



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 April 2012

Original: English

Substantive session of 2012

New York, 2-27 July 2012

Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda*

High-level segment: annual ministerial review

Statement submitted by IFENDU for Women's Development, 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/2012/100.



Statement

IFENDU for Women's Development believes that the promotion of employment and decent work in all spheres is essential for the eradication of poverty on a global scale. However, the rural sectors of the economy tend to be neglected in comparison to the industrial sectors. The agricultural sector of the economy is viewed as inefficient and unsustainable when it comes to achieving economic growth and employment on a mass scale. As a result, poverty tends to be prevalent among individuals who depend on the agricultural sector for their main source of income. Although the United Nations has taken the initiative to address the issue of poverty, there remains insufficient attention paid to poverty in rural areas, where women are overrepresented in the labour market.

In this light, IFENDU for Women's Development recommends that the United Nations encourage developed countries to have a quota system that will enable developing nations to trade their agricultural products. This would enable a thriving international and domestic agricultural sector that would provide decent employment and sustainable economic growth. Most significantly, better strategies are necessary to make the agricultural sector flourish. For instance, the agricultural system could become more modernized to enhance the production of goods. Governments could assist in providing better equipment and training for individuals. This would be a safety net programme for workers in the agricultural system. Therefore, instead of neglecting the agricultural sector, the United Nations should encourage Governments to look for new ways to improve the sector in order to eradicate poverty on a global scale. Poverty is a deliberate and unnatural phenomenon that can only be eradicated primarily through Government intervention in the global economy and a change in present economic structures.
