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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 Roshd Foundation, 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

Today, poverty is discussed as one of the influential factors on the sustainable development of societies. Eradication of poverty becomes the significant priority around the world and it has been considered as the first goal of SDGs which introduced by United Nations in 2015.

Although natural resources and the topology of countries are effective in the rise and spread of poverty, but the role of human factors such as the impact of society and government cannot be ignored in the poverty indices; and we believe that in addition to government efforts, poverty problem can be controlled to a great extent by modifying the behavioural patterns of human societies.

Illiteracy is one of the significant factors, which has a bilateral relationship with poverty. On the other hand, poverty and lack of educational facilities in deprived areas of a country can hinder the education of children and adolescents; and, in addition, lack of support from the education of individuals in a community will cause eternal poverty for poor people.

It cannot be denied that despite the efforts of governments to create equal educational opportunities for equal talents, the statistics are not satisfactory yet in developing countries. Furthermore, lack of access to schools and formal education among marginalized people, and legal problems of facing the illegal immigrants are the reasons that NGOs and global organizations have to participate in the field of educational justice in order to eradicate the roots of poverty. Also, it implies the necessity of global action for engaging and solving refugees' crisis.

As education is a long-term planning process to enter people to the labour market, besides meeting the need to specialized human resources in the country, Roshd Foundation has not ignored these problems and has always tried to make an optimal use of the funds available in this charity in order to maximize its productivity. In addition to conventional education and cultural programs, virtual and online learning are provided for schools in some deprived areas of Iran such as Ahmabad in Tehran, Sarbisheh in South Khorasan Province, and Saravan in Sistan and Baluchestan Province; which is one of the effective measures for building a permanent communication and supervision between students.

Regarding SDGs 8, unemployment is the second most effective factor in expanding poverty. In addition to macro factors, unemployment is increased among the population due to the bankruptcy of local businesses and, ultimately, their migration to the outskirts of big cities.

Today, Many countries are faced with a great extent of this kind of immigration, which, in addition to the evidence that proves that poverty is exacerbated by the migration of unskilled workers to large cities, these migrations lead to abnormalities and insecurity and social damages among these people, and one cannot deny that by reducing these immigrations and consequently the inhabitants of the margins of cities and ghettos, such social anomalies and crimes that impede sustainable development can be cured. Although it doesn't decrease the importance of supporting refugees around the world.

Roshd Charity Foundation has aimed to reduce social anomalies and poverty caused by immigration by helping to develop and preserve indigenous and local businesses.

Nowadays, Roshd has taken the support of tailoring workshops for women in the deprived areas of Tehran Province with the management and presence of local people. Roshd Charity also help to investigate the establishment of indigenous

mushroom production centers in the deprived areas as well as poultry incubation by local people, which, if successful, can be implemented at a wider level.

Also, we help industrialization of crafts in the studied areas. This project, with the help and advice of manufacturers of handicrafts, is focused on Gelim weaving, carpet weaving, needlework, and straw weaving in line with the taste of urban buyers and presence at the great markets of the country.

Regarding gender equality which is introduced as 5th goal of SDGs, Roshd Foundation in all these cases pays special attention to supporting women and girls for participating actively in the economy of their family and the country. Because it believes that sustainable development and poverty eradication is impossible without the presence of women; and in addition to helping the family economy, women's presence in the economic arena as the human resources of a country adds a high potential to national production.

In addition to the above mentioned voluntary works, in order to help non-expert individuals to participate in the labour market and the country's economy and reduce unemployment, Roshd also is decided to participate in the joint plan of NGOs with the Ministry of Labour of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This plan is called Hope Entrepreneurship Fund which is in research and probationary level.

It works as follows:

In the first stage, with regard to the natural potentials and resources of each region, the appropriate jobs are studied and defined for the current facilities in that region.

Second, specialized trainings are provided and the job is given to poor indigenous unemployed people especially vulnerable women.

And in the third stage, with the help of the government, the necessary loans and economic facilities for work are provided for the local people. The Roshd Charity is starting its collaboration with this plan.

Finally, ending poverty in its all forms will be available by the contribution of people, NGOs, governments and United Nations around the world when they are unified and strive towards arranging joint programs and projects to provide education and job for achieving the first goal of sustainable development goal, "The Eradication of Poverty".