



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
19 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 Women's Board Educational Cooperation Society, 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

Three years away from 2015, many States in the developing world are light years away from realizing the Millennium Development Goals. In Nigeria, despite the various efforts by the Federal Government, the Goals are far from being realized.

The Nigerian State had put in place initiatives such as the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), which introduced the purchase of tricycles imported from India known as Keke NAPEP, to be purchased by unemployed youths on hire purchase for commercial purposes. In addition, in the national budget for 2012, the Government made available the sum of 50 billion naira (N50 billion) to fight the growing level of unemployment and poverty, especially among youth, which has engendered a myriad of social problems, especially in the northern part of Nigeria. All these efforts seem like a drop in the ocean of poverty, as over 70 per cent of the population lives on less than one dollar a day.

This growing wave of poverty has resulted in ethno-religious conflicts between the Tiv and the Jukun and between the Fulani nomads and numerous communities in both Benue and Oyo States. It is the trigger for the conflict between the indigenous people and settlers in Jos, the capital of Plateau State, which has lasted for over a decade. It also gave impetus to the Boko-Haram phenomenon in the north-eastern region, as the insurgency has an army recruited from among the unemployed. The underlying reason is that the north-eastern part of Nigeria is one of the poorest regions, with the highest level of illiteracy and the lowest income per capita.

To enable the Nigerian State to leap towards 2015, the year agreed by States to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, the Government of Nigeria has to make a conscious effort, through policy initiatives, to reduce poverty.

This would be achieved by injecting huge resources into the economy, especially in the manufacturing sector, to create jobs for its army of the unemployed. In addition, the transport and energy sectors should be urgently rehabilitated, as those two sectors are capable of absorbing over 50 per cent of those currently unemployed. Employment generation will drastically reduce poverty and engender improved well-being among the populace as well as boost the productive sectors of the economy, such as the textile and construction sectors. Despite an economic growth rate of over 5 per cent in 2011, poverty remains dire, as the growth did not translate into an improvement in well-being for the greater majority of the citizenry. The recorded growth had been mainly in the oil and services sectors, such as telecommunications, which is anchored on technology and is therefore incapable of employing many workers.

The eradication of poverty will improve health by reducing infant and maternal mortality, especially from malaria and childhood diseases, which have been on the rise as a result of unemployment and poverty.

In the light of the foregoing, the United Nations should encourage States, under the auspices of meetings of Heads of Governments, to fund the real sectors of their economies.