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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: strategies for the eradication of poverty to
achieve sustainable development for all**

Statement submitted by the Association camerounaise pour la prise en charge de la personne agée (ACAMAGE), 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

A major challenge of the twenty-first century is the ageing of the population at a rate unprecedented in human history. By 2050, 22 percent of the world's population, or over two billion people, will be over 60 years of age. This reflects the advances in medicine, nutrition and education.

It necessitates an ongoing quest for the well-being of the target population, who are the engines of development. Poverty is the scourge that affects them the most. Efforts to combat poverty are the focus of the Sustainable Development Goals, leaving no one behind. Some activities to deal with this scourge are suggested below.

Prevention of abuse

The elderly are often subjected to physical, psychological and other abuse. Financial abuse is widespread, depriving the elderly of all their assets and impoverishing them. This scourge must be constantly resisted and for this reason, since 2006, 15 June is marked each year as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

Continuing remuneration

Elderly retirees are entitled to continue to receive remuneration in the form of a pension, even a small one. They may have other sources of revenue from small jobs (to make ends meet) such as small-scale stockbreeding, subsistence farming, or a small business, but their pension must be ongoing.

Social benefits

These include everything that is done to ensure the continuing well-being of the elderly: health coverage and other benefits, including social pensions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In order effectively to combat poverty among the elderly and to ensure that the Sustainable Development Goals are met, it is essential to:

- Eliminate elder abuse
- Provide retirement benefits
- Provide full social benefits.
