



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
22 November 2013

Original: English

---

### Commission for Social Development

#### Fifty-second session

11-21 February 2014

**Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and  
the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:  
priority theme: promoting empowerment of people in achieving  
poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and  
decent work for all**

### **Statement submitted by Center for Africa Development and Progress, 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.



## **Statement**

Poverty is arguably the biggest challenge facing humankind in the twenty-first century. Lack of shelter and lack of access to health care and education are direct results of poverty. Disease, unsanitary conditions and war and hunger are also directly linked to poverty.

### **Fighting poverty**

Many theories have been put forward regarding how to eradicate poverty, such as simply doling out goodies to the poor. That approach, however, has been proved not to work. In fact, there is no better remedy than helping the victims of this great affliction to fight poverty themselves.

That is why, in our humble view, education is the most potent weapon against poverty. It has been proved scientifically that people can be rescued from the clutches of poverty through education, given that education empowers people to realize what they can do for themselves rather than what others can do for them. More and more people are experiencing improved living conditions because of education, but education alone is not a sufficient solution to deal with poverty effectively.

Self-empowerment is another way of fighting poverty. Training people to acquire certain skills is a way of empowering them so that they become employable or self-employed. Giving people skills alone is also not a sufficient solution, however. Going the extra mile to provide them with the resources to be able to work could help a great deal.

In our part of the world, the majority of our people (60 per cent) are farmers, mostly involved in subsistence farming. While the majority of the farmers are women, few women own land in Ghana. If the land tenure system could be changed and more women could own land, it would make a difference. Again, if these farmers could be helped with farming tools, implements and the capital to engage in commercial farming, their lives could improve for the better.

From the foregoing, it is evident that there is no single path to fighting poverty. Instead, a combination of measures to suit the prevailing circumstances is the way forward in fighting this canker.

---