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Statement submitted by Comité français pour l'Afrique du Sud, 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

Several proposals can be suggested to combat poverty in line with the objective of equitable and sustainable economic growth, namely:

- (a) Support initiatives aimed at maintaining and developing family farms in rural areas;
 - (b) Encourage measures to protect the soil, in particular through organizing tree planting campaigns to combat desertification;
 - (c) Manage drinking water resources while promoting the use of techniques to preserve water quality and ensure equitable sharing of water;
 - (d) Promote small businesses and micro-businesses, as they create the majority of jobs and provide the family farming sector with the products and techniques needed for its development;
 - (e) Open up isolated regions by extending the rail and highway networks in order to increase commercial activity;
 - (f) Foster urban planning to favour mid-sized towns as development centres at the local and regional level;
 - (g) At the most appropriate local level, ensure the provision of public health and education services;
 - (h) Take into account artistic creation and protection of cultural heritage as essential factors in human development.
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