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**Economic and environmental questions: public administration
and development**

Statement submitted by the Human Rights National Circle, 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

Our organization's wish is that all of Africa achieve the Millennium Development Goals. But that wish is not enough. There are endogenous and exogenous factors that are obstacles to fulfilment of this United Nations aspiration for Africa. There are hindrances that prevent Africa from achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). For example, the establishment of democracy, respect for human rights, good governance and rotation in power through an independent national electoral commission are endogenous factors without which it is impossible to promote productive capacity, employment and work, growth and improved living conditions. The establishment and ongoing rule of civilian and military dictatorships are the primary cause of Africa's woes. Unfortunately, such regimes perpetuate themselves and power is handed down from father to son with the blessing and protection of the former colonial powers. The international community must play a role in Africa for humanitarian reasons because the latter's widespread poverty and misery, extremely high mortality rate and extremely low life expectancy are attributable to bad governance, misappropriation of public funds and financial mismanagement. It will be extremely difficult to achieve the MDGs because African leaders are irresponsible and lack nationalist and pan-Africanist spirit. There are exogenous factors blocking the development of the continent. Africa will only succeed if certain Western countries stop thinking of some African countries as their turf and their sphere of influence; these former colonial powers create and destroy African governments with the primary goal of protecting their own selfish interests. Thus, there is a flagrant violation of African countries' and peoples' rights by the Western powers with the full knowledge and consent of the international community. The MDGs will only be achieved in Africa if African countries enjoy genuine autonomy and if the former colonial powers abandon their hypocritical, demagogic policy towards African countries. In order to achieve the MDGs set by the United Nations, the international community, and the United Nations in particular, must first find solutions to the endogenous and exogenous factors that continue to prevent Africa from taking off.
