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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: Inclusive and resilient recovery from
COVID-19 for sustainable livelihoods, well-being, and
dignity for all: eradicating poverty and hunger in all its
forms and dimensions to achieve the 2030 Agenda**

Statement submitted by the United Nations Association of Russia, 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

While being a crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic is a unique opportunity for the world to find and introduce bold and innovative solutions that will strengthen the response and recovery, while accelerating progress across the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda). In these regards and within its Program “The Russian Regions and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals” our Organization has been cooperating with the Russian Regions representatives to promote the search and implementation of the response measures to the pandemic which meet the 2030 Agenda. We would like to share some achievements of the Sverdlovsk Region, one of the Program participants, in this direction as a contribution to building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

The Sverdlovsk Region

The Sverdlovsk region is one of Russia’s advanced, dynamically developing regions. This is an acknowledged industrial, scientific, educational and cultural center of the country. The region is progressively implementing socioeconomic programs and projects aimed to improve the quality of life in the region. The Sverdlovsk region also puts emphasis on the innovative development of our vast industrial potential, and creates conditions for better business climate and investment growth. Economic success enables the region to effectively develop the social sector, to increase incomes of population, to improve the quality of life, and to give comprehensive social support to needy residents of the Urals, above all families with children.

Restrictive measures imposed in 2020 in connection with the coronavirus pandemic increased unemployment rates calculated consistent with the guidelines of the International Labor Organization (ILO) by 36.7% year-on-year, from 89,400 in 2019 to 122,200. The overall unemployment calculated consistent with the ILO guidelines grew by 1.6% over the year to 5.8% (4.2% in 2019).

The labor market situation has been steadily improving in the Sverdlovsk region since the beginning of 2021. The overall unemployment calculated consistent with the ILO guidelines reduced to 87,300 in April-June 2021, as against 101,700 in January-March 2021. Unemployment rates calculated consistent with the ILO guidelines went down 4.8% in April-June 2021, compared to 4.8% in January-March 2021.

In 2020, the share of residents with incomes below the subsistence minimum stood at 10.2% of the entire population of the region. This share has not been growing. Based on the national development goal set by Russian President Vladimir Putin to halve poverty levels before 2024, the Sverdlovsk region is taking systemic efforts to ensure a growth of salaries and social support to particular categories of residents.

An average monthly salary amounted to 43,154 rubles in the Sverdlovsk region in 2020. It grew by 4.9% year-on-year.

The “Poverty Reduction in the Sverdlovsk Region” program aims to practically halve the number of residents with incomes below the subsistence minimum to 5.6% by 2030. It is planned to allot 334.5 billion rubles for the program from federal, regional and local budgets, or 32-35 billion rubles per year on the average.

Four national projects have been developed to boost regional food security. These are “Higher Level of Self-Sufficiency in the Provision of Agricultural Products to the Population of the Sverdlovsk Region in 2017-2021,” “Agro-Industrial Exports of the Sverdlovsk Region,” “Acceleration of Small and Medium Entrepreneurship,” and “Targeted Acceleration of Labor Productivity at Enterprises.” The region also participates in the implementation of the “Comprehensive Development of Rural

Territories” program aiming for the construction of affordable and comfortable homes and modern infrastructure and the labor market development.

The region is doing a lot to improve living conditions in the countryside – over 10,000 square meters of housing is built and up to 100 kilometers of gas mains are commissioned in villages every year with the budgetary funding.

There is a program aimed to improve the quality of life in the Sverdlovsk region in the period until 2030 called “New Quality of Life of the Urals Population.” The region is implementing a comprehensive program that involves the population in the prevention of diseases and raises public awareness of the healthy lifestyle.

The Sverdlovsk Region with the support of the UNA-Russia is currently implementing a number of programmes and community awareness initiatives to spread sustainable practices through information events. On October 8, 2021 a teleconference “Current results and new achievements towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda: COVID-19 reality” was held in New York.

The regional policy aims for a higher quality of life and leveling off socioeconomic development of municipalities. It is planned to achieve high unified social standards in the fields of healthcare, education, cultural development, housing, public utilities, and other services both in big cities and in villages.
