



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
23 April 2013

Original: English

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### Substantive session of 2013

Geneva, 1-26 July 2013

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

### **Statement submitted by Sri Swami Madhavananda World Peace Council, 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 past 50 years have seen immense progress and development in the fields of technology and science. Is this development in harmony with nature, however? What are the side effects of technological progress?

Unfortunately, in today's world, money has become the driving force in decision-making. It is the human condition that is responsible for the critical situation of our world. Scientists and other experts say that the biggest threat to the world is not war and terrorism, but climate change.

A problem with the modern way of living is characterized by the thought "I do not care — it is not my duty". Each of us can do a lot to help the planet, however. One purpose of our human life is to learn to understand the value of relationships. Cultivating our sense of relationship — without selfish expectations — cultivates our care of nature, of animals, of water and of human society. This is the solution to the problems that we face.

The worst pollution is mental pollution. The environment is poisoned because of human greed. Gandhi said that Earth had everything for our needs, but not enough for our greed. Living in the absence of spiritual and ethical values has robbed people of the knowledge of their interconnectedness with nature and all life.

To act as protectors of our planet, we have to cross the limitations of religion, culture, nation, language and tradition. In today's world, a new order is emerging. The previous world order, which was based on nation States, has deteriorated, with the breakdown of national boundaries and the emergence of globalization. The world is therefore now frequently referred to as a global village. However, as a global community, we have a long way to go to transcend our intercultural diversity to become a peaceful and integrated village.

The first step that we must take is to bring love and respect for others into our consciousness in order to heal the wounds that have so long existed. Peace and happiness cannot be purchased in the market and can be developed only within.

Sustainable living and lasting world peace can be achieved only if humans again become aware of the significance of maintaining their ethical and spiritual values, while fostering a genuine commitment to care for the community of life with understanding, compassion and love.

For the sake of the life of this planet and for our children, we will come to a natural way of life. Spirituality does not mean only meditation. It means acquiring a noble way of life.

That is why the global efforts of the Sri Swami Madhavananda World Peace Council are devoted to restoring awareness of the shared responsibilities that we have as citizens of this planet: responsibility not only to fellow humans, but also to fellow creatures of the Earth and to our natural environment.

Our slogan is "We do care". We are here on the Earth to protect and care for our beautiful planet and all its creatures.