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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 AC, 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.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

Corporativa de Fundaciones, A.C. is a leading community foundation based in Jalisco, Mexico. We promote partnerships 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, A.C. has witnessed significant changes in many Civil Society Organizations. Through scientific monitoring of their projects and the implementation of advanced accountability systems, we measure the impact Civil Society Organizations have had in their communities. We provide institutional strengthening mechanisms that reflect continuous improvement and adaptation, better services, greater effectiveness, a wider social impact, financial and environmental sustainability, as well as articulated visible and well-informed advocacy efforts. Corporativa de Fundaciones, A.C. is in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, accredited with the Inter-American Development Bank and other international and national organizations.

We conceive development as a nonlinear, 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 a wellbeing atmosphere. Wellbeing is based on a culturally determined development model, which should consider historic, social, cultural, ethnic and environmental conditions surrounding a community. This model also considers development as a personal and global dimension in which the relationship with the natural environment is vital for long-term sustainability of any solution, and involves a rational use of resources, including time and technology. Social development requires capacity-building, as well as the creation of conditions that enable the fulfilment of individual potential closely linked to their social environment.

Our organization shares concerns with Commission for Social Development over the major goals and objectives listed in the ten commitments of 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) as remaining global challenges for the international community in the contemporary world.

We welcome the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals during the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. Through this adoption, Member States reaffirm their commitment towards the construction of a better world by 2030, after an unprecedented consultation process. Corporativa de Fundaciones, A.C. in partnership with the United Nations Millennium Campaign and hundreds of national and local stakeholders from across sectors, who led a wide consultation process in Western Mexico through the United Nations MY World 2015 Global Survey. This remarkable effort was able to reach 400,000 people and promote awareness on the importance of involving citizens in the construction and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We were also able to position our state as the fifth most populous entity in the survey out of thousands of participant organizations and 194 countries.

Throughout the construction of the Sustainable Development Goals, citizens have emphasized the importance of understanding Agenda 2030 as a collective effort. As such, we believe we have an opportunity to fully engage in the construction of new partnerships, effective and efficient institutions, adequate transfer of resources, capacity-building, access to information and a strong reporting and monitoring systems for accountability. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development must be translated into national and local development plans in the short term via reforms and communication efforts, in order to harmonize local and national development initiatives with global policies.

National and local targets are essential for the success of the Sustainable Development Goals, and must be constructed and adopted by all stakeholders, especially non-state actors. We acknowledge institutional reforms alone cannot drive a transformative development agenda without other essential inputs such as material and financial resources, leadership, human capital and political accountability that recognize the concerns of communities and respond through coherent interventions. This requires ensuring a wider representation in decision-making processes and follow-up mechanisms for Civil Society Organizations at the global, regional and national levels.

The active role of local governments, along with Civil Society Organizations, is crucial to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially through decentralized development cooperation and territorial approaches that ensure ownership, bottom-up actions, effectiveness and transparent processes. National agreements upon follow-up mechanisms of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should not be subject to State discretion or political willingness, since this might vitiate the successful achievement of the goals.

Implementation time frames at the national and local levels should be inclusive and focused on sustained economic growth, with a strong emphasis on reducing poverty and protecting the environment. A sustained economy helps to ensure that the world's poorest people will benefit and this includes trade, investment and a more committed role by the private sector. The private sector can have profound impacts on addressing critical social issues such as health, water sanitation, rural development, enforcing human rights and gender equality, among others. Private actors have the capacity and responsibility to play a larger and more committed role in sustainable development by 2030. States should bare the main responsibility for emphasizing the duties and responsibilities of the private sector in development, specifically in those dimensions related to full and decent employment.

We applaud the efforts of the Commission for Social Development for its continuous commitment towards sustainable development. Corporativa de Fundaciones, A.C. calls upon Member States to consider the following recommendations in this 54th Session:

(a) Implementing set of national and local policies based on the Sustainable Development Goals. This includes the establishment of an inclusive partnership for the construction and definition of national targets and goals in the short term.

(b) Enabling environments for all stakeholders in sustainable development. This should consider a system in which policies and frameworks are fair, clear, concise and democratically adopted for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the national and local levels.

(c) The national partnerships for sustainable development should be encouraged by governments, in which different stakeholders are actively involved, particularly Civil Society Organizations and the private sector. Long-term continual and expanding processes involving data collectors, as well as individuals or groups of interest must be fully represented at all times.

(d) Ensure effective means of implementation that attract financing, strengthen trade and promote investment. Decentralized development cooperation could be used as an adequate means for the successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

(e) Promote the creation of efficient, effective, transparent and accountable institutions at the local, national and international levels for the adequate implementation. Institutions should respond to everyone's needs and governments should be accountable for their efforts in favour of social development throughout the evaluation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

(f) The international community should encourage ownership, transparency and trust in the policy-making process for development, through the strengthening of mechanisms of inclusion. Particular attention to inequality and marginalized communities is fundamental for the overall advancement of the agenda.

(g) Member States should promote local and national capacity-building strategies in public administration. This is the best way to ensure state and municipal effectiveness becomes a real enabler for community involvement in development, as well as a stimulating tool for local participation in public affairs and decision-making processes.

(h) The international community must communicate the new global Sustainable Development Agenda more efficiently to all social national actors, especially to local stakeholders and individuals. Local governments play a key role in linking stakeholders in regional development, as they are part of the state and draw their mandates from local accountability, result of working closer to citizens and communities.

We reaffirm our commitment to work together with the United Nations for a more just and sustainable world. Furthermore, we call on the Commission for Social Development facilitate the conditions and support States to achieve an open, transparent, accountable and functional Sustainable Development Goals, as well as to expand the participation of Civil Society Organizations and other stakeholders in this process.
