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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: Socially just transition towards sustainable
development: the role of digital technologies on social
development and well-being of all**

Statement submitted by Miss Caricom Int'l. Foundation CIP, INC, 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

Partnership with Action. To educate our grassroots citizen, within their communities, creating social sustainability, balance and creative expression, through social media to facilitate social and economic growth together and amplify participation to harness meaningful, powerful changes and self-esteem with a focus on leadership and a better quality of life.

Partnership with action using technology during this pandemic has put a spotlight social media, which now is the main transportation of information and an essential tool in addressing several issues within our society.

Government, Hospital, medical personnel and medical centers have utilized the use of technology and social media to transfer information essential in addressing this **Covid-19 pandemic** globally to citizens in an effective progressive way. The use of technology during this pandemic has given us insight to the use of technology within communities to educate, share information, collect information and utilize this in a manner that can shine a new perspective on some of the major concerns and issues within these communities.

Miss Caricom foundation in its outreach programs in rural areas such as **Nigeria, Gambia, Panama, Venezuela, Guyana and the USA**, has utilized the use of mainstream media technology to engage, educate and address some major concerns in these grassroots communities. For example, in Nigeria and the Gambia, our team on the ground use cell phones and data sharing on social networks to communicate with on the ground workers and resident of those communities in the distribution of essential supplies such as food, masks, and medical supplies. This task would be much more complicated and difficult to accomplish without technology and social media, as these regions are less developed and hard to reach. It is the **Partnership with action** that bring this all together.

Partnership with action in our educational awareness of gender equality and social justice is also a platform we highly utilized with social media and data sharing. In cases of abuse such as domestic violence, suicide, rape and other abuses that most times goes unreported, now with technology and social media we have an increased rate of reports and documentation of these incidents. In return we can facilitate more help such as **counseling, education, prosecution and assistance**. As such, social media and technology stands on the forefront of this solution offering global gateway of assistant and an outlet for relief on these issues.

In conclusion Covid-19 and the use of technology and social media has given us a glimpse into what the future looks like with the use of technology and information as it helps to facilitate the use of sharing information. It is hard to imagine what it would be like if we did not have social media to reach parts of the world with information about this pandemic. Essential services, hospitals and government agency has also been able to function more effectively because of technology and social media in fighting the **Covid-19 pandemic**.

The negative aspect of this technology is that it can also be used to cause damage as it can be used as a weapon of distraction to spread false information and do so quickly. We must lobby our leaders to put strict mandates in place to monitor these technology as we move forward into the future.