



# Economic and Social Council

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## Commission for Social Development

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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 World Information Transfer, 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.

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\* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## Statement

### Housing for the POOREST

An SDG Economy and Industry needs to be established to produce goods to cover the basic global needs of the poorest in the global community. This new SDG industry should begin with the development of a housing project for the underserved poorest in cooperation with established industrial stakeholders. We outline such a model of housing production, and the underlying moral, economic and industrial principles in this project with our member organization Human Info NGO.

The OECD countries have enjoyed economic growth and prosperity in the last hundred years. This has trickled down to most of the OECD inhabitants. However, these goods and services are only available to those who can afford them. The invisible hands of the free market cannot open themselves to those with no resources, nor the pressing global SDG needs. The poorest are excluded. We, as humanity, must find a way to reconcile the free market economy with the basic human needs whilst respecting the fundamentals of both systems.

Human info NGO ([www.humaninfo.org](http://www.humaninfo.org)), a member organization of World Information Transfer, has been helping UN system organizations the last 25 years to scan and bring in open access up to 50.000 UN and related publications on the whole spectrum of SDGs. This was done in a non-profit process partnership with about 15 UN agencies, which made their digitized information freely available online.

Based on this immense body of UN and related SDG information and publications, a novel, integrated solution addressing the global unmet housing needs for the poorest can be developed. Human Info NGO mined this know-how of the UN and ODA and looked at ways to integrate all UN SDG knowledge to provide a lasting solution to the urban slum poverty.

Urban slum poverty is one of the world's most persistent SDG problems, affecting 890 million people as of 2017, and expected to affect 1.2 billion by 2050. The solution to this global urban slum poverty is to think "out of the (shelter) box" and integrate solutions that pertain to the slum inhabitants. These dimensions should be integrated into a new type of housing development. This house should not only be a shelter but become an instrument to address and fulfill all 12 SDG needs. It should become an economic tool for providing nutritious food and a micro-job. The solution that was developed during the last 2 years of research is called Tridealhouse. This can become a model, to develop this new type of collaborative basic human needs or SDG industry, to solve the urban slum poverty and housing needs.

The Tridealhouse demonstrates that urban slum poverty can be mitigated with sustainable, self-financing and food-producing habitations. Tridealhouse catches rainwater in 18m3 foundation water tanks. It grows hydroponic food on the sides and micro-livestock in the cellar. It provides a micro-job for women and pension security for the elderly. Better quality food protects the children from malnutrition. Fulfilling the WASH needs diminishes the occurrence of diarrheal diseases. Tridealhouse applies the best and most innovative solutions and European industrial techniques that are adapted to African countries. Tridealhouse housing loans should be set up in partnership with donors and the government. Tridealhouse generates economic activity, growth and thus GDP increase This compensates for the inflationary effect of providing housing loans. Therefore, the system is scalable.

This mixed social-humanitarian and the economic-industrial concept is directly based on integrating the SDG solutions published by the UN/ODA organizations into

one targeted solution. The direct social impact is that every urban slum family living in a Tridealhouse can lift themselves from poverty and malnutrition.

We determined that solving this global housing problem for the poorest 890 million slum inhabitants requires cooperation and ownership of the following 5 types of stakeholders to succeed: 1. Governments, 2. UN /ODA, 3. Research institutions and universities, 4. Industrial partners, 5. Social and impact investors and foundations.

Currently, we have support from the following stakeholders: 1) The Ethiopian government (MInT), 2) UN-habitat, and FAO, UNDP local offices 3) three Belgian and one main Ethiopian university and 4) Sedef voestalpine, a major steel profiles industry, and SBE, an engineering company.

In conclusion, the model could work and should be fostered as a new global experiment to sustainably solve the global housing crisis in compliance with SDG 11. We expect it is possible to resolve the current global urban slum situation. We should innovate and develop a new concept that would resolve the current urban slum problem as outlined in this statement of World Information Transfer and its member organization Human Info NGO.

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