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Statement submitted by CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, 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*

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, in general consultative status with ECOSOC, is a global movement of civil society with members and partners in over 100 countries. CIVICUS works to strengthen citizen action and civil society throughout the world, especially in areas where participatory democracy and citizens' freedom of association are threatened. During the 2010 review and Millennium Development Goals summit, it has been CIVICUS' position that achieving the Millennium Development Goals will require efforts from world leaders to fulfil existing commitments, become accountable to each other and to their people and to ground the Millennium Development Goals policies in the social justice and human rights framework.

CIVICUS firmly upholds that education is a basic human right and is indispensable for the realization of other human rights as a means for accessing broader social, economic, political and cultural benefits. Because education can and should be transformative and empowering, education also contributes to building more just societies through reducing poverty and inequalities, enhancing acceptance of diversity and promoting respect for the rule of law. No society has ever achieved significant human development for its citizens without substantial and steady investment in education.

In today's information and communication society, access to ICTs and Social Networks enhances even faster grips to educational volume and capacities, accelerating transformational change as seen by the most recent developments in Northern Africa and the Middle East. Yet gaps remain to realizing a 100 per cent attendance of even primary schooling and with that the attainment of Goal 2 by 2015. CIVICUS wants to look at barriers, at reasons for exclusion, discrimination and non-participation with the view to suggest some recommendations.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.