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**Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and
the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:
priority theme: rethinking and strengthening social
development in the contemporary world**

Statement submitted by Association Internationale des Droits de l'Homme, 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 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement*

Protection of the rights of refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and displaced persons

INTRODUCTION

Despite the efforts that have been made regarding good governance and combating corruption, countries currently face major challenges to the strengthening of peace, democracy, economic growth and sustainable development in their territories. Similarly, despite the adoption of laws to combat corruption and promote good governance, various institutions have given relatively low ratings to those countries for their levels of transparency and accountability. According to the Corruption Perceptions Index of Transparency International, the majority of the population — particularly those in developing countries — maintain that the levels of public sector corruption have continued to grow over recent years.

Association Internationale des Droits de l'Homme has developed this draft statement for two reasons: to support both the strengthening of human rights and the recognition of the rights of refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and displaced persons involved in migration crises; and to call on States to devote more attention to issues of migration.

This statement is therefore designed to contribute to the protection of the rights of victims, particularly refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and displaced persons in accordance with the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 10 December 1948, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 16 December 1966, the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of 4 November 1950 and subsequent texts, namely the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights of 27 June 1981.

AIM OF THE STATEMENT:

To contribute to the protection of the rights of victims, particularly refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and displaced persons.

ABOUT ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME:

Association Internationale des Droits de l'Homme is a non-governmental non-profit organization. It was established in 1998 in Haute-Savoie, France and was officially acknowledged in Paris in November 2011 after running a conference entitled *Human Rights and Peace in Africa*. The Association has been registered at the sub-prefecture of Saint Germain-en-Laye since 2009 under reference W743000320. Since July 2014, the Association has been in special consultative status with the United Nations. Our work is centred on education, raising awareness and outreach activities about human rights, particularly the rights of women and children.

The Association's activities focus on women, children and those living in vulnerable situations. To that end, we organize various events such as forums, conferences, dinner and lunchtime debates, seminars, and round table discussions about the development of human rights in society. Equal rights for men and women, and non-discrimination towards people from all walks of life are the primary areas

of our work. The Association also participates in various international forums organized by the United Nations (in Geneva, New York and Vienna) on various aspects of human rights. In addition, we run awareness campaigns on violence against children with our partners including the Swiss organization Women's World Summit Foundation and UN-Women.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF AND CHALLENGES FACING ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME:

- Dinner debate on the development of the status of women in our societies — Paris, February 2012;
- Lunchtime debate on well-being and self-esteem — Paris, June 2012;
- Seminar on violence against women — French National Assembly, November 2012;
- Nineteen-day campaign on child soldiers with Women's World Summit Foundation, November 2012;
- First charity gala organized by the Association — Paris, March 2013 — entitled *In praise of women*;
- Round table discussion on women's economic empowerment — Paris, November 2013;
- Seminar on the political, security and humanitarian crisis in the Central African Republic — Université Paris-Dauphine, Paris, May 2014;
- Awareness campaign on violence against women, June 2014;
- Second charity gala organized by the Association — Paris, November 2014 — entitled: *Empowering women economically*;
- Took part in the 59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which marked the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action — New York, March 2015; Oral report by Françoise Guena Traverso on the truth about marginalized women's situations;
- Founder and Chair of the Association Internationale des Droits de l'Homme, Françoise Guena Traverso, was awarded the "Barthélémy Bogdana peace prize for 2015. The prize recognized all that the Association had worked towards for humanity. It was awarded on 9 May 2015 in Feyzin, a district of Lyon.

The work of the Association is centred on education, raising awareness and outreach activities about human rights, particularly the rights of women and children. To that end, several events are to be planned such as a regional conference on migration within and across continents; scheduled to take place in Africa very soon in May 2016. Association Internationale des Droits de l'Homme will be involved in a large number of different international forums organized by the United Nations. The Association will run awareness campaigns on violence against children with its traditional partners.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Association Internationale des Droits de l'Homme recommends that Member States of the United Nations should:

- Provide regulatory and legal assistance to victims of human rights violations (receiving them, listening to them, and providing information to orient them);
- Establish an emergency warning, monitoring and follow-up system for instances of human rights violations;
- Protect the rights of vulnerable individuals and groups (women, children, refugees, asylum seekers, migrants, displaced persons, persons with disabilities, prisoners and minorities);
- Provide access to justice from a cultural, economic and geographical standpoint;
- Implement the international and regional commitments that States have undertaken;
- Fight against impunity and traditional practices that violate human rights;
- Consider the needs of rural populations more fully when establishing development policies.

Human rights organizations should:

- Provide emergency warnings of and speak out against instances of human rights violations;
- Monitor rights in detention facilities;
- Use judicial processes to seek redress (victims should have recourse to courts and tribunals);
- Establish coalitions and networks with other human rights organizations to ensure that victims are better protected;
- Build the capacity of vulnerable people and groups so that they are able not only to claim their rights, but also to actively participate in the management of public affairs and in the development of their countries.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, human rights are not only civil and political rights; they are also economic, social and cultural rights. Clearly, the collective rights of societies and peoples should also be included here: for example, the right to sustainable development, peace, and a clean environment. Citizens should also have the right to participate in public life and be able to access, understand and have an appreciation of both important legal instruments related to public life (laws, budgets, sectoral policies and programmes, conventions) and the legal landscape as it relates to transparency and accountability requirements.
