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Statement submitted by Fundación Contemporánea, 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 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

Fundación Contemporánea submits the document on the occasion of the 2019 ECOSOC High Level Segment. Fundación Contemporánea is an institution that has been working for 25 years on the development of leaders in Argentina, with a strong focus on the social and educational. Fundación Contemporánea obtained special consultative status in 2014. The objective of this statement is to report analytically and descriptively the state of evolution, in terms of inclusion and opportunities, of the education for the adult population of Argentina (Sustainable Development Goal N°4).

To begin with, if we study the adult pupil enrollment to finish the primary level of education we can clearly see a downward trend throughout the years. In 2011 the number of adults finishing this level of education was of 229,295 and in 2017 this number decreased to 145,435. This shows a clear sign that in regards to adults finishing the first level of obligatory education, Argentina, is steadily solving this deficiency and it seems that this trend will not stop.

On the other hand, in regards to the other level of obligatory schooling, the secondary level, the number of adults that are enrolling to finish it did not suffer any real change. Argentina is having each year an average of 525,000 adults enrolling with no clear trend to where this average will go in the future. We believe that the only way that this average will decrease in the future is if the educative system is able to reduce the number kids that drop out and do not finish this level of education. Currently, on average, only 46% of the kids that start the first year of this level finish it on time as they should.

In regards to the non-obligatory level of education for adults, without including the university level, it's showing an upward trend in absolute terms. Firstly, we observe a clear trend to the rise of people enrolling to the many programs of vocational training, having by 2017 549,537 adults enrolled. However it is important to have in mind that although the growth spiked in the years 2014 and 2015 (growing in average 50,000 each year) it's showing signs of stagnation in 2016 and 2017. The tertiary level of education is the one that grew the most. Having a little more than 200,000 net growth of students enrolled and a clear upward trend throughout the years that we studied.

To sum up, we believe that Argentina's education system is showing signs of improvement in terms of equality, inclusion and opportunities although it's not enough. The efforts and politics are showing good results in the first level of the obligatory education and in the non-obligatory levels of education. However, in the second level of obligatory education our education system is still showing no signs of improvement.
