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Statement submitted by Pacific Rim Institute for Development and Education, 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

Since 27 July 2015, The Pacific Rim Institute for Development and Education in China with group member teams in Shanghai launched “Huggy Care Plan” for At-Risk Children, setting up an organizing committee by scheduling and receiving many support activities, showing loving hearts and educational practices through endorsements for this Care Plan and investigating other orphanages needs. The Pacific Rim Institute for Development and Education is cooperating with Song Foundation East China Training Center and Zhe Gong party to help orphans in Dali City of Yunnan Province, Taxi and Yushu of the Himalaya Mountain area in Qinghai province.

An earthquake in 2010 left hundreds of children homeless. During the last six years, 320 orphaned and poor children ages 4 to 14 have been saved by kind-hearted “Aka’s” (respectful monks). The “Aka’s, without any income, have been raising these children with what they receive from donations, but are living under very difficult conditions themselves and the annual basic allowance for each child is 500RMB. Even though the conditions are tough, the eyes of the children are pure and vital, having been affected by the Aka’s selfless love. Every child has the common dream to help those who need help and let everybody in the world bathe in the light of love.

This report published on Pacific Rim Institute for Development and Education web pridengo.org (English) pridecn.org. (Chinese). This Campaign for United Nations support of an International Care Day for Orphans and Children At-Risk, combined with “Huggy Care Plan” is Pacific Rim Institute for Development and Education’s commitment to the United Nations Sustainable goals for ending poverty by 2030.

“International Day for Orphans and At Risk Children” 18 March 2016 panel of Pacific Rim Institute for Development and Education with United Nations Commission on the Status of Women 60

Orphans and At-risk children’s problems have unique characteristics different from other social issues:

Their present condition is urgent, needy, and a sorrowful situation because of the loss of a mother or father, and in some areas entire families. Unfortunately, these tragedies have existed in every dynasty, every country, and every financial situation rich or poor. The major problem leaves these children without a mother’s loving care or heartfelt loving assistance, they have “no voice” to express their real needs. Some countries even ignore their existence.

One of Pacific Rim Institute for Development and Education’s United Nations Representatives, an attorney, used his law firm to do research about “at risk children” and all kinds of United Nations special days. He collected many documents to give us a better understating of the seriousness of orphaned children’s situations, from the original concept, that most people have learned from Dickens’s novel, or movies like Jane, and to present a clearer picture of the reality of different government attitudes on these issues.

In 2000, time magazine asked: Why would a famous Novel writer use literature to Reflect on those orphan's miserable lives, but not the government awakening people's conscience. The richest United States government has spent a lot money on its policy of Foster Care, and the result has shown enough evidence about how miserable these efforts can be if the emphasis is on money only and is not accompanied love from a spiritual awareness of the child's needs (refer to TIME magazine Nov 13, 2000, vol. 156, No 20).

Some governments even try to kill people who have had the courage to expose the situations of orphans in their countries. Children without parents and family are in completely different circumstances from children who have parents and family and, in most cases, parents and family are the best and most reliable protectors of their children.

The number of abandoned girls is continuing to increase daily by more than 60 percent supporting thousands of years of gender prejudice. An estimated 428 million children are living in extreme poverty while 2 million children are in institutional care. The ratio of those children at large and those in some kind of charitable institutions is 1: 214, and the ratio keeps increasing every year.

One of the issues most urgent for all infants is because the children have a short period and window of time to develop and form a normal brain and nervous system both physically and psychologically. Infants have 75% of their brain and nervous system formed before two and half years old. It also means their future is already damaged under their present survival conditions.

“Ninety Centimetres of thick ice cannot be formed in one cold day.” This situation has developed over a long period of time with socially corrupt altitudes of gender discrimination, which is hard to change quickly. In order to accomplish our goals and move forward, we need a unified voice, strong enough to break this thick ice and overcome the historical obstacles reflected globally in attitudes towards women and gender equality. This is one of the reasons why the number of orphaned baby girls is still more than two-thirds of the world's total number. These girls are our future mothers and leaders of the world.

Pacific Rim Institute for Development and Education very strongly recommends setting a new “International Day for Children Without Parents and Family,” including “At-risk Vulnerable Children”. How could we achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals with no one left behind, if we are not interested in finding ways to cooperate with each other? We need to endorse a principle of Unity in Diversity with non-governmental organizations in New York and Geneva consulting together to foster our common goals, especially because many themes are closely related and could be mutually combined to promote international awareness to the general public and enlist helpers to serve the community in many areas of basic rights expressed publically through a new “International Children's Care Day”.