



# Economic and Social Council

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## Commission for Social Development

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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: “Fostering social development and social justice through social policies to accelerate progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieve the overarching goal of poverty eradication”**

### **Statement submitted by CONFEDERATION OF NGOS OF RURAL INDIA, 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.

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\* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## Statement

The Confederation of NGOs of Rural India (CNRI) and its partners here considers reducing the inequality at all levels as a major challenge and therefore all our suggestion is centred around this. In addition, by 2030, Member States must eradicate extreme poverty for people everywhere. To develop and implement evidence-based pro-poor policies, strategies and programs that promote inclusive growth and sustainable livelihoods we need to heavily invest to make farmer-centric value chain. CNRI recommends its slew of measurement around this.

**We begin by suggesting the set of policy and programs experimented and executed in Bharat (India) as** the various flagship programs by Government in association with various other stakeholders with active participation of Civil Society. To name a few – Poshan Abhiyaan, Ayushman Bharat, Swachh Bharat, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Skill India, Ujjwala Yojana, Rural Electrification program, Smart Cities Mission – directly addresses the challenges. Taking these further as successful examples to address the SDGs goals can be a landmark for the globe through UN Council for Social Development. The mass campaign led through the slogan of ‘Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas’ mirrors the basic essence of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, of leaving no one behind. These policies can be implemented in other parts of the globe especially in Mercosur, West Asian and African countries.

Further the key to creating the farmer-centric value chain is strong leadership. Broad-based economic growth is required, at all levels of government, accompanied by strong and transparent institutions like Cooperatives. Moreover, a multi-sectoral approach is necessary to bring together agro-industry development, food security, social protection, health, education, and ecological restoration. It is very pertinent to advocate specific targeting and identification of poverty, to provide better and precise support to pressing challenges. Finally, innovation has played a major role in poverty reduction, especially in the agricultural sector. Introducing ICTs in remote areas not only allows for better productivity and connectivity with markets, but also knowledge and information sharing.

An example to take the leadership of grassroots organization to address the goals of SDGs is the World Cooperative Economic Forum (WCEF), based in New Delhi, to provide voice to over three million co-operatives spread over all countries. The newly formed WCEF endeavours to promote cooperative thinking and its contribution to address the regional inequality, in addition to raising issues and concerns of the sector with governments and other stakeholders around the globe. WCEF generates actionable insights with a view to helping the stakeholders not just navigate but also shape the future of the co-operative economy, as it employs 10 per cent of the total workforce in the world. There are around 300 large cooperatives globally that generate over \$2.1 trillion in revenue. WCEF will bring together, for the first time, co-operators, social scientists, cooperative economists and policymakers, and myriad other stakeholders to brainstorm about the social and solidarity economy. WCEF would transmit the cooperative learnings to shape global debates and policies by providing non-partisan, independent, well-researched analyses, and inputs to sensitize decision-makers in governments, cooperative sector stakeholders, academia, and civil society around the world. It will provide non-partisan, independent, well-researched analyses, and inputs to sensitize decision-makers in governments, cooperative sector stakeholders, academia, and civil society around the world which will help in reducing inequality and alleviate poverty. This is the best suggestion to promote cooperation among development stakeholders and the United Nations must think of aiding and promoting this organization.

Although each country, town, or village need their unique approaches for poverty alleviation, we would say that the key to success are those components: focus on agricultural development, strong leadership and institutions, a multi-sectoral approach, targeting and innovation. Countries need to establish a national vision of how agriculture and social protection can work together to move people out of poverty and hunger.

Moreover, Women make up 43 percent of the global agricultural labor force, yet they face significant discrimination when it comes to land and livestock ownership, equal pay, participation in decision-making entities and access to credit and financial services. Nevertheless, it needs to relook, and technology required to be at place to monitor the action oriented discriminatory challenge. We need to empower women with entrepreneurial and business planning skills to make them more independent and capable to participate in the local economy.

Gender Equality is quintessence for active engagement of woman as a leading voice on issues relating to sustainable development, financing for development, and climate change. We must Continue to showcase commitments and achievements in women-led development particularly women's leadership and political participation at the grassroots level, promoting meaningful and impactful financial inclusion, prevention of sexual harassment and to stop violence against women, providing access to clean cooking fuel, sanitation, safe drinking water and health coverage including maternal and child health etc.

We need to disseminate success story of digital transformation, leveraging the digital technologies for accelerating growth, development and achieving of sustainable development goals, and promote the usefulness of digital solution as a "go for" model, particularly for the developing countries of the global south.

We need to include climate resilience, environmental sustainability, renewable energy, gender equality, health and pandemic response, education and skills, livelihoods, infrastructure, water, and sanitation, with agricultural development. It requires to be undertaken critical reforms to address financing gaps by leveraging private sector investment in infrastructure, small businesses, and the green finance markets, including by setting up a new Development Financial Institution.

The agriculture value chain should be water conservation Centric. It would see the increased focus on Water in the context of the UN Water Conference of March 2023 that was convened to take concerted action to achieve the internationally agreed water-related goals and targets.

In order to deliver the climate action commitments and increasing use of renewable energy going forward collaborative arrangement and collective action is necessary to build the partnerships in the spirit of SDG17 to strengthen climate action. Some of these global initiatives include the International Solar Alliance, the Leadership Group on Industry Transition and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure need to dovetail globally. We need to made effort to focus on the need to expand and diversify critical minerals and renewable energy supply chains for economies to secure uninterrupted and affordable access to renewable energy and energy storage, both prerequisites for the overall transition to net-zero emission.

Ecommerce, E- Trading and Cyberspace is the new opportunity for us to take forward the people participation to democratize the value chain. Through this the transparency and accountability are possible in various trading, auctioning and procurement of Agri-product cultivated in Rural Areas and create solutions for Sustainable livelihood. In India E-Nam (Electronic National Agriculture market) is great example in this regard. This is anchored by a SPV (Special Purpose vehicle) created as an organization named SFAC (Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium).

In addition to this, It's led by women leader since last five years which is the live example of Gender Equity in this space.

SINCE time immemorial food has been crossing continents for centuries. Talking of the "Silk route and Spice route" to the current operations run by various alliances and agencies humanity has witnessed how commodity trading has been accelerating and intensifying as a constituent derivative of globalization. Making the rural part of the world to become a modern productivity sector and connecting them with plethora of opportunity emerging through E- Trading and to provide them access to high value markets through the new technologies is the quintessence of all the measurements required to be undertaken to democratizing the agriculture value chain it in true sense. We appeal to consider and debate these ideas through the UN Commission for Social development. The examples suggested above can become a milestone to alleviate poverty globally.

Partner Organizations:

Sri Balaji University Pune, Lehigh University  
World Cooperative Economic Forum

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