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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 Jesus Weeps Over Africa, 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.



Strategies for the eradication of poverty to achieve sustainable development for all

Sustainable development has been defined as a series of actions aimed at achieving economic development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

It was not until the years between 1940 and 1950 that development theories of concern to a number of African, Latin American and Asian countries first emerged.

Development has been described as successive stages involving different ways of organizing production and trade, different predominant sectors and different rates of investment growth and capital accumulation. These stages are: tradition, transition, take-off, maturity and mass consumption.

In the 1980s the concept of development became more people-centred, following the failure in several countries of policies based on a macro-economic approach to development reflecting conditions in the western world.

Under this approach, the governments of African countries and of developing countries in general were given large sums of money that unfortunately were spent entirely on white elephants. Examples in our country, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, are the Inga hydroelectric dam and the Maluku iron and steel plant in Kinshasa, which will never be operational. With no real grassroots impact, this money has never been of help to the population, since poverty is only increasing and accelerating, widening the gap between rich and poor.

As a result, countries seeking human and sustainable development have adopted a micro-economic and global approach integrating economics and ecology, natural and cultural resources.

Development NGOs proliferated as never before between 1980 and 2000 and played an extremely important role in our country, which has experienced embargoes and withdrawal of bilateral and multilateral aid.

This is the context in which, after two decades of tumult and several global meetings, there is now a clear understanding of the African countries' real problem: poverty and the widening gap between the rich (infinitesimal minority) and the poor (large majority).

Like other countries, the Democratic Republic of the Congo had endorsed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000 and 2005, by adopting its Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS), the main pillars of which were aligned with the MDGs.

In order to measure accurately the progress made towards attainment of the social MDGs by 2015 and to generate socio-economic data providing reliable and updated indicators for preparation of the second-generation GPRS, the Government conducted its third Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey in 2010.

The relevant report for Kongo Central shows the improvements made in the social and health situation of children and women in the province.

It shows the high-level indicators for which efforts must be continued in order to improve or at least maintain trends. These include use made of health services, primary school enrolment, which has now almost reached parity between girls and boys, and use of insecticide-treated mosquito nets.

The survey results are very important because they allow us not only to understand the social and health situation of children and women in Kongo Central

but also to adjust the Millennium Development Goals for 2015 and to draw up local development plans.

One of the most important MDGs was the reduction of infant and child mortality. The survey results indicate that in Kongo Central this is estimated at 93 per thousand live births. That province thus has lower mortality rates than those found in the country as a whole.

The survey results are very significant, because they allow us not only to understand the social and health situation of children and women but also to adjust intermediary goals and to identify priority areas of intervention in order to attain the Millennium Development Goals for 2015 as described above.

In conclusion, the reports which we have studied provide analytical evidence on various topics including employment and poverty, education and the efforts still needed, mortality, etc.

Despite some progress made in basic education and advancement of women, major obstacles remain to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in order to improve the social and economic situation of the population of Kongo Central.
