



## Economic and Social Council

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**Social and human rights questions: social development**

### **Statement submitted by Fédération européenne des centres de recherche et d'information sur le sectarisme, 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

### **Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, and highly motivated and idealistic sect members who need support and cry out for protection around the world**

Our federation is acutely aware of the need to promote global productivity and human dignity. This is especially true when we think in terms of science, technology and innovation, in places where the culture facilitates the efforts of those who wish to bring out the best in those who want a better quality of life. We find this is especially true in the community we serve, which is made up of idealistic, gifted and really talented individuals who are motivated by genuine altruism to improve the world around them and by a genuine desire for self-improvement.

So many of the families that come to us, as well as those in the medical or mental health profession, inform our organization of the deceptive recruitment of these people into destructive cults or sects. These victims are no longer focusing their best efforts on bringing their gifts and talents to the foremost challenges of the twenty-first century.

Our best universities and venues of higher learning have become prime recruiting grounds for these sects. In order to relate to those who truly intend to meet the challenge of achieving the Millennium Development Goals, it is important to have full informed consent and accurate representation when deliberating these matters. We know from consistent and time-tested research that cult organizations hide their true agenda, which is in contrast to their publically stated goals. Sound judgments are rooted in being able to make honest comparisons, but sect-like organizations take a very different direction and utilize good intentions for utilitarian and, sadly, for base purposes.

Very restricted environments interfere, physically and mentally, with access to the knowledge that economic growth needs in order to reach its full potential. Highly motivated, idealistic participants look for team players with whom they can work to achieve the highest good. Cult victims need protection from abusive organizations that channel this energy toward authoritarian groups that drain noble efforts for exploitative gain that leaves society having to take care of the casualties. The federation has listened to the anguished testimony of affected families, who have had their loved ones drop goals and careers. These cult groups have a growing history of causing demonstrable physical, psychological and emotional harm, depriving democratic societies of some of their best resources. It is important to raise awareness of these factors so that present and potential victims can be made aware of the educational resources that our federation has found to be most useful in preventing, healing and recovering from these destructive consequences.

It is important to alert public authorities of violations of human rights and informed consent laws and policies. It is important to report and keep a public record of such violations and have a yearly review of such violations and necessary responses.