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**Economic and environmental questions: sustainable development**

### **Statement submitted by Fundación de Ayuda y Promoción de las Culturas Indígenas Rosa Collelldevall, 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/2012/100.



## Statement

### **Social management of water and the environment as a mechanism for eradicating poverty in Peru**

Social management of watersheds and the environment consists of concerted and considered water management planning, taking various interests into account. It establishes the responsibilities of local, regional and national stakeholders in sustainable human development processes.

This involves a self-management approach, coordination between stakeholders with different interests and participatory equity management. Social water management gives rise to other aspects of sustainable development, such as environmental management, productive use of water, production chains and citizen participation.

Social management of water and the watershed environment has led to progress in a number of aspects of inter-agency coordination with regard to microwatersheds and to the creation of links between the local, regional and national levels following successful advocacy and the dissemination of information on sustainable human development as an alternative in the effort to eradicate poverty in the country.

This application has been expanded through a social water and watershed environment management programme that is currently being implemented in coordination with the Asociación Civil para la Gestión del Agua en Cuenca, which, over the past eight years, has been working in 19 microwatersheds in eight regions of Peru: Piura, Lambayeque, Cajamarca, Ayacucho, Apurímac, Cusco, Puno and San Martín. These have been “showcase” experiments with tangible results that can be replicated throughout the country, offering substantial improvement in capacity-building, watershed management, public-private relationships and user associations in order to ensure proper use of water and environmental resources in each microwatershed and region.

We have already begun to map Peru’s watersheds: there are 14 watersheds and 64 minor hydrographical zones that are used to manage surface water. However, the case for land management in that connection has still not been made clearly enough.

Human development is a key factor that requires a substantive change at the heart of public social development efforts.

Peru needs better land management in order to ensure fair and democratic sustainable development, and the river watersheds that form the basis of the regionalization process that has already begun provide a perfect opportunity.

The development process must overcome social inequalities and economic conditions and ensure that the current economic growth benefits the poorest people, who are being neglected by the State, not in a paternalistic way through one-time interventions but as part of a national plan with an equitable sharing of benefits.

As part of this process, it is vital to build capacity at all levels within the framework of the social management of water and the watershed environment and to improve management by coordinating local, regional and national efforts and creating synergies that will allow for the development to which Peru is entitled.