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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 International Association of Independent Journalists 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

A New Global Social Contract

One of the best ways to achieve this year's priority theme at the 60th Session of the Commission for Social Development is continued support of ongoing efforts in these areas, but possibly also under the idea of a new Global Social Contract. Eradicating poverty and hunger and improving well-being and dignity can be looked at as global concerns for all especially going forward post-pandemic. People around the world are not only citizens of their respective countries, but with technology they now also have a global identity and vision best enabled with a new Global Social Contract. A new Global Social Contract focused on the needs and well-being and dignity of all individuals on earth cements the obligations of each individual in the world to think about and help others to a better life as a global citizen. This type of social contract extends outside of the current geopolitical norm and adds new synergies that could not exist in the current geopolitical state, and the payoff for participation is different from the usual needs for sustaining life. Furthermore, decision making, and governance would have to be a global construct for individuals or else you are back to the current geopolitical models. This could be looked at as an additional layer at the United Nations where individuals can work together as global citizens to improve the lives of all. The United Nations is the best place for such a new Global Social Contract as much humanitarian work such as the Sustainable Development Goals are there, and this new Global Social Contract will add to those efforts and develop human society to this new global reality. We at the International Association of Independent Journalists Inc. will attempt to show how it could work and was published through us as a book called "A Global Social Contract".

Every Social Contract has to have a purpose and this new Global Social Contract has as its foundation the concept of increasing happiness as its payoff for participation. For the purpose of this statement, happiness is most closely aligned with well-being. This is not some hypothesis but the result of a thirteen-year experiment we undertook to find out what makes people happy. The experiment is called "The Fortress Experiment" and focused on what was important in our lives and ultimately how we should all live our lives. The conclusion of the experiment was that as individuals and as a humanity we should, in addition to laws and other cultural and religious aspects of our lives, strive for the greatest expression of our mental and physical abilities, not only because it makes rational sense in enriching our culture and bringing forth all ideas to solve whatever problems may befall us; but most importantly because it makes us happy!

So, if allowing the fullest expression of our abilities makes us happy, to deny freedom of expression by social exclusion or inequality would make us unhappy by restricting ideas and cultural development and most importantly personal development. Therefore, a culture fostering free expression would seem to be desirable, but could this result in any negative consequences? We can answer this concern by stating that in the 13 years we followed all participants, no harm was done to their families, their communities, and their nations. This concept is simple, easily understood by all, and the elasticity of use and sureness of theory is broad and strong enough to be published through us as a book and concept called a "Positive Mandate for Humanity". By looking at social problems through the viewpoint of this goal of freest expression of humanity's physical and mental abilities, we see that this concept solves many social problems with the adoption of this broad mandate. Many parts of the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" such as Article 19 now become self-evident to all because they are needed to allow us the freest expression of our mental and physical abilities because it makes us happy. Social inequalities such as systemic

exclusion from higher education, barriers to career opportunities and even social growth such as cultural barriers to choosing a partner and marriage, are now looked at as restrictions of our fullest expression in those areas and thus all are addressed by this one concept alone. Adopting a mandate such as this would seem to have the largest benefit to all people on earth and at the lowest cost and other resources. This idea of happiness would be the central theme of this new Global Social Contract.

Governance and decision making in this new Global Social Contract could be done through smartphones potentially giving everyone on earth a vote on activities related to that new Global Social Contract. For the purpose of this statement, a global vote is self-determination which is closely aligned to dignity. This vote would be held through an application on smartphones and allow for governance and decision making within this sphere of the new Global Social Contract. The numbers increase yearly but currently in the world (2021) there are approximately 4.66 billion or 59.5% of the earth's population who are online and approximately 4.32 billion or 92.6% of the earth's population use mobile devices to access the internet (Statista). For a report on this very subject, we provided a working platform for a general public popular vote at the United Nations through a smartphone application and secure servers. The android application used for this vote was coded for the current operating systems for smartphones in the world, and we had working examples of this application at a side event we hosted at the 55th Session of the Commission for Social Development ("Improving the Online Participation of the General Public at United Nations Events") on February 7, 2017 at the United Nations in New York City. Such an application could be downloaded by a smartphone user to their device and opening the application would allow that user the ability to vote on decision making or for governance within this new Global Social Contract.

Our study also showed 72.34% when polled would endorse this form of public participation at the United Nations. It was then shown that the total burden on the internet of a one-day global vote of all 7.7 billion people on earth would only increase data usage by one eighth of one percent that day. Finally, the study showed that the Preamble and Article 8 and Article 71 of the "Charter of the United Nations", permit men and women without discrimination to participate at the United Nations in all its organs. I am a citizen of the country I live in, but I also have an identity as a global citizen, and what happens in a country halfway around the world can be as important to me as what happens in my own country. Everyone on earth is a citizen of the world and as the ultimate stakeholders all our voices matter. Participation of everyone on earth is possible as a part of this new Global Social Contract.

So, what we have here are the most important building blocks for a new Global Social Contract, the central idea of increasing happiness and a way for humanity as individuals to participate in decision making and governance. We could look at this as a new layer of interaction in the geopolitical landscape either as a part of current United Nations operations as enshrined in its constitution, or as a third house at the United Nations. Human society is always developing and an individual global identity for every person with all that entails as part of a new Global Social Contract can only be seen as a good thing for the future. Many of the details of this new Global Social Contract at the United Nations are too complex to address in this statement; therefore, it would be our pleasure to answer any questions the Bureau of the Commission for Social Development and the Commission for Social Development or any Member Nation would have regarding this statement. We at the International Association of Independent Journalists Inc. thank you for your attention.