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protection systems for all to address homelessness

Statement submitted by Corporativa de Fundaciones AC, 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

Corporativa de Fundaciones, A.C., is a leading community foundation based in Jalisco, Mexico. Our efforts contribute to enhance partnerships between people, social investors and civil society organizations, in order to empower the most vulnerable sectors. Through professional, responsible and collaborative social participation, we seek to inspire collective action aiming to achieve sustainable development in our community. Over the past 20 years, we have witnessed transformational change within the non-profit sector, and we continue to strive for a future where all people can access the same opportunities to achieve their whole potential. We promote the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by strengthening civil society organizations and responding to the most pressing issues of our community with more efficient, cost-effective and sustainable efforts that ensure greater social impact. Likewise, we sustain evidence-based and gender-sensitive programs towards quality of education, women's economic empowerment and violence prevention through capacity building and multi-stakeholder collaboration.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a universal call to reduce inequality and poverty in all regions of the world, where every human right is respected and guaranteed, where everyone enjoys a dignified future and with equal opportunities for all. The Global Goals and the New Urban Agenda urge the international community to situate people front and center at the core of every action and to adopt policies to ensure sustainable development and human rights within cities and human settlements. Envisioning a future with cities and communities that are more resilient, sustainable, safe and inclusive; where gender gaps, poverty and inequality are reduced, and mobility and social inclusion become a reality. This requires joint efforts, resources and participation from all stakeholders, especially those actors working at the local and national levels in the public and private spheres.

Globally, migration is an existing and recurring activity. This phenomenon arises from the need to seek a better quality of life as a result of war, natural disasters and lack of equitable opportunities. According to the International Organization for Migration, there are currently 258 million migrants worldwide. They are moving from rural to urban areas within a country, and across borders, generating new social, cultural and economic dynamics. It is highly important that Member States ensure that all people, regardless of where they live and where they come from, have a decent home that meets basic needs and enhances human dignity. In Mexico, migration is latent both within the country and abroad; we are also a country of passage and arrival, especially for people from Central America. In addition to this, Jalisco is one of the states within Mexico with the highest reception of migrants seeking for greater opportunities.

The lack of housing spaces, as well as irregular settlements, has been a recurring theme in Mexico. Poverty and inequality remain high in all regions of Mexico, meaning that 41.9% of the population still live in poverty and 7.4% of them in extreme poverty; 38.4% inhabit an inadequate house made out of non-durable materials, lacking basic services like water and sanitation, and overall living in vulnerability overcrowded conditions apart from the main economic areas where labor markets are thriving. This numbers show the absence of equal opportunities and access to basic services for all, as well as the obstruction to fully exercise our fundamental rights. Accelerated urban expansion of cities and communities that only focuses on economic growth, while not guaranteeing basic rights, perpetuate diverse forms of inequality and social exclusion, reinforcing structural discrimination between and within countries. In order to promote greater social, economic and political inclusion of all people, it is necessary to eliminate discriminatory practices, laws and policies that

foster inequality. At the same time, holistic and integrated actions must boost formal employment and economic development; ensure affordable and decent housing and basic services; ensure social protection systems; adapt financing according to the needs of people and include women in economic decision making; as well as increase resources for public transport that is safe and accessible, to positively impact peoples' wellbeing.

Sustainable development cannot be achieved if we leave people and cities behind. Member States must secure two fundamental rights: housing and social protection systems for all, guaranteeing equal access to opportunities in cities free from discrimination. Through interrelated national and international commitments and a long-term approach that lasts beyond a public administration, multiple stakeholders will be able to consolidate an urban, economic, social and environmental action plan that influences public policies, and engages responsible participation that sustains greater impact on development at the international, regional, national and local levels. The inclusion of all spheres and the premise of not leaving anyone behind are essential guides that must be appropriated to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.

Global Goals 8, 10 and 11 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will only be successful on innovative approaches and supporting partnerships. In order to fulfil these commitments, articulated efforts and collaborations must be encouraged with civil society organizations, academia and the private sector, their vision and experience is of great value. To this end, civil society organizations play a key role in empowering community members to generate an impact on their development; as spokespersons for the communities they can promote change by looking at the root of their more pressing problems, coordinating joint efforts and integrated solutions among social investors to promote safe spaces, increase resilience, reduce ecological impact, allow environments to increase access to formal employment and so on.

We recognize the efforts made by the Commission for Social Development and its continued commitment to promote social protection to vulnerable sectors. In addition, Corporativa de Fundaciones calls upon Member States to consider the following recommendations at this 58th session of the Commission for Social Development at the United Nations:

1. Secured housing and basic services: Every human being has the right to fully develop in a safe environment. Today, urban growth is out of control and we do not have a sustainable urban planning; therefore, more people are based in irregular settlements within cities. Consequently, their basic services are not secured, and their human rights are not fulfilled. It's important to promote transversal policies and strategies that ensure access to decent housing that improves the quality of individual, family and community life.

2. Access to formal employment: In order to actively participate in the household income of their families and their community, it is essential that individuals have access to formal employment and opportunities to develop their full capacity. It is crucial for people to have decent work that dignifies their human spirit, providing basic services and social security. For this, it is necessary that governments and private sector encourage economic development strategies by creating jobs and securing access to social and economic inclusion to employees and their families.

3. Social mobilization: Wealth is accumulated in a small and privileged social sphere, immobilizing economic growth on the periphery of the country. Conditions like these reinforce and contribute to the sectorial and regional economic gap within countries. We must promote equal opportunities that enhances sustainable development through public programs and policies that meet peoples' needs through job creation, social security, and education.

4. Connecting urban areas and peripheries: Although housing is more affordable in the peripheries, the economy is concentrated in the center of the metropolis. For the most part they have to reach labor markets in the metropolis, meaning more time spent in commute and more spending on transportation. We must find ways to improve connectivity within cities, and between urban and rural areas, while reducing ecological impact in order to promote sustainable and resilient cities.

5. Multistakeholder collaboration: Collective action of citizens, civil society organizations, academia, public and private sector, must actively participate in joint efforts that secure sustainable development and human rights within cities and human settlements, articulating solid advocacy efforts to strengthen non-state initiatives towards regenerating the urban fabric, as well as economic and social inclusion of vulnerable communities.

We reaffirm our commitment to work hand in hand with the United Nations for a more just and sustainable world. Furthermore, we call on the Commission for Social Development to facilitate the conditions and support Member States to achieve an equitable world by securing access to affordable housing and social security for all, as well as to expand the participation of Civil Society Organizations and other stakeholders in this process.
