



## Economic and Social Council

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**High-level segment: annual ministerial review**

### **Statement submitted by Buddha's Light International Association, 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.

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\* E/2011/100.



## **Statement\***

Education is a tool to develop skills and to resolve all human problems directly or indirectly. Millennium Development Goals are not slogans but real practice. In order to help children in developing countries from illiteracy, Buddha's Light International Association has developed various educational programmes in Brazil, India, South Africa and other remote areas.

Using Buddha's Children in Brazil programme as an example of the fulfilment of Goal 2, achieving universal primary education, there are more than 2,500 street kids who attended the programme and received primary education since 2003. One of the most important methods to encourage the children's participation is to give each child a food basket weekly when one stays in the programme. It saves the family from starvation and children from selling drugs in the slum districts to becoming educated and staying away from trouble. Many of them eventually pursued higher education which they had never dreamed of before. Furthermore, they are not only getting academic education, but also other life skills. They learn how to make and sell pastry for self-sustainability.

Additionally, Buddha's Light International Association has other education programmes in India and South Africa. Because of gender inequality, it has developed education centres to focus on female primary education in both places (Goal 3).

## **Recommendations**

1. Every country should provide at least nine years of free educational opportunity, like China, which has resulted in very positive outcomes.
2. To recognize that the parents' education is as important as their children. If adults understand how important primary education is, they will most likely be more supportive.
3. To develop a healthy mentality as well as academic training. If an intelligent person does not have righteous views or correct understanding about social issues, it may cause more harm than ever, such as terrorism.

## **Conclusion**

Buddha's Light International Association will continue to work on children and youth education programmes to fulfil Goals 2 and 3. It not only provides academic training, but also emphasizes various life skill training. All programmes are conducted on the principle of "Do good deed, say good word and think good thought".

With a healthy mind and good academic training, the next generation will always stay in the right direction.

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\* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.