



## Economic and Social Council

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### Commission for Social Development

#### Fifty-third session

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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 Corporativa de Fundaciones, 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

Corporativa de Fundaciones is a leading community foundation based in Jalisco, Mexico. We promote alliances between social investors and civil society organizations to benefit our community and empower the most vulnerable members of our society. In over 15 years of operation, Corporativa de Fundaciones has witnessed significant changes in many civil society organizations. Through a scientific monitoring of their projects and the implementation of advanced accountability systems, we measure the impact that such organizations have had on society. We provide institutional strengthening systems that result in continuous improvement and adaptation, better services, greater effectiveness, a wider social impact, financial and environmental sustainability, and visible and well-informed advocacy efforts. Corporativa de Fundaciones is a non-governmental organization accredited with the Economic and Social Council and the Inter-American Development Bank, as well as other international and national organizations.

We welcome the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted at the World Summit on Social Development, at the fifty-third session of the Commission for Social Development, the theme of which is “Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world”.

We applaud the efforts of the Commission to transform, reshape and adapt social development to changing environments. These changes are challenging and concern matters that require immediate attention, such as inequality, globalization, the unsustainability of the economic system, climate change and its impacts, oil and food prices, food security, lack of access to water resources, the spread of communicable diseases, environmental degradation, migration and urban growth, and the expansion of global unemployment.

We recognize that at least three of the major goals and objectives listed in the 10 commitments contained in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development (poverty eradication, full employment and the promotion of social integration based on the enhancement and protection of all human rights) remain a major challenge for the international community. Corporativa de Fundaciones conceives development as a non-linear, inclusive and autonomous process by which the assets of individuals and their communities are recognized, needs are identified and solutions are created. These solutions shall be consistent with the local context and culture, environmentally based, sustainable and in accordance with international human rights to substantially improve the quality of life of people, in an atmosphere of well-being.

The well-being is based on a development model that is culturally determined and that should, therefore, take into consideration the historic, social, cultural, ethnic and environmental conditions of a given community. In this model, development has a personal and a global dimension in which the relationship with the natural environment is vital for the long-term sustainability of any solution and involves a rational use of resources, including time and technology. Development requires capacity-building, as well as the creation of conditions that consider the greatest potential of each individual, keeping in mind each person’s specific situation and the social environment.

While significant progress has been made in reducing extreme poverty, we recognize the need to amend the criteria and indicators of the global index addressing this issue. There has been a significant lag, of more than four decades, in this area, causing a state of stagnation and furthering the lack of a real commitment to new indicators that go beyond the amount of \$1.25 a day.

We postulate that development must be regarded as an integral concept that does not have only economic dimensions. To do this, we recognize that private entities have the capacity and responsibility to play a larger and more committed role in sustainable development. States should be the main parties responsible for emphasizing the duties and responsibilities of the private sector in development, specifically with regard to full employment.

We call for the promotion of greater social integration based on the enhancement and protection of human rights. This should also incorporate and address inequality in a more tangible way, especially within the framework of the post-2015 development agenda. We also recognize that, in order to fully achieve the goals and objectives of this process, all social and economic actors should be included. Such integration provides an unprecedented opportunity to end inequality and thus ensure an inclusive and integrated future for all.

It is essential to overcome global inequality, especially in middle-income countries such as Mexico that have the greatest concentration of inequality and poverty. There is an urgent need to reform the methods used to classify States as candidates for official development assistance, as the current methods do not comprehensively reflect the social and economic realities of each country. It is extremely important that the classification methods be modified through a process that is more inclusive and considers all social realities.

We welcome the efforts of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals in relation to the integration of objectives and goals that consider other social, economic and environmental dimensions. We believe that the greatest challenge of the post-2015 development agenda and the work of the Commission for Social Development will be gaining Member States' support with the implementation of appropriate policies and social development strategies.

We call for the integration of international, national and local efforts in a broad, coherent and environmentally sustainable social future. It is essential to include all actors in the dialogues on and in the implementation and evaluation of the post-2015 development agenda through national and local targets, as well as specific and concrete standards. Agreements reached on new goals should not be subject to State discretion or political willingness, as this might undermine the successful achievement of the goals. The work done on post-2015 development agenda should continue to be an open and democratic process.

We call upon all social actors to increase advocacy efforts on the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda at all levels, especially the local level. We emphasize the need for a clear, inclusive, participatory and permanent process within the United Nations and civil society organizations to play an essential role in the follow-up mechanisms of the post-2015 development agenda.

We recognize the efforts made by the United Nations to include civil society organizations in the past two years, especially through the work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. We believe that the Open

Working Group, along with other social actors, could increase the reach of the outcomes of the post-2015 development agenda process, particularly among marginalized groups such as youth, children and indigenous peoples.

We affirm that among the priorities of the post-2015 development agenda should be efforts to provide free and public information to all of the world's citizens. Women and youth should be key actors in this process. We recognize the fundamental role that women and youth play in development at all levels, as well as the many forms of violence and discrimination that they face. We believe it is extremely important that the outcomes of global development efforts be disseminated through all possible channels.

We reaffirm our commitment to work hand-in-hand with the United Nations for a more just and sustainable world. Furthermore, we call on the Commission for Social Development to support States to fulfil their obligations and commitments and to expand the participation of civil society organizations.

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