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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 IUS PRIMI VIRI International Association, 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

Strategy to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development for all

Finding the causes of poverty and ways to address them is essential for its eradication and the achievement of sustainable development for all. Poverty affects men, women and children; in other words, all of a country's inhabitants. A strategy to eradicate poverty must be tailored to the targeted segment of society, while maintaining an overall goal for society as a whole, because no matter what measures are taken, they inevitably have an impact on all members of society, even if they are aimed at one group in particular. To achieve this objective, the State has an essential role to play; it must find the ways and means required to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development for all, in a climate of social justice.

– Causes of poverty and ways to eradicate it and achieve sustainable development

- 1- Isolation in remote locations, which prevents interpersonal relations, and the great distances that people have to travel to reach centres of production and income-generating activities in order to find employment and earn a living, or to reach distribution and marketing centres to sell all kinds of products, inevitably cause poverty and prevent sustainable development. Consequently, this vicious circle must be broken by bringing people closer to each other and to production, distribution and marketing centres. To make that possible, action is required in the fields of communication and transportation, since antiquated or rudimentary equipment prevents trade in its different forms. The introduction of modern technologies and improvements to means of communication and transportation are essential; they help to establish favourable conditions for trade, poverty eradication and sustainable development.
- 2- Once a country's remote and poor regions have been made more accessible, it is a good policy to provide the inhabitants of such regions with the aid they need to acquire modern means of transport (vehicles) and communication (such as telephones and the Internet). This effort must be supported by all of a country's inhabitants, and necessitates responsible management by the relevant authorities and competent and well-trained personnel in constant contact with the inhabitants, allowing them to ascertain the short- and long-term needs of the inhabitants and to meet them effectively and as quickly as possible.
- 3- To eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, scientific and cultural education must be facilitated through the allocation of grants and support for boys and girls. To that end, normal and technical primary and secondary schools must be established, paid for by the national community and, where necessary, through requests for support from friendly countries and the international community. They must be open, without any form of discrimination, to girls and boys; and can be mixed or separate, depending on the wishes of the national community.
- 4- Particular attention must be paid to the study of foreign languages and to matters of human rights and humanitarian law. In addition, it is important to foster the feeling of belonging to the international community and an understanding of the problems it faces and of the need to confront those problems. The issues to be considered include, in no particular order, the poverty that characterizes certain regions of the country and the world; desertification and the drying up of ever-greater areas of our planet; the greenhouse effect on global warming and threats of flooding to populations living on islands; the risk of mountains collapsing owing to melting ice;

various crimes; weapons trafficking of all kinds and drug-trafficking; abandoned children; violence against women; all forms of discrimination; nuclear threats; the problem of waste and its consequences for health and the terrestrial and marine environment; and the need to conserve biological, animal and plant diversity.

- 5- In this regard, children and adults must be told in no uncertain terms that production entails costs and generates waste; that such waste must be managed to safeguard finite resources and maintain a sustainable environment; and that priority must be given to the consumption of renewable goods that do not produce the greenhouse effect.
- 6- Girls and boys who have graduated from secondary school must be helped to pursue a university education through grants that match their needs, for as long as they study. There must be an obligation to repay once professional life begins, making recipients responsible and strengthening their ties to and solidarity with the national and international community.
- 7- Particular attention must be paid to the matter of health in remote and isolated regions. Enough clinics must be opened for the population of the region in question, especially for problems affecting women and children, to ensure they enjoy good health and that they are taken care of, if necessary free of charge, with the costs borne by the national community and, where needs be, with assistance from the international community.
- 8- Single mothers with one or more children must receive sufficient assistance and special care, regardless of whether they are widows, have been abandoned by their husbands or the fathers of their children, or are unmarried.
- 9- Orphaned children without support, abandoned newborns and street children must be cared for by the national community until they reach adulthood, by providing them with health care, a protective environment and the education necessary for their physical and intellectual development, so that they may later contribute to poverty eradication and sustainable development.
- 10- Poor older persons must be brought out of isolation by way of subsistence assistance benefits provided to help with their material needs and through active participation in various social and national activities. Likewise, older persons and youth must be encouraged to communicate so that the former do not feel overwhelmed by the passage of time, changes in life and developments in science, technology and culture, thus maintaining harmony among the different strata and categories of society.
- 11- Particular attention must be paid to persons with disabilities and persons with impaired mobility. In that connection, financial and material assistance and special provisions for roads, buildings and lighting are required to make their lives and community living easier without stigmatizing them.
- 12- To reduce the psychological pressure and stress facing inhabitants, large metropolises should be decongested by creating small satellite cities around them, and using the available surfaces of buildings for the generation of solar energy and farming, which would partially reduce food waste by using it on site, thereby cutting costs and producing some foods through the work of certain insects (bees).
- 13- Particular attention must be paid to water management by encouraging reduced consumption and rational use and ensuring that waste is not indiscriminately discharged into the water system.

- 14- Representatives of the poor must be brought into decision-making bodies (the legislature, Government and its various agencies, the national and regional administration, the police and the army and the different levels of the judiciary) through monitored democratic and transparent elections, with the equal presence and active participation of women.
 - 15- Finally, the country's constitution and laws must be reformed, via the democratic process, to ensure that they can meet the needs of poverty eradication and sustainable development.
 - 16- The international community cannot remain indifferent and must contribute to this effort, each country according to its scientific, technological and financial capabilities, because the destiny of humankind concerns us all, without exception. However, to do so, international and regional tensions must be reduced and the wars that destroy countries' vital structures and the ties among their inhabitants must be ended and peace must be restored, as the first condition for any positive human action.
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