



Economic and Social Council

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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: strategies for the eradication of poverty to
achieve sustainable development for all**

Statement submitted by HackerNest, 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

Building technology and innovative communities is critical to economic development — a HackerNest theorem.

HackerNest is a nonprofit organisation and movement that, for the past five years, has been building local technology communities around the world (33 cities in 14 countries on five continents so far) for our 50,000 plus members. We run down-to-earth Tech Social events that bring technologists together and large, socially beneficial hackathons that show the world the good that can come from the tech community. We want to get more people into the tech industry so they can afford to be healthier and happier.

Extreme poverty is and will continue to be a global issue until and unless more strategies are put into place to ensure individuals, families, and businesses have greater access to the resources they need to be successful. These resources vary from city to city, country to country, but on the whole include education, healthcare, food, shelter, and water.

Technology is the most profitable value for money spent industry in which a person can work. With a computer, an internet connection, and a little research, a person can join or learn to build a profitable technology business. We believe the tech-community in any given city is a critically important cornerstone of economic development; a connector point of the partnerships and matched employment opportunities that drive innovation, progress, and prosperity.

HackerNest emphatically urges members of the United Nations to take steps towards both growing and strengthening the technology communities in their countries and cities by supporting grassroots tech community organisations, events, and educational programs.

Using tech (or any rapidly growing business or skill related) communities as a channel and funnel, governments and other organisations can deliver support and guidance directly to people in the tech-community. This is absolutely necessary to delineate class and education stratification pervasive in both developing and developed economies. A strong technology community is necessary for:

- Finding experienced mentors
- Finding employment
- Recruiting talent
- Identifying and finding potential collaborators on projects and businesses - to connect people who otherwise would not have opportunity to meet for employment, co-founding, etc.
- Receiving feedback on projects and businesses
- Learning about best practices and successful approaches from others
- Encouraging the pursuit and availability of technology skills education
- Collaboration that generates new ideas, new business models, and new ways of selling goods and services

- Progressing society through innovation
- Poverty eradication

Grassroots, volunteer-run Tech Socials have brought thousands upon thousands of people together into environments conducive to building trusted relationships in the tech-community. Numerous people have connected with employers, partners, clients, mentors, employees, and new friends they met as a result of attending HackerNest events. This has led to the formation of innovative startups, better staffed and therefore more successful businesses, more informed career paths, and overall stronger economies. We strive to keep events and communities accessible to ensure all factions of our markets have access to the same basic networks and communities, regardless of economic status.

Empowering a populace with greater access to and capacity with technology is a necessary spoke in the wheel of sustainable development. Please support local technology communities such as HackerNest in your home countries and cities.
