Economic and Social Council

Commission for Social Development
Sixty-third session
10–14 February 2025
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and
the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:
Priority Theme: "Strengthening solidarity, social inclusion
and social cohesion to accelerate the delivery of the
commitments of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social
Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit
for Social Development as well as the implementation of the
2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"

Statement submitted by International Council of Women, European Union of Women, Kolping International, Make Mothers Matter, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and member organizations of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family*

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

We, the undersigned international non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, and member organizations of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family, recognize the need that several current events require both short and long-term responses and actions, in particular, to improve the situation in terms of strengthening solidarity, social inclusion and social cohesion.

In light of global political, economic and environmental challenges, we recognize that inequalities such as in education and resource distribution have a negative impact on the well-being of the population, and create an additional precarious and stressful situation for vulnerable groups, as well as for families. As a result, it is essential to strengthen existing strategies to mitigate social inequalities and to target further relief measures. In this context, solidarity and cooperation between nations is of great importance in order to comprehensively secure and promote the well-being of the population, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups.

Existing disparities have been exacerbated, particularly in countries that have been confronted with the effects of multiple crises, such as the impact of climate change or volatile local structures, with significant social and economic inequalities. The COVID-19 pandemic has deepened structural and systemic inequalities, particularly in the health and education sectors, thus increasing social inequality for vulnerable groups. As the Copenhagen Declaration emphasizes, holistic measures that address different levels of the existing global social problems must be taken, in order to establish a long-term and sustainable opportunity for social equality for all. According to the Copenhagen Declaration, social protection systems must be strengthened, and discrimination must be reduced in a targeted manner, in the interests of social inclusion and cohesion for all people, regardless of their personal circumstances.

In order to counteract social inequalities and thus ensure social inclusion for all, a focus must be placed on eliminating poverty, reducing inequalities and promoting gender equality, as the 2030 Agenda also recognizes. Achieving these goals requires far-reaching environmental, economic and social reforms that create a stable and equitable livelihood for all people. Tackling inequalities in terms of gender, age, ethnicity, migration biography, sexuality, disability, and other possible discrimination categories therefore needs to be at the forefront of these measures, as both the Copenhagen Declaration and the 2030 Agenda emphasize.

Ultimately, the creation of decent work and social justice for all must be achieved, as recognized by the Copenhagen Declaration and the 2030 Agenda. Solidarity and cooperation between highly industrialized and less industrialized countries is essential to combat poverty and inequality in all its forms and to ensure that the goals of both documents are successfully implemented.

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