



# 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: Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

### **Statement submitted by Vienna NGO Committee on the Family International, 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

We the undersigned international non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, recognize that several current events require both short and long-term reactions and actions to improve, in particular, the situation with regard to social inequalities, employment, access to key resources and climate change, in several communities worldwide.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations offer several possibilities to eradicate on-going inequalities and offer well-being and employment for all. SDGs 8 and 10 are especially relevant with regard to this statement, as they aim to achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all genders, including young people and persons with disabilities, as well as reducing inequality within, and among countries.

We recognize that especially countries, that were already experiencing high and continually rising inequalities, had already had, added aggravated pre-existing socio-economic inequalities, affecting people's well-being, but above all, the poorest and most vulnerable. Prevention measures, taken during the pandemic have also exposed inherent growing economic insecurity that people are facing, highlighting existing gaps in social systems and deficiencies in health and education systems that, in turn, could also lead to further structural inequalities.

The undersigned international non-governmental organizations are further aware of the multiple impacts on different socio-demographic groups, such as young people, women, persons with disabilities, as well as low-paid and low-skilled workers, who have been particularly affected by the impacts of the pandemic, and hence have less potential to recover quickly. As a consequence, they could face a higher risk of less income, long-term unemployment and, of being left behind by the labor market. We are also aware from research of United Nations Agencies, that women have not seldom experienced a higher risk of financial insecurity, unpaid family and caregiving work, as well as gender-based violence.

To ensure truly sustainable Social Development, a holistic and strategic approach is needed especially enabling developing countries to escape from poverty, and become empowered to build up a social system, enriched by equality for every single being, regardless of their social status or gender, as well as providing, full and productive employment and decent work for everyone.

Further actions are also required to limit such effects of climate change, as droughts, floods and wildfires, affecting often, in particular, the least developed countries. Strategies, with a genuine prospect of success, are necessary to enable affected countries to attain sustainable dignity and well-being for all, by implementing the Agenda for Sustainable Development. The eradication of poverty further requires access to basic social services, such as health care, vaccinations, safe water supply and sanitation measures.

The undersigned organizations are aware of current incidents such as armed conflicts, the Covid-19 pandemic and climatic changes that endanger the achievement of the SDGs of the United Nations. Hence, a sustainable holistic approach is especially necessary, to protect minorities and underprivileged families, to ensure genuine inclusive sustainable social development, as well as to overcome inequalities, and provide a safe environment for all.

Statement submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and member organizations of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family:

- European Union of Women
  - International Council of Psychologists
  - International Council of Women
  - Kolping International
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