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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 World Roma Federation 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 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

Renovated, Refurbished, Rehabilitated, and Ecological Homes for the Homeless.

Problem Statement:

According to statistical data compiled in 2018, there was an upsurge within the minority population index of homelessness equalling 282,262 from six different classified subgroups in the United States. Homelessness has become an economical deficit and states just do not have the means to budget for more homeless shelters. New development is expensive, but why use more resources and land when we can merely rehabilitate pre-existing allotted land owned by the state and renovate.

Our solution, GEOECO Homes minimalizing cost, resources, material, bio-waste, carbon emissions, and the deforestation of trees through the refurbishment and renovation of government owned land accommodating rundown and abandoned infrastructures.

The infrastructure of these homes will not use general concepts of architecture in the fundamental process of building and construction. The GEOECO homes will be refurbished shipping containers. These containers will be stacked on top of one another as if they were apartments approximately three of four stories with front and rear entrances accessible via staircases. The containers will use eco-friendly and recycled material to build compartments, rooms, etc. Lead free paint, eco-friendly flooring, and appliances.

These homes will be powered by natural/renewable energy sources, such as wind turbines, solar panels, or solar/hydrogen units. We are geared more towards solar energy or wind turbines based on terrain, location, and geography of the homes. The GEOECO homes will use smart grids, improving continual more efficient energy supply to each home, as it reacts and detects changes or fluctuations of usage. Therefore, maintaining its cost efficiency to both the state and the housing authority of the project. GEOECO homes facilitate not only a need by reducing the impact homelessness has on society but reduces the cost through burden sharing between the state and the NGO.

The community will act as a temporary haven until the homeless individual is able to get back on their feet. Our organization will provide rehabilitation programs, such as skill training, dress for success, resume and letterhead development, interview practice, and job placement. We will also allot funds for those ready to re-enter the workplace with the capacity to purchase clothes via the goodwill for interviews. We will assist them with filling out income-based housing applications upon entrance into the GEOECO homes program. Long term, we will continually monitor and ensure the individual success via monthly check-ups for the duration of 2 years. Individuals will always have a continual support base and will be mandated to attend a peer group for one year or more depending on the severity of the case.

Longitudinal studies will be conducted to adequately measure the inputs and outcome of the program. These tests and data will be useful for additional research and publication on the correlation between racial disparity and minority homelessness. In addition, to the importance of equal advantage opportunities, such as our program and the impact it has had on the reduction of the homeless crisis in America.

Description of the Containers:**Type:** Living container, Assembled flat pack container house**Length (feet):** 20'**External Dimensions (L x W x H) (mm):** 6055mm*2435mm*2895mm**Place of Origin:** Shandong, China**Brand Name:** DFX**Name:** Shipping Container house**Frame:** Galvanized steel**Door:** Sandwich panel door**Color:** Customized color**Roof:** Sandwich panel + Decoration ceiling**Wall:** 50mm/75mm Sandwich panel**Usage:** Construction**Application:** Building Container**Function:** Anti- Seismic**Shipping****Shipping Durability:**

Ten to fifteen years is the usual lifespan of a shipping container before they are retired, but they can last decades longer. Containers are marginally one of the most truly green structures as it is made of 85% recycled steel. However, if the steel the container was made from was demolished then the container is 100% recycled. The reuse of these structures saves the use of new building materials it also reduces the containers shelf life as it lays dormant being an unsightly eye soar.

Natural Disasters:

These containers are not only durable they are resilient against most natural disasters, such as tornadoes, earthquakes, and even hurricanes. Fires and floods are different entities altogether it would solely depend on infrastructure and material utilized within the interior of the infrastructure.

Shipping containers, whether single units or multiple connected units, can withstand up to 100MPH winds when rooted on foundation, or 175MPH winds when anchored with pylons, making container-homes extremely solid in both tornadoes and hurricanes. And even after a direct hit during an earthquake, the structure would never collapse; “it would be the most perfect safety cocoon in an earthquake, [at] least 100 times safer and stronger than a conventional housing structure.”

Making shipping containers the most safe and effective form of habitable modular units in zones and countries mostly affected by natural disasters due to global warming and other atmospheric changes challenging the natural biospheric stasis of the planet.

Cost:**Cost efficiency for container homes: efficiency for container homes:**

It is reported that container homes can save a new or pre-existing homeowner 40% in cost savings in comparison to traditional construction methods.

Cost break down:

- Containers have a lower cost per square footage
- Approximate cost \$70 usd per square footage
- Savings margin \$70, 000 usd per 1,000 sq/ft
- or 210, 0000 in savings if a larger home per 3,000 sq/ft

In today's market:

- Two 40-foot containers are purchasable for under \$8,000 usd
- Some containers can be purchased for just over \$1,500 usd
- To builders the construction of homes using modular containers reduces cost in terms of construction time by 20%

The compiled data above provides evidence that the use of containers to build a homeless community is not only conducive it is ecologically and economically smart and alleviates fiscal burden on the state.
