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Statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statements, which are being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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* Statements submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing. The present compilation is being issued in the languages of submission only, owing to issues associated with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, coupled with the ongoing liquidity challenges and the austerity measures in place.



1. Corporation of Opportunity and Jointly Action Opcion – OPCION CORPORATION

SGD 1, 2, 8

Chile has social vulnerability, high percentages of workers in the informal market, high levels of social inequality, and a migrant crisis, which creates a tough environment to face the COVID-19 crisis. The precariousness of working conditions, which consists of low salaries and limited social protection, makes confinement measures hard to follow, especially for families in poverty and whose members are part of the informal market. The weak systems of social protection, especially regarding health issues, cause an unequal access to social services. It is necessary for the State to guarantee an emergency income, especially considering that subsistence is at risk. Before the pandemic, 13.5% of children and 7% of adults in Chile were in poverty. It is likely that these numbers will get worse, therefore there is an urgent need for public policies aiming to support children and women in order to avoid the reproduction of poverty and the growth of child labour rates.

SGD 4

Education is very stratified in our country, which results in that not all the people have the same opportunities in terms of the quality of their education. This situation has worsened in the context of the pandemic, where around 3.5 million children are not attending to school. The measures taken by the government are reproducing the educational stratification, considering that children who belong to high- or middle-class families have better material conditions to continue their education through a remote learning system than who are part of low-class families. These conditions are encouraging students to drop out of school and increasing child labour.

SGD 5

Reports from both UNICEF and Opción have shown that 75% of child sexual abuse cases are committed against girls. The confinement due to the pandemic have put girls at a higher risk of suffering sexual abuse. Domestic violence and gender violence have increased during the pandemic, according to the Ministry of Women, the complaints for these forms of violence have grown by 125%. On the other side, the sanitary crisis has increased women's care work: many times, they have to take domestic and educational responsibilities while they still have their usual responsibilities at work.

SGD 16

Violence against children in Chile affects all territories as well as all social classes, children are victims of various forms of violence, abuse and negligence in their homes, schools and communities. In Chile, 71% of children are victims of some type of violence from their parents; and 8.7% of children recognize themselves as victims of sexual abuse. The same study reports that the inner circle of the girls is involved in 88.5% of these cases, and that the offender is a relative of the victim in 50.4% of them (UNICEF 2012). More recent studies, report that 62.5% of children claim to receive violent disciplinary methods from their primary caregivers (ELPI) 2017, the context of the pandemic has made it even worse. Today, there is an urgent need to create a violence prevention mechanism.

2. Kurdistan Reconstruction and Development Society

“Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.”

Due to the horrific and unforeseen outbreak of COVID-19, we find ourselves still feeling our way out of an international pandemic that successfully brought our world as we knew it to a global pause.

However, as with every cloud there is a silver lining present. I would submit to you that the silver lining in this case is the global acceleration of culture in the use of and the acceptability of digital, online interaction as an acceptable and (in some cases) even preferred method of interaction.

If anything this forced acceleration towards the normalization of online interaction for international conversations of great consequence provides us all with a new standard of expediency when it comes to driving the outcomes of the Sustainable Development Goals in our respective nations.

We, as Kurdistan Reconstruction and Development Society, would like to encourage all Member States to take a step back and a long look at how they are framing the process of moving forward. Are you waiting for the epidemic to pass and for things to return to normal? Or are you seizing the day and becoming an innovative leader embracing and even directing this new technological windfall to actually move your agenda forward at a rapid pace while the globe may seem to be on pause!

Now, this decade, is the perfect time to embrace and normalize accelerated action through technology to transfer ideas, solutions and needed information to one another in order to see change implemented months ahead of schedule to co-create the world that we all desire to see.
