



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
12 June 2019

Original: English

---

## 2019 session

26 July 2018–25 July 2019

Agenda item 5

### High-level segment

## **Statement submitted by IDP Foundation, Inc., 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 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

---

\* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## Statement

At the IDP Foundation, Inc., a private non-profit foundation dedicated to supporting the development of innovative and sustainable solutions to complex global issues since 2008, the SDGs serve as a guiding framework for our efforts. Through our keystone initiative, the IDP Rising Schools Program, we seek to empower the capacity of local citizens to offer safe, inclusive, educational opportunities to children in their own communities. The theme of this year's Economic and Social Council's High-level Segment, "empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality" is certainly fitting for the in-depth review of several SDGs as the IDP Rising Schools Program celebrates its 10-year anniversary as an embodiment of these global goals. Our vision is a world where every child has access to quality education, one shared by others who are also endeavoring to meet SDG 4. However, the IDP Rising Schools program also meets the objectives for SDGs 8, 10, 16, and 17 that are under review this year.

The IDP Rising Schools Program was developed in Ghana as a model to empower and support existing low-fee private schools that were founded by individuals that saw a need for affordable, educational opportunities in their communities. While these proprietors are taking meaningful steps to reduce social and economic inequalities, they often struggle to make ends meet and are challenged by a lack of administrative skills and support to run these schools to their full potential. Our initiative seeks to support the efforts of these schools by providing loans to improve their infrastructure and training to improve their management and financial literacy skills. Through the IDP Rising Schools Program, proprietors are not only able to fill a gap in education provision, they can provide economic growth to their communities by employing teachers, administrators, and other support staff.

In addition to reducing inequalities within countries by increasing access to education, the IDP Rising Schools program has benefited from the strength of its collaborations. From public entities, such as the Ghana Ministry of Education, to private entities such as financial institution Sinapi Aba, and non-profit organizations such as Sesame Workshop, our partnerships are fully aligned with the intentions of Goal 17. Furthermore, by prioritizing governmental engagement with and increased accountability of low-fee private schools, we believe that all citizens can be truly empowered in their efforts to increase access to inclusive, quality education.

Low-fee private schools help ensure that millions of children around the world receive a quality education, oftentimes because there would be no other opportunity for them to do so. By supporting these community initiatives through the IDP Rising Schools Program, this demand-driven model can serve as an example to others who are working across sectors and countries who seek to empower people and ensure inclusiveness and equality through their efforts.