



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
22 November 2019

English only

Commission for Social Development

Fifty-eighth session

10–19 February 2020

**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 Stevenson Holistic Care Foundation, 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

Homelessness is a major concern and subject of discussion in the 2030 Agenda as it affects the well-being of individuals and communities. The sustainable development goal indicator 11.1 states that “By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing”.

The UN expert group on affordable housing and social protection for all to address homelessness during their recent meeting in Nairobi, Kenya in May 2019 refers to homelessness as a person who do not have a place to call home. It includes people who are sleeping in warming centres, homeless shelters, abandoned buildings or in other places not meant for humans to live.

Distinguished chair and honorable delegates,

Affordable housing is important in achieving social protection systems for all. Member States and private sector must deploy affordable and innovative strategies to address inadequate housing in their respective countries.

The Commission for Social Development should advocate to Member States, NGOs, private sector etc. to address the drivers of homelessness such as lack of education, lack of access to land, property ownership, finance etc.

The Commission for Social Development should continue to advocate for the implementation of housing policies and measures to reduce homelessness in Member States.

The Commission for Social Development should also address key aspects of universal social protection to include universal coverage, comprehensive protection and adequacy of protection.

Stevenson Holistic healthcare Foundation believe homelessness and lack of affordable housing is detrimental to physical, social, psychological, emotional wellbeing of individual and communities. Therefore, addressing homelessness and lack of housing is key to avert challenges associated with inadequate housing.

Our organization Stevenson Holistic Health Foundation has continued to improve the health and well-being of Ogoni people through the provision of life changing interventions such as capacity building, disease prevention awareness campaign as well as promoting sustainable livelihood.

The government of Nigeria and other Sahel and sub-Saharan states should adopt the US methods in housing sector by accredited professional development in designated real estate disciplines such as Preferred Real Estate Professional (PREP) Certified Buyer Representative (CBR) Certified Distress Property Agent and Realtors. This will avoid the influx of unqualified actors who do not understand the legality involved in housing transactions and investment.
