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Statement submitted by Samaj Kalyan O. Unnayan Shangstha, 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 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2011/100.

Statement*

“It is the time to consider technical and vocational education with formal and non-formal education for sustainable human development” — Samaj Kalyan O. Unnayan Shangstha (SKUS)

Our constitution recognizes the rights to health, education and livelihood as basic rights of the people. Bangladesh has declared its aim to eradicate poverty and endorsed the Millennium Development Goals as its goal by unlocking potential of growth and equity. Education is the basic and key tool for development. It develops human capacity and increases wisdom, vision and potential. Education helps to change the insight of human beings and the development of self-reliance, efficacy and efficiency.

In Bangladesh every year a large number of people drop out of primary school. Hence, the present and future formal educational programmes will leave a large number of people as illiterate or semi-literate, the latter soon relapsing into illiteracy. So, there is a need for a strong system of non-formal education, which is one of the popular approaches to reach and educate people who have dropped out of the formal education system due to different social and economic problems. The idea is to impart basic literacy, including life skills, work skills and general culture, and facilitate lifelong learning and enhancement of earning capabilities for poverty reduction.

At present we have a strong formal and non-formal education structure in Bangladesh, which has a good reputation too. But it doesn't have the attribute of a sustainable role in human resources development. It helps only a certain number of learners; it has a lesser impact on sustainable and secure livelihoods. So, we believe a country like Bangladesh needs to plan the expansion of vocational and technical education, which can be an option to get the best result for poor people in involvement in the productive sector, as well as sustainable income and livelihood.

In this regard, we strongly recommend that Bangladesh and other developing country policymakers think about the critical role of technical and vocational education, which can play a potential role in national development. It will create a workforce, ensure sustainable income for livelihoods, reduce poverty and help people to get gainful employment.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.