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**Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and
the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:**

**priority theme: promoting empowerment of people in
achieving poverty eradication, social integration and
full employment and decent work for all**

Statement submitted by United States Federation for Middle East Peace, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.



Statement

Inspired by its own mission and objectives, the United States Federation for Middle East Peace understands that it is important to build a stronger and more sustainable future for young people by improving social and economic conditions. Young people aged 15 to 29 years currently account for nearly half of all adults in developing countries. The Federation believes that efforts to eradicate poverty must focus on improving the social and economic security of families, which will allow for greater empowerment of women and can improve access to education for all young people. We also believe that education is a key factor in poverty reduction and youth empowerment, and seek to foster these values through school programmes. While education is essential for creating opportunities, people must also be able to find decent work that provides fair compensation and respect for human rights, and presents equal opportunities for all workers. The Federation has worked tirelessly to promote gender equality and human rights through workshops and conferences. Additionally, we have addressed the issue of social integration by sponsoring athletic events for young people from different social backgrounds.

Poverty eradication

The United States Federation for Middle East Peace has hosted events to facilitate discussion and draw attention to the diverse issues that must be addressed to ensure that the Millennium Development Goals are achieved by their 2015 target date. As there are nearly 870 million people living below the poverty line, we must mobilize our youth and encourage them to pursue sustainable solutions to poverty. In order to eradicate poverty, the process must start from the bottom. This goes for war as well — by analysing insecurities from an insider's perspective, we can tailor the Millennium Development Goals to the needs of individual countries. If we eradicate poverty, we could also prevent war.

Social integration

The United States Federation for Middle East Peace supports the empowerment of all people through understanding, tolerance and peace. Increasing the human rights of individuals ensures equal access to public services and reduces violence. In 2012, the Federation hosted several events to address issues related to women and children in rural areas. The cultural process of creating youth involvement in communities and helping young people implement change in their own lives must include their mothers. Change begins at the core of society, with the family: parents educate their children and mothers dedicate a lot of time to their children. The empowerment of women is central to social integration because it allows them to live healthy, independent lives and teach their children to do the same. This year, the United States Federation for Middle East Peace hosted a panel discussion on preventing and ending violence against women with disabilities, in which panellists presented an overview of the nature, scope, causes and consequences of violence against women with disabilities. Additionally, the Federation has sought to empower young people and create understanding among different social groups through informal interaction.

Full employment and decent work for all

Young people need to have employment, both in the United States and around the world. The United States Federation for Middle East Peace strives to achieve universal primary education, to ensure that all boys and girls have access to learning and that they are able to develop their capabilities. As an organization working towards youth empowerment, the Federation believes that all young people deserve an education, because they embody our hope for a peaceful world. We hope that investments in youth education will benefit future generations in pursuit of this goal. In line with this goal, the organization has brought together 2,000 Montessori school students from around the world for model United Nations events. As part of this mission, the Federation has continuously worked to promote gender equality and empower women throughout the world.

Proposal

In the context of the issues under consideration, the United States Federation for Middle East Peace recommends the following:

(1) Education needs to be accessible to everyone. To create a sustainable economy, we must revert back to the time when education was considered an essential investment and played a central role in society. It should be a priority that young people have access to education, because they are the future;

(2) The impact of war, natural disasters and global climate change on poverty must be recognized and addressed. Reducing violence and improving the living conditions of vulnerable populations through social integration and the empowerment of young people and women are essential to eradicating poverty;

(3) In order to ensure decent work for all, an international labour standard should be created that adheres to the basic human rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. As a result of value judgements to protect basic workers' rights, enhance workers' job security and improve the social economic global scale for employment, we can hope to see improvements in the productive capacity and a reduction of violence;

(4) It is necessary to achieve global partnership between developing and developed countries to reduce world poverty and encourage the transfer of knowledge and resources. We believe that these goals can be achieved by working together and not alone.
