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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 Federation Europeenne des Centres de Recherche et d'Information sur le Sectarisme (FECRIS), 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

There is a growing phenomenon for meeting the challenge of providing meaningful strategies toward the eradication of poverty and leaving no one behind. In order to understand the induced or extreme poverty factors in the life of sect members, we at European Federation of Centers of Research and Information on Sectarism have observed that there are different categories of membership that need to be considered. There are male and female adult members. Women in many of these sect or cult groups have a subordinate or totally submissive roles to perform and obey. There are adult and minor age teenagers, male and female members that work in unpaid slave like conditions in many cases. The issue of fundamental human rights needs to be addressed in this context. Even underage little children male and female are put into unpaid labour for the sect organizations and these financial resources are not set aside for individual retirement or future personal security.

In mainstream open and Democratic societies, some have access to economic growth that is lifting many out economic poverties. We should also consider the full implementation of the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development; the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development has provided meaningful accomplishments toward reducing poverty. Those sect victims who lack access and informed consent are denied these very worthwhile accomplishments. We at European Federation of Centers of Research and Information on Sectarism are committed to providing education, research and needed information for those sect victims, families from multi-disciplinary professional experts or specialist where appropriate.

We understand that poverty monitoring needs to be socially relevant. A major aim of our education is to mainstream our concerns with social thought and impact social policy toward the further eradicating causes of induced or extreme poverty. We need to monitor where the poorest are left behind.

Many cult environments are isolated and totalist in nature. They are pyramid type hierarchy authoritarian structures. They become the ultimate authority and lack a higher appeal authority outside of their closed communities. This impacts the lack of viable options in the mainstream open society outside of the sect organization. Most of these cult members relentlessly give sacrificially to their organizations and the double-ethic intrudes. The upper leadership lives a very privileged or even luxurious lifestyles. The rank and file members usually struggle with debt and poverty like living conditions depending on the cult organization is a matter of degree. It must be kept in mind we are observing a generally gifted population with above average academic intelligence. Higher education skills are denied by some cult leaders to other sect members denying gainful employment to those who could escape extreme or unnecessary induced poverty. "The poorest of the world are being left behind. We need to reach out and lift them into our lifeboat." United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, 2011

It should also be considered that enforced human trafficking is another source of extreme poverty. Islamic extremist sects and some destructive cults practice this abhorrent form of unpaid slave labour. Islamic extremists are notorious for abducting young girls and forcing them into labour and sex abuse. Restoring human rights is a matter of identification and accountability in this context. All appropriate government policies and applicable laws should be acquired and applied without delay concerning these matters. We at the European Federation of Centers of Research and Information on Sectarism believe quality research and collected data should be networked with the Commission on Social Development when

dealing with child labour and sex abuse laws that have been clearly violated. Special attention should be given providing recovery and healing resources to these very needy individuals and our federation is committed to help where appropriate. It is so important to restore dignity, self-worth and the decency of human rights to those who have been so grossly violated.

Our youth, especially students are particularly vulnerable to predator harmful cult organizations during their deceptive recruiting practices. Once they have become active members induced poverty stages become a real problem. Destructive cult leadership directives solicit whatever assets can be sacrificially given to the organization by neophyte student members. Once donated they usually are under the control of the sect organization depleting the resources of young vulnerable students. Many students begin on the minimum wage standards and most will give much of the earnings to the cult group. Surviving on a liveable wage without the sect support becomes very conditional and needs the approval cult leadership to remain.

We at the European Federation of Centers of Research and Information on Sectarianism share in promoting the integrated policies for poverty eradication and leaving no one left behind and especially our needy population be included in the youth development in the 2030 Agenda goals and objectives.

It is important to address the structural causes of poverty and the inequalities cult organizations that lack public transparency policies with mainstream institutions in the outside world. There are also insufficient re-distributional and inequitable policies, widely reported tax fraud issues and realizing the proper social protection within appropriate legal measures. Due to economic deprivation, there is a serious need for providing access to promoting structural economic transformation through access that the Commission for Social Development can make available where there is a lack of fully informed consent to sect victims. Improving access to credit and markets can provide a truly needed resource to re-build lives of former cult members and their families. Microloans have been quite effective at very low interest rates to rebuild lives with creative and resourceful uses with high motivation for self-improvement and making the world a better place.

When we consider young students and the youth development in the 2030 Agenda and insuring adequate resources for the participation and inclusion of young people addressing our sect victims' concerns. It can also include qualitative and quantitative research and data collection on the effectiveness of youth policies. It is important to establish participatory processes and other measures to insure the needs and the voice of marginalized groups of former sect members can be heard by policymakers. We at the European Federation of Centers of Research and Information on Sectarianism would like to network with the Commission on Social Development to provide data collection that is relevant to social policy dialogue.

It is important to point out the need for equal opportunities is a matter of access to these options. Education is vital to address this matter to policy makers. Notifying victims about human rights concerning any forms of discrimination and stigmatization, especially women, young females, youth and children. Violations of these rights needs appropriate reporting concerning aggravated forms of discrimination. When dealing with sect member rights abuse the 2018 Commission on Social Development 56 can mainstream the rights, participation and the dignity and well-being of the individual and poverty alleviation. Our federation supports an integrated approach to social development with the Commission for Social Development within its boundary guidelines. The European Federation of Centers of Research and Information on Sectarianism supports access to basic social services,

health-care services and increase participation with integration including qualified and appropriate social groups assisting victims out of induced poverty.

Our federation supports the Commission for Social Development to encourage policy makers and stakeholders to improve on the collection, analysis and significantly increase the internationally comparable, high quality and timely data relevant to those affected by extreme poverty and its remedies. It is important to restore opportunities, equality without discrimination, human dignity, no marginalization, and a vision of a shared future. People-centred development with inclusive social policies will undo deceptive indoctrination of us versus them adversarial world destructive cults generate. These promote options that were before denied.

Financial abuse or induced extreme poverty needs methods of detection and reporting to appropriate venues. Factors that increase susceptibility to extreme poverty include isolation whether physical or psychological and removal of viable or valid options. Predators avoid transparency and public accountability measures. Another workable solution is to address the barriers between poverty eradication and the human rights legal arena.

Eradicating poverty requires the engagement of persons at the grassroots, advocacy and universal change worldwide for no person to be left behind.
