



# Economic and Social Council

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## Commission for Social Development

### Sixty-first Session

6–15 February 2023

**Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:  
Priority Theme: Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

### **Statement submitted by the African Cultural Promotions Inc and Irene Menakaya School Onitsha, 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.

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\* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## Statement

### **Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”**

At the World Summit for Social Development, the largest gathering of world leaders held in March 1995 in Copenhagen, Governments reached a new consensus on the need to put people at the centre of development. Following to it was the 2015 Development Agenda summarized into 5Ps rooted on development for people and humanity. The World Summit for Social Development and the 2030 Development Agenda both aspired to “place people at the centre of development by ensuring full participation by all” with the Development Agenda subscribing to leaving no one behind.

Secondly the Rio+20 conference held in Brazil on 20–22 June 2012 to mark the 20th anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), in Rio de Janeiro, and the 10th anniversary of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, noted its concerns about labor market conditions and the widespread deficits of available decent work opportunities, recognizing the existing connections on poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all and urges all stakeholders including governments to address the global challenge of poverty, creativity, decent work and productive employment for citizenry and youth employment.

With the emergence of COVID-19, the paradigm of living, productivity and descent work changed with attention geared towards skills acquisition, creativity, innovation, and technological skills thereby noting the key role of decent work for all in achieving sustainable development as promulgated through Sustainable Development Goal 8 aimed to “*promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all*”.

Since the 2030 Development Agenda, our organizations, African Cultural Promotions Inc and Irene Menakaya School Onitsha have significantly affirmed that education with commitment to education and culture are most needed to advance the success of the 2030 Development Agenda. In furthering the priority theme of the 61st Session of Commission on Social Development, our organizations are strong-willed that in creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the 61st Commission on Social Development should consider:

- Traditional Education Curriculum: with the emergence of the New Normal, education, teaching and learning is gradually adjusting to the use of modern technologies on grounds of modern curriculum. However, the traditional learning tools, and teaching methods seems to be going out of school system, yet the Development Agenda leaves a footprint on “Leaving No One Behind.” It seems therefore we have moved from the concrete traditional learning tools towards conventional digital learning. The action towards teaching and learning resources from our cultural background are needed to revitalize productive employment globally.

- Harness the significant importance of traditional education, enshrined into quality and inclusive education especially in rebuilding quality, inclusive education and revitalize community classroom
- Highlighted traditional educational tools, traditional policies, rulership, and quality education in community
- Noted that culture in the rural areas is a replica of African traditions, teaching and learning goes from the mouth to the ears
- Affirmed oral tradition is rooted in the culture
- Quality education is to better understand how technology can work, bringing in visual aids making education clearer with visuals.

#### Teachers and Professional Wellbeing:

To “Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Post COVID-19 Recovery requires the overall inclusion of teachers and teaching services to provide knowledge suitable for world of works. To achieve success, teachers’ welfare, development, and wellbeing must be made a priority especially if concerns on community education is considered a necessity to community development. Lack of adequate concern on teachers’ wellbeing and development will lead to low morale and career interest teaching and learning in community classroom in greater percentage.

- Considered discussions on “Teachers and Professional Wellbeing, (pedagogy)to highlight; opportunities for teachers and educators to reconnect, heal, and feel safe and supported,
- Considered ways for educators to assess their well-being and cultivate self-care strategies, provide educators with professional development that supports student teaching and learning ability, and connection
- Recognize the knowledge interpersonal skills for communal harmony in learning environment
- Need to devise a curriculum to put all major resources into action and must embrace technology.
- Develop innate gifts to give life to our talents
- Informed Post-COVID-19 agenda must practice multi-culturalism paving way to value what we have to lead our productive lives.

Digital Education and Technology: with the entrance of COVID-19 pandemic and the global lockdown and shutdown of school, halting education system across the world, experts went into critical thinking on “education next”. Teaching and learning through internet and computer technology became a New Normal on education. Our organizations seek for the role and future of education and skills in the digital world, identifying important digital skills needed for critical thinking of developing now and in the future. It explores how teaching and learning have access to education on digital skills, how we think about formal education and how our thinking needs to evolve with the increasing adoption of digital tools and technologies in teaching and learning world. Our organizations further recommend a framework to ensure an inclusive education in an increasingly digital world and suggests roles for different stakeholders to ensure that this becomes a reality. In furtherance of the mission of the 61st Session of the Commission on Social Development, The Irene Menakaya School Onitsha and African Cultural Promotions Inc. commit to

- The role of digital education and technologies as an effective tool to make learning more adaptive and flexible in creating full and productive employment opportunities.
- Noted Digital Technology as a supplementary tool and can help the student(s) to navigate the internet while engaging in a specific academic task
- Noted education in communities should be centralized, the curriculum, teaching and learning should be traditional
- Noted the need for technological learning to ensure success in educational development for everyone by 2030
- Informed on the importance of education as; improve knowledge as everyone's birth right, everyone to attain a healthy and peaceful life, and helps one's personal growth and economic life.
- Considered the need to bring education that can enhance education towards skills acquisition for sustainable economic and productive employment.

Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities through education, innovation, and infrastructure for to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should aim to *“promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”* in communities

It should also seek to explore key issues such as access to safe and healthy places, better spaces for learning, maximizing the benefits of pedagogy and the community relationship as well as providing learning innovation that will enable mindset development and self-reflection, ask open-ended questions, create flexible learning environments, inform on personality matters towards creating a place for all learners, allowing risks and fail, bringing in entrepreneurs and innovators and use of design-thinking.

Our organizations affirm that the Bureau of the 61st Session of Commission on Social Development should

- Embrace global solidarity and find new ways to work together for the common good in rebuilding quality and inclusive education to advance creative education and skill acquisition
- work to renew commitment within communities so as to embrace comprehensive vision on creative and productive economy to revitalize SDG-8 challenges
- Introduce inclusive and meaningful community listening consultations to enable indigenous peoples have clear understanding in envisioning their sustainable futures.
- Bureau should take further step towards “Solutions for Core Education Values in Driving SDG8 for the Decade of Action” to rebuild stronger networks and inclusive bilateral plan of action anchored for an effective stronger involvement towards Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.