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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: 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 Universal Peace and Violence Amelioration Centre 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

INTRODUCTION

To limit the spread of coronavirus, policymakers around the world had to implement strict containment and closure policies. In April 2020, rules on hygiene and social distancing made daily life take a whole new turn, schools and businesses were closed, gatherings banned, and almost 2.7 billion workers, representing around 81 per cent of the world's workforce, were affected by partial or full lockdown regulations.

We can all agree that COVID has been hard on every economy around the world, people have been pushed to their breaking points because they have either lost their jobs and no longer have a means to support themselves. A lot of stay-at-home orders were given bringing busy metropolitan areas to a standstill. The lockdown had a huge negative impact on the employment rate in the bustling cities especially for people that are self-employed.

WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON INCOME AND NON-INCOME INEQUALITY AND THE LABOUR MARKET? HOW DO THEY AFFECT DIFFERENT GROUPS WITHIN THE LABOUR MARKET?

The inequality of the impact was acutely felt in the labour market, where workers in elementary occupations, those in the urban informal economy, have been most affected by distancing policies and the overall drop in demand. Without access to adequate benefits afforded by universal social protection systems, many informal workers and their families have fallen into poverty. Persons engaged in precarious forms of work have also borne the brunt of the crisis.

IN WHAT WAYS ARE INEQUALITIES IN THE LABOUR MARKET AND RISING UNEMPLOYMENT AND INACTIVITY CHALLENGING OUR SOCIAL CONTRACT

Many have experienced a fall in income as their contracts were not renewed.

All over Africa, unemployment has led to an increase in insecurity particularly following the successful wave of terror in recent times. Today, some extreme political and religious organizations have taken advantage of the situation which may gradually become difficult to contain.

There are inequalities within communities and even households. Especially when it comes to the female gender, the progress is even worse and uneven. The gender pay gap for instance, has increased for some women in certain occupations over the last couple of decades. Marginalized groups such as internally displaced persons continue to suffer from discrimination and lack of legal rights.

STRATEGIES TO CREATE DECENT AND PRODUCTIVE WORK FOR ALL TO COMBAT INEQUALITIES AND ACHIEVE SDGS

In West Africa, the unemployment rate is high in the continent's most populous economy. Sustainable solutions are therefore urgently required to counter the challenge of unemployment in Africa. Strong measures are to be taken to combat the unemployment rate, we believe that entrepreneurship and building is key to driving growth in most developed economies; hence, our support is extensively directed towards the youth population who sit at the heart of innovation. By instilling entrepreneurial values in the minds of young people, we intend to drive sustainable socio-economic impact in African communities. To be able to build a sustainable economy that will improve the society and the world at large.