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Statement submitted by Celtic League, 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.

Statement

The Celtic League is concerned that disabled people are marginalized in the employment market in favour of the unemployed who are able bodied. In the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, disabled people have been supported in their search to find sustainable employment opportunities by various organizations and companies that specialize in overcoming the complex barriers to work that are frequently faced by job seekers in the disabled community.

Disabled people have traditionally been deliberately excluded from the employment market or have faced other forms of discrimination while in the workplace. The Equality and Human Rights Commission of the United Kingdom has undertaken research that shows that disabled people are much more likely to be injured, bullied and humiliated at work compared to their able-bodied colleagues. Some organizations and companies have consequently been established in the past that specifically aim to employ disabled people with the purpose of providing greater inclusion and equality through sustainable employment.

One such employment provider that has a long history in Celtic regions is Rempoy and is a Government-owned company that provides employment and employment-related placements for disabled people. However, on 7 March 2012 the Government of the United Kingdom announced that 36 of the 54 Rempoy sites would close, with compulsory redundancy for 1,752 people, of which 1,518 are disabled. Rempoy is one of the largest employers of disabled people in the United Kingdom and provides a sustainable base of employment that is inclusive and based on equitable economic growth.

The Celtic League believes that companies like Rempoy should be supported and encouraged in their promotion of productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The Celtic League has campaigned on this issue in the past and most recently in Wrecsam/Wrexham, Wales where its Cymru Branch organized a demonstration in support of the Rempoy workers who will be made redundant as a result of the planned closure of the Rempoy factory in the town.

The organization calls on the authorities of Alba/Scotland, Breizh/Brittany, Cymru/Wales, Kernow/Cornwall, Éire/Ireland and Mannin/Isle of Man to create and continue to provide employment opportunities for the disabled community within these nations.
