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Statement submitted by International Eurasia Press Fund, 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/2012/100.



Statement

International Eurasia Press Fund has made it its top target to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in Azerbaijan and all the regions where it operates. The organization focuses on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger among victims of war. In recent years, the organization, through a public-private partnership with the Department of State of the Government of the United States of America, has implemented projects for war victims in Azerbaijan.

Encouraging cooperative and communal agriculture is an effective way to support communities in eradicating extreme poverty. Several years ago, developing countries could not compete in terms of productivity and gross per capita income. However, they always survived extreme hunger and poverty, because most families, even though not commercial farmers, practised the same level of subsistence farming. Families planted small gardens that supported their livelihoods. As long as there were basic factors supporting plant growth, such as available fertile lands and adequate sunshine and water, men and women were able to farm to sustain their families. Additional family income was used for other purposes since basic food needs had already been met. These practices took place at the community level.

War victims, however, are denied the necessary resources to continue to practise this kind of communal way of living, because they are separated and displaced from the necessary factors that support agricultural practices, such as land and water. Victims are therefore deprived of the common means of sustainability and livelihood.

In 2010, the organization began to implement a project to establish a vocational training centre that would also be a cooperative farm. With the financial support of the Government of the United States, the organization purchased a property three hectares in size, primarily for agricultural purposes. In 2009, it constructed a vocational training centre to support war victims by training them in specific vocational skills, including agricultural practices. It trained several victims in how to carry out modern farming and increase plant productivity and quality, among other things.

The cooperative farm enables victims' families to come together as cooperative entities and practise communal farming, where each family takes care of a portion of the farm. The products of the farm are shared among those families, and the surplus sold at markets. Some of the funds generated are shared among the victims and the remainder used in maintaining the farm. In this way, the organization has provided a good livelihood for the victims. In addition, the number of people living in poverty has been reduced and extreme poverty eradicated among war victims.

The Economic and Social Council is urged to encourage national Governments to make it a priority to provide adequate resources to support agricultural practices, in order to increase cooperative and communal subsistence farming. A better-coordinated approach to curbing environmental degradation by promoting better management of available resources is also needed.