



## Economic and Social Council

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**High-level segment: annual ministerial review**

### **Statement submitted by Minhaj-ul-Quran International, 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.

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\* E/2012/100.



## Statement

Minhaj-ul-Quran International believes that sustainable, equitable, social and economic development is a fundamental imperative for the proliferation of the well-being of humanity and the promotion of peace and harmony throughout the world. It is thus committed to making relentless efforts for the achievement of these objectives as specified by the United Nations.

The organization will pursue the objective of eradicating poverty through its continuing social welfare projects and it will promulgate human rights through its peace and integration centres that have been established under the banner of Minhaj-ul-Quran International worldwide.

Sustainable and equitable economic growth requires not only a balance between economic gain and social responsibility but also an atmosphere free from threats to safety, security and equal opportunities to learn and work for both men and women, and a world free from religious extremism. Therefore, a four-pronged strategy is proposed.

First, specific policies must be formulated for women who constitute almost 50 per cent of the global population, and their empowerment must be at the heart of any development agenda. Rendering this untapped human potential into a productive engine for socioeconomic growth can help society to deal with poverty, unemployment and low productive capacity. Religious and political extremism, illiteracy and deprivation of the rights of women are contributory factors towards this problem, which requires the political will of all Governments and the international community at large.

Second, the provision of an environment conducive to the promotion of “decent work” for women in countries where religious and cultural norms are of great importance to the people must be established. Local, cultural and religious values that marginalize women and hamper their involvement in the nation’s mainstream must be addressed. If achieved, women can become more empowered and capable of handling their national responsibilities, thus contributing to sustainable and equitable economic growth, which will ultimately help to achieve the objective of increased productive capacity.

Third, a continuous effort by the international community is required for the promotion of cultural interaction, dialogue and community engagement at different tiers that emphasizes commonalities and abhors divisions. A better and informed understanding of each other’s social mores and traditions can go a long way in defeating terrorism and extremism in society, factors which present a great challenge to economic development.

Finally, the prospects of reducing high unemployment and increasing productive capacity are threatened by the developed countries’ outsourcing of labour and services from developing countries. Although outsourcing in search of cheap labour has strengthened the economies of a number of developing countries, this phenomenon may have aggravated the economic crisis in the developed countries, resulting in high levels of unemployment and significant job cuts, a precursor to the current economic meltdown. There is thus a need to strike a balance on this count to achieve the Millennium Development Goals set by the United Nations.