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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: rethinking and strengthening social development in the
contemporary world**

Statement submitted by House of Jacobs International, 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 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.



Statement

As part of the rethinking and strengthening of social development in the contemporary world, certain steps must be taken to streamline government policy in the area of day-to-day living. Using Nigeria as a case study, the House of Jacobs International examines some aspects of government policy, which include but are not limited to:

(a) *Agricultural development policy.* The Government of Nigeria has introduced national development plans by strengthening agricultural-sector policies and strategies through: enhancement of knowledge, information, data and tools for analysis; implementation of pro-poor, gender-sensitive policies; strengthening the capacity of government agencies and research institutions; and improving communication linkages and consultations between policymakers and those who implement policies;

(b) *Health management policy.* Nigeria has launched a national strategic health development plan for 2010-2015, and signed a health compact with development partners. A results framework will measure performance based on the following priority areas: leadership and governance for health; health services delivery; human resources for health; financing for health; national health information systems; and community participation and ownership;

(c) *Climate and environmental policy.* The Government of Nigeria has approved the adoption of a national policy on climate change and response strategy as a national guide for the implementation of climate-related activities in the country. The approval will provide a framework for tackling environmental challenges occasioned by global climatic changes;

(d) *Politics and government policy.* The practice of true federalism, as enshrined in the Nigerian constitution of 1999, has been incomplete. Rather, what now exists is synonymous with a unitary system of government. As a result of the differing styles of governance, the country is facing challenges in managing its resources. Governments needed to be very proactive and sensitive in formulating and implementing policy decisions that have a direct impact on their citizens;

(e) *Growth, poverty and inequality policy.* Inequality and poverty are worsening in spite of economic growth. In order to improve the poverty situation in the country, attention needs to be focused on ensuring policy consistency;

(f) *Economic development policy.* Although the Nigerian economy has grown by more than 5 per cent in each of the past three years, insecurity, corruption and unemployment remain major challenges to economic growth. The Government has backed a policy of locally sourcing raw materials for use in major economic growth projects;

(g) *Humanitarian aid policy.* This is designed to save lives, alleviate suffering and maintain and protect human dignity during and in the aftermath of man-made crises and natural disasters, to strengthen preparedness for and/or prevent the occurrence of such situations;

(h) *International communications policy.* The Government of Nigeria has created a regulatory framework for the communications industry to promote

telecommunications policy (which may be from modified or amended from time to time) to provide reliable, affordable and easily accessible communications services.

Conclusion

The rethinking and strengthening of social development in the contemporary world is a continuous process of policy formulation, implementation and monitoring.
