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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 Society for Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Development, 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.

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\* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## **Statement**

### **Equitable social protection and affordable housing access to all people as essential to achieving sustainable development goals among nations**

#### **Introduction**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been viewed as ambitious; and an articulated designed foundation for development till year 2030. Given that, by that understanding, social protection and affordable housing provides essential enablers to orderly and effectively achieving sustainable development goals and leaving no one behind as principle. Through joint advocacy created by civil society organizations and the government at all levels that amplifies and influences discussions around Goals 1 and 11, targets 1.3 and 11.1 on social protection and affordable housing can be achieved, resulting in the full realization of the Sustainable Development Goals by year 2030.

#### **Definitional concepts of social protection and affordable housing**

Regrettably, countries in several aspects have not made significant progress in the extension of social protection and affordable housing, while in some other aspects, some developed nations have made recorded significant progress in social protection and affordable housing. For an example the country of Finland accounts that in 2017, there were 7,112 homeless people as 54% of homeless families are constitutes of immigrants, while the number of native long-term homeless decreased by 8% in 2015. Statically, about 55 per cent of the global population is still excluded from social protection, this poses a great challenge to the realizations of the SDGs Agenda 2030. About one billion people of the world population lack affordable and adequate housing which makes them homeless. Further to the scenario, there is no updated data on housing and homelessness as most of the data are belated or obsolete. This therefore requires urgent efforts to ensure that the human right to social protection and affordable housing becomes a reality for all in order to achieve the goals set by the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Attempts to arrive at a universal definition of homelessness have meet with difficulty, as standards and norms vary considerably according to cultural, climatic and political factors from country to country. Homelessness represents the most obvious and severe manifestation of the unfulfillment of the distinct human right to adequate housing.

Homeless has been classified as:

Rooflessness (people living rough and people in emergency accommodation);

Houselessness (people in accommodation for the homeless, in women's shelters, in accommodation for migrants, people due to be released from institutions and people receiving long-term support due to homelessness);

Living in insecure housing (people living in insecure tenancies, under threat of eviction or violence);

Living in inadequate housing (living in unfit housing, non-conventional dwellings or in situations of extreme overcrowding).

Social protection and affordable housing refer to provision of equitable access and housing with tenement to all people, and protecting them throughout their lives

against poverty and risks to their livelihoods and well-being. Social protection can be provided through a range of mechanisms, including in cash or in-kind benefits, contributory or non-contributory schemes, and programmes to enhance human capital, productive assets, and access to jobs. This includes adequate benefits for all who need it, such as child benefits; benefits/support for people of working age in case of maternity, disability, work injury or for those without jobs; those in the non-formal sector and in rural areas, and pensions for all older persons. The ambition of the Sustainable Development Goals will still remain a dream at night without putting actionable mechanism to institutionalize the principles of social protection and affordable housing into the fulcrums of government, multinationals and businesses.

## Recommendations

We at Society for Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Development (SEED) call for action by government towards implementation of inclusive social protection and affordable housing policies for human in order to attain dignity as follows:

d. To implement and increase social protection and affordable housing designs as encapsulated in line with the 2030 Agenda, and in particular targets 1.3 and 11.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 1.3 and 11.1) in order to provide universal coverage, national ownership, sustainable and equitable financing, and participation including social dialogue.

ii. We call on all countries to live their commitment of developing nationally-owned social protection and housing systems for all, including floors, as articulated in the Sustainable Development Goals. Understanding that social protection and housing is key to sustained inclusive economic and social development, for individuals, communities and nations and a human right. It reduces poverty and inequality, promotes social cohesion, facilitates human development and access to decent working and living conditions. It further increases productivity and employability by enhancing human capital and allowing investment in productive assets, raising household incomes, consumption and savings, boosting aggregate demand, and enhancing people's resilience in the face of shocks and structural transformations.

iii. That countries design a defined system of policies and programmes that provide housing and equitable access to all people and protect them throughout their lives against poverty and risks to their livelihoods and well-being. Such systems and policies shall include and not be limited to a range of mechanisms, including in cash or in-kind benefits, contributory or non-contributory schemes, and programmes to enhance human capital, housing schemes, productive assets, and access to jobs.

iv. That international partners intensify advocacy for countries to commit to implement nationally appropriate social protection and housing systems and measures for all, as articulated in Goals 1 and 11 by 2030, through actions, centered around the core principles of social protection and affordable housing, such as establishing of social protection and housing systems, that provide adequate protection and housing throughout life cycle, combining social insurance, social assistance and other means, anchored in national strategies and legislation. This shall be pursued by:

a. Providing access to social protection and housing that ensure social protection and affordable housing systems are rights-based, gender-sensitive and inclusive, leaving no one behind;

- b. Developing social protection and affordable housing strategies and policies based on national priorities and circumstances in close cooperation with all relevant actors;
- c. Ensuring the sustainability and fairness of social protection and affordable housing systems by prioritizing reliable and equitable forms of domestic financing, complemented by international cooperation and support where necessary.
- d. Strengthening governance of social protection and affordable housing systems through institutional leadership, multi-sector coordination and the participation of social and housing partners and other relevant and representative organisations, to generate broad-based support and promote effectiveness.

## **Conclusion**

Realizing social protection and affordable housing is requisite to SDG achievement and, through good governance and effective partnerships, they can play an important part in mediating and directing its implications for economic and human development in positive ways. It therefore becomes exceptionally imperative to intensify efforts to ensure transparent, responsible, accountable, just, effective and efficient governance of social capitals and human settlements. Importantly, good governance at all levels is essential in addressing the challenges of social protection and affordable housing and to harnessing the opportunities offered by sustainable development Goals. The challenge is to develop and implement policies that support not only the function of social protection and affordable housing as engines of economic growth, but also their roles as means of social change to achieving Agenda 2030 using appropriate strategies, most effective social protection and affordable housing policies and approach.

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