural Promotions Inc sees utilization of culture and environmental resources social protection systems to create adequate and affordable housing thereby overcoming challenges to social protection systems and homelessness.

Culture is essential for bringing about the economic, policies and reserves needed to address such challenges. It is also critical to address economic opportunities needed by the community dwellers to promote fiscal and wages needed for sustainable living. Poor community dwellers have the right to affordable housing and right to social protection needed to exert influence over policies for social protection and political economic and social inclusion, as well as to participate in processes that determine sustainable livelihood opportunities in communities. Sustainable social protection systems require a culture of people which strengthens community dwellers and provides them with social enablement to address challenges relating to economic affordability and homelessness in ascribing to be beneficiaries of social and economic growth. African Cultural Promotions Inc and its partners considered it significantly important to addressing affordable housing, social protection systems and homelessness within and among communities through culture and has adopted SDG 10 and its targets as a project through its MUSICULTURE Project and School TALENCULTURE initiatives.

The Irene Menakaya school Education Solutions initiative draws attention on the education, training and workshop on the SDG-4 and Targets using the available environmental resources to address the needs of the community. The importance of involving educators, stakeholders in education, and community stakeholders is to address solutions to existing community challenges and gaps in the promotion of lifelong learning in communities.

The purpose is to further build a network of spirited persons and educators in communities to be role models in providing solutions to community needs such as homelessness and create awareness on a call to action on SDG-4 and its targets in achieving affordable housing and social protection systems across the global communities.

The African Cultural Promotions Inc. and the Irene Menakaya School emphasize that the 58th Session of the Commission on Social Development should see culture and education as strong tools to the achievement of the affordable housing and social protection systems. The Commission should further consider local, environmental and cultural resources from the community as a necessary ingredient and affordable resource for achieving homelessness. Its cost effectiveness will not only enhance social protection systems in community but will advance ownership among dwellers and development in the community.

Adequate measures should be taken by Governments to transform commitments that could enable the realization of the right of community dwellers to adequate housing and overcoming life negative outcomes.

In conclusion, homelessness exposes personal life existence negatively, does not fulfil SDGs and targets to responds to human needs and projects the homeless person in life-threatening risk of misery from poverty, hunger, poor health, lack of social protection systems for women and girls, lack of access to education, clean water and sanitation. Homelessness contributes, in particular, to a negative impact on SDG 10 and its targets, derails its successes and thwarts the growth and successes of the 2030 Development Agenda.
