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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 Organisation Constellée pour le Développement Economique et Social de la Commune des Gonaïves, 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

Introduction

Inequality and corruption in public finance are the major causes of poverty in the world, poverty being understood as the situation in which a person, a group of persons or a community does not have sufficient resources to meet its basic needs for life and sustainable development. And, if this classic black and white definition of poverty is reliable, the poverty of any poor society may be understood to have been caused by a lack of resources. However, there are communities that are very rich in natural and human resources that are extremely poor as a result of institutional corruption and social inequality because economic growth is not synonymous with socioeconomic development; the inadequate distribution of the wealth created in a given economy only makes a society poor and never leads to sustainable development.

In this statement, the intention is to analyse corruption and inequalities as a tight bottleneck hindering the sustainable development of all countries. Leaders who engage in corrupt practices are like weapons of mass destruction for their societies because they divert funds away from health care, education, food, security and housing for the population. Inequality and corruption have played a major role in the underdevelopment of many countries of this blue planet since the dawn of time. Could there be a cause and effect relationship between inequality and corruption and a lack of sustainable development? Or could it be said that inequality and corruption are only two causes of the problem of a lack of sustainable development? In fact, these important questions make us understand that inequalities and corruption impede global sustainable development.

Objective and purpose of the statement

In this statement, we want to alert the community of non-governmental organizations around the world to the perverse effects of inequality and corruption on the sustainable development of humankind.

The problem of inequality and corruption around the world

Achieving the noble Sustainable Development Goals requires combating inequality and corruption, which are a real cancer for the socioeconomic progress of any society. The figures for global inequality are as shocking as they are alarming: just eight men in the world have as much wealth as 3.6 billion people, or half the world's population; 1 in 10 people live on less than \$2 a day; 7 out of 10 people worldwide live in a country where inequality is rampant. Between 1988 and 2011, the income of the poorest 10 per cent increased, on average, by \$65 per annum, compared with \$11,800 for the richest 1 per cent in the world, that is 182 times more. Corruption in the form of tax evasion by companies deprives poor countries of at least \$100 billion annually. That amount could help to enrol 124 million out-of-school children in the world and medical care could be provided to children to prevent the death of at least 6 million children each year. In developing countries and emerging economies, 12.8 per cent of the population is now living on less than \$1.90 a day; 50 per cent of world trade moves through tax havens; the countries of the North are home to 16 per cent of the world's population but produce 70 per cent of its wealth; 10 per cent of the planet's richest inhabitants possess 83 per cent of the world's wealth; 75 per cent of the world's poor live in rural areas; and in poor countries a child has a 1 in 6 chance of dying before its fifth birthday whereas in rich countries the probability is 1 in 165. As a result, our organization is waging a

determined war on corruption and social inequality because our goal is the sustainable socioeconomic development of the commune of Gonaïves.

Conclusion and recommendations

The strategies that we must all implement to eradicate poverty in the world with the aim of achieving sustainable development for social well-being involve combating corruption and inequalities in all their forms because the logic of one world and three social classes is absurd. This logical aberration only continues to widen the gap between rich and poor and drives people into corrupt practices to enrich themselves at the expense of the poorest. Besides, it is patently obvious that inequality and corruption are the two major problems of underdevelopment in the world. To achieve development we must highlight the positive relationship between the elimination of inequality and corruption and sustainable development around the world. There are three stages to this positive relationship: economic growth, the equitable distribution of this growth and the elimination of inequality and corruption to lead the world towards sustainable development for the common good.
