



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
7 May 2014

Original: English

---

### 2014 session

Item 5 (c) of the provisional agenda\*

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

### **Statement submitted by Society to Support Children Suffering from Cancer, 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/2014/1/Rev.1](#), annex II.



## Statement

Presently we are at an important crossroads regarding the Millennium Development Goals. In their last year, some have produced acceptable results and some have not. The major concerns are that the relative successes may prove unsustainable, while the weight of the relative failures may dissuade both donors and recipients and cause them to change course. Although there is still time, the focus should be on the recalibration of, first, the targets and the players, and, second, extending the deadlines. The latter is a matter for the Millennium Development Goal decision makers, namely, the States Members of the United Nations and the multilateral agencies mandated with managing the Millennium Development Goals. The former is where a larger role for capable non-governmental organizations (NGOs) should be contemplated.

Properly funded, simple solutions on the basis of clearly designed projects with regular monitoring and evaluation analysis, within a public-private partnership arrangement where the necessary infrastructure exists, should become priorities.

The selection of capable NGOs as implementers, through a stronger presence in the Country Coordinating Mechanisms, with voting rights and enhanced responsibility for monitoring and evaluation and periodic reporting, shall be undertaken.

The educational and training needs of all active implementers, including NGOs, shall be identified in advance and addressed in the project document, with a results-based approach and with the required funding programmed separately. Much of the required training should follow a standardized and uniform approach. The more standardized the undertakings — for example, all project planning done on Microsoft Project software or all procurement-related and monitoring and evaluation activities following standardized templates — the easier it is to implement and hand over, which is essential for sustainability. The International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization, located in Turin, Italy, can serve as an appropriate model. Such regional training centres shall offer uniform mandatory courses for implementers with a training-of-trainers approach whereby graduates would be required to disseminate information and techniques to other implementers both locally and regionally through twinning arrangements.

Funding decisions should be based on the performance of NGOs, assessed within a universally accepted framework. There are NGO benchmarking standards used by benchmarking agencies such as SGS where the operations and delivery capability of NGOs can be independently verified. The results should be directly connected to funding. The better the rating, the more favourable the funding arrangement. NGOs that see their performance improve should be rewarded with multi-year funding, which would enable them to build sustainable capacity and could also serve as an incentive for other aspiring civil society organizations. Moreover, donors will appreciate knowing that the capability factor of NGOs is a determinant in terms of funding distribution. However, demonstrating success and efficacy can undeniably help. Relatively easily attainable targets, for which concrete results can be measured in the short term, should be selected. Those results could hopefully stir a higher donation response from the donor community. This is a form of unavoidable triage; it is not wanted but it may be necessary for the sake of sustainability.