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**Development and the twenty-fourth special session of
the General Assembly: priority**

**Theme: Affordable housing and social protection
systems for all to address homelessness**

Statement submitted by Fundação Antonio Meneghetti, 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

Talking about affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness, Foundation Antonio Meneghetti can contribute with its experience of developing social projects to improve public spaces in public schools and in public areas of cities of the region named Fourth Colony of Italian Immigration of Rio Grande do Sul, located in the south of Brazil. This is a countryside area of the southeast state of Brazil, which is composed by 9 cities. In those cities some of the public squares are not taken care by the government because it has no budget for this conservation.

The Foundation motivates the community of the city in order to, together with experts offered by Project OIKOS (kept by Foundation Antonio Meneghetti), restore the green areas and the spaces for common use of these spaces. Once these spaces are once again beautiful and organized, the population from the most diverse levels of economic income can start to use them for their coexistence and will start to value more their own city. The same is done in the public schools' areas. These schools are, many times, the place where children with different incomes, and also some of them children from families that live in the public shelters of the city get education all together. In these spaces, the OIKOS project invites parents, teachers and students to use the weekends to improve the green areas of the schools, to paint the walls and think of new solutions in order to offer spaces where children can play and learn.

Creating a culture of preserving the cities and the public spaces of the schools, Foundation Antonio Meneghetti also has a program that motivates the young ones to create vegetable gardens in their houses, cultivating food for their families and helping the families that have difficulties to maintain their own homes to spend less on food because they have now a more healthy and more sustainable management of their food resources. Helping the population to develop conscience and responsibility regarding its own city and its public spaces and buildings, we believe that we also motivate the government to be sure of the citizenship of its people and, with that mutual trust, the government can invest more in affordable housing and social protection systems to address homelessness.
