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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 the Organisation internationale pour les pays les moins avancés (OIPMA), 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

In January 2017, the 55th Commission for Social Development adopted the Economic and Social Council's resolution, "Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development." The International Organization for Least Developed Countries, "IOLDCs" (Organisation Internationale Pour les Pays les Moins Avancés "OIPMA"), agrees with and supports the Economic and Social Council's recommendations and encourages the 56th Commission for Social Development to discuss, assess, and ratify, if necessary, the document's principles in light of the past year's international incidents.

IOLDCs encourages the commission to support the New Partnership for Africa's Development in its mission to train and empower women and other marginalized demographics, to incorporate infrastructure and technology conducive to social and economic productivity, and to promote sustainable agricultural practices to mitigate food insecurity. All of these principles are consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and are applicable to least developed countries beyond the African continent. Nevertheless, because the United Nations currently classifies 33 African nations — including 13 landlocked countries and three small island states — as least developed countries (LDCs), The New Partnership for Africa's Development should hold a prominent place in the 55th Commission's deliberations.

The African Union has successfully established a variety of programs that will undoubtedly contribute to its efforts to implement capacity building on a local level. Nevertheless, the African Union and international civil society at large cannot grow complacent and must work diligently to institute the 2030 Agenda's 17 sustainable development goals — working with LDC governments to create personalized, country-specific plans to promote human rights and healthy, diversified economies.

IOLDCs actively trains NGOs, human rights defenders, journalists, and legal professionals "on the ground" in LDCs to realize legislation drafted in influential, multilateral organizations like the United Nations. Furthermore, our organization believes that conflict prevention necessarily precedes meaningful economic development, and IOLDCs advocates a capacity-building approach that encourages local actors to autonomously reach consensus over (often) highly controversial topics without resorting to violence or suppressive, autocratic measure.

Moving forward, in line with the 56th Commission for Social Development's theme, "strategies for the eradication of poverty to achieve sustainable development for all," IOLDCs endorses the following policies:

1. Redoubling international efforts to eliminate crimes against children, which include forced marriage, female genital mutilation, and other forms of debilitating trauma (as referenced in the Economic and Social Council's "Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development").
2. Encouraging domestic policies aimed at promoting value-adding, labor-intensive sectors. Specifically, LDCs with high levels of natural resources must ensure that, rather than exporting raw materials without engaging local work forces, they bolster employment by incorporating their citizens into the supply chain.
3. Addressing gender inequality and advocating economic diversification; in doing so, LDCs can employ women and (of age) youth — sizable, able-bodied portions of the population — to sustain new industries (private and public alike)
4. Ensuring that, before disseminating aid to corrupt or autocratic leaders, they demonstrate a meaningful, and not transitory, commitment to human rights and economic development.

5. Engaging international leaders to close the gap between Official Development Assistance commitments and actual Official Development Assistance delivery (\$326.3 billion opposed to \$191.1 billion, respectively, in 2014).
