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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: Affordable housing and social protection
systems for all to address homelessness**

Statement submitted by Association for a Progressive African Youth, 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

Introduction

The Association for a Progressive African Youth, AJAP in acronym, got notification of its Consultative Special Status delivered by the Economic and Social Council to the United Nations on July 26th, 2019.

AJAP is an African Youth Organization approved by the Burundian Ministerial Order No. 530/901 of June 8, 2010. It was created in April 2007. The initiator is Mr. Eric NSENGIMANA. His intention is to operate in all African countries under the main goal of creating a framework for expression and valorisation of the contribution of youth in the peaceful conflicts' resolution, health promotion and good morals and the development of African countries. Now, AJAP is present in 47 African countries.

It mainly intervenes in the fields as health, socio-cultural, human rights, economic development, education-training environment, communication, gender equality. The Association for a Progressive African Youth, AJAP, fights against disabilities related to social inequalities, poverty, and climate change unemployment, violence of all kinds, degradation of morals, sexually transmitted diseases, illiteracy, political manipulation, child labor, and drug consumption.

Dealing with the CSocD 58th session theme and appreciation

The priority theme “affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness” that ECOSOC has chosen to debate on during the ECOSOC 58th session to be held in New York February 2020 is of a great importance. It matches some of the AJAP goals especially in the domains of fighting social inequalities and poverty. One cannot talk about development while most of the people are homeless. There are various forms of homelessness (loss of a job, disaster, losing a family member who is the breadwinner, domestic violence, not having lodging, to name but a few). Any kind of disability preventing one from rejoicing his rights is, as far as I am concerned, homeless. Homelessness is not only applied for those who don't have lodgings but also for those, whose rights are fewer, who have low incomes, mental health problem, to name but a few.

The Association for a Progressive African Youth appreciates, then, the choice of such a fruitful theme of the ECOSOC 58th session.

Social protection is differently conceived according to the domains one is talking to. Without being talkative on various fields, the phrase can generally refer to policies and actions which enhance the capacity of poor and vulnerable people to escape from poverty and enable them to better manage risks and shocks. In our case of 58th session, one should understand the social insurance and accessibilities for vulnerable people to some service for an effective development to occur, brief, the involvement of all in the economy and his contribution to social cohesion and stability. Social Protection can also be defined as policies and programs designed to lower poverty or some type of human misfortune. It provides old-age insurance. While high-wage earners tend to pay more for benefits, they also collect higher benefit levels.

One can also distinguish between homeless from homelessness

Homelessness does not define a person but is instead a temporary situation. There is no single face or cause of homelessness, but people experiencing

homelessness do have shared basic needs including affordable housing, suitable income, and health care.

Should then be numbered people as homeless if they are: living on the streets (primary homelessness); moving between temporary shelters, including houses of friends, family and emergency accommodation (secondary homelessness); living in private boarding houses without a private bathroom and/or security of tenure (tertiary). Most shelters typically expect residents to exit in the morning and occupy themselves elsewhere during the day, returning for an evening meal and to sleep.... There are also daytime-only homeless shelters, where the homeless can go when they cannot stay inside at their night time sleeping shelter during the day.

Is there a law against being homeless?

To conclude this point; you might be defined as homeless if you are sleeping on the streets; staying with friends or family; staying in a hostel or bed and breakfast hotel; living in overcrowded conditions; at risk of violence in your home; living in poor conditions that affect your health; living in a house that is not suitable for you because you are sick or disabled.

There is a variety of reasons pushing one to be homeless likely being evicted by your landlord; losing your job; health problems; relationship problems; harassment by your neighbours; a disaster such as fire or flooding.

In a nutshell, the Association for a Progressive African Youth, AJAP in a French acronym, appreciates the global theme of “affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness”. Its pertinence led us wish to take part in the ECOSOC 58th Session. It will be the same occasion to share experience and contribute in the way of finding solution to problems related to homelessness and social protection systems that are observed in the greatest part of the World.
