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Statement submitted by World Federation of Khoja Shi'a Ithna-Asheri Muslim Communities, 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 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2011/100.



Statement*

The World Federation of Khoja Shi'a Ithna-Asheri Muslim Communities believes that education is a "basic human right" and recognizes that empowering individuals and communities with knowledge and skills will ensure a productive and healthy future for all. The World Federation applauds the role of the United Nations in ensuring that universal education is a key element of development. However, despite significant progress made, the international community is not on track for delivering on the promise of a quality basic education for all by 2015. In light of this year's annual ministerial review theme of "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education", the World Federation would like to call for further investment in education services and greater coordination between the international organizations on a coherent strategy, with education as its central focus. The World Federation also urges greater focus on the transition from primary school and access to secondary education and vocational training.

Education serves as the means to bring about a transformational and empowering change in society, significantly contributing to the development of humanity. It is with this belief that the World Federation has an international educational sponsorship agenda, as part of its commitment to the internationally agreed development goals. The World Federation's pioneering education scheme is one of its key accomplishments, aimed at eliminating poverty through the education of children and youth. To date, it has sponsored over 14,000 primary and secondary students in developing countries, ensuring that both girls and boys receive good quality education. The World Federation's orphan scheme ensures that it provides structured financial support for the education of orphaned children in regions of deprivation, war and natural disasters.

The World Federation directly operates eight schools for primary, secondary, and higher secondary education services, thereby contributing to the improvement of education in the countries in which it operates. The World Federation has undertaken a strategic review of the education schemes which recommended the need for greater support in higher education systems and hence it has developed further strategies to achieve this. Inspired by faith, the World Federation find it unacceptable that people continue to suffer through poverty and social injustice. As a faith- and community-based organization and international humanitarian non-governmental organizations, it aims to provide education and relieve poverty to those in need. For over 30 years, in partnership with regional members and local agencies, we have continued to deliver services in sectors such as education, international relief, economic development, health care and water and sanitation.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.