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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: Socially just transition towards sustainable
development: the role of digital technologies on social
development and well-being of all**

Statement submitted by International Association of Independent Journalists Inc, 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

The International Association of Independent Journalists Inc. would like to tell you about an in-depth report of ours called The Issue of Permanent Ongoing Participation of the General Public at the United Nations, or in other words, a permanent ongoing global popular vote at the United Nations. This popular vote would be held through an application on smart phones and allow almost half of the earth's human population to vote on popular global issues in the world and the results would be a useful aid for ongoing policy making at the United Nations.

The theme at this year's 59th Session of the Commission for Social Development is stated to be: Socially just transition towards sustainable development: the role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all. Many stakeholders will contribute, but the most important stakeholders are all the actual individuals who are affected by the decisions made here at this session. They deserve to have all their voices heard and while there have been some attempts at worldwide online consensus at the United Nations in the past; it is now time to investigate a more permanent form of participation. Currently in the world there are approximately 4.5 billion or 58% of the earth's population who are online and approximately 3.3 billion or 43% of the earth's population who use smart phones and it is growing by over 300 million per year. For the report we provided a working platform for a general public popular vote at the United Nations through a smart phone application and secure servers. The application used for this vote was coded and prepared for the current operating systems for smart phones in the world, and the International Association of Independent Journalists Inc. had working examples of this application at a side event we hosted at the 55th Session of the Commission for Social Development (Improving the Online Participation of the General Public at United Nations Events). Such an application could be downloaded by a smart phone user to their device and opening the application would allow that user the ability to vote on current issues of global interest for all as a popular vote that could be useful to Member Nations of the United Nations in policy making. The end result would be a permanent ongoing popular vote of general public sentiment to whatever issue was presented with the aim to help in good policy making for all involved at the United Nations.

Our study showed 72.34% when polled would endorse permanent general public participation at the United Nations. An Android cell phone application was also developed that would allow the general public to participate in popular votes of global interest. It was then shown that the total burden on the internet of a one-day global vote of all 7.7 billion people on earth would only increase data usage by one eighth of one percent that day. Finally, the study showed that the Preamble and Article 8 and Article 71 of the Charter of the United Nations, permit men and women without discrimination to participate at the United Nations in all its organs. I am a citizen of the country I live in, but I also have an identity as a global citizen, and what happens in a country halfway around the world can be as important to me as what happens in my own country. Everyone on earth is a citizen of the world and as the ultimate stakeholders all our voices matter, particularly at the United Nations as permanent ongoing participation of the general public. We have the desire to participate along with the technology and infrastructure to make it happen, all we need now is the willingness of the United Nations to make this form of participation a reality.

Many of the details of this global popular vote through smart phones at the United Nations are too complex to address in this statement; therefore it would be our pleasure to answer any questions the Bureau of the Commission for Social Development and the Commission for Social Development or any Member Nation would have regarding this statement. We at the International Association of Independent Journalists Inc. thank you for your attention.