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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: strategies for the eradication of poverty to
achieve sustainable development for all**

Statement submitted by Action aides aux familles démunies, 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

Strategies for the eradication of poverty to achieve sustainable development

The first step in eradicating poverty is to identify its multiple aspects, which means undertaking an analysis of this scourge in order to determine the specific responses appropriate for attaining the Sustainable Development Goals effectively and for the long term.

Indeed, according to experts on the topic, the struggle to eradicate poverty will be long and drawn-out, and will be meaningful only if it forms part of a visionary and long-term policy.

Experience has shown that many development projects have failed to achieve their objectives not only because of poor targeting of the beneficiary populations but also, and primarily, because in the majority of cases the actions taken were short-term solutions. Such action is all the more harmful as, without appropriate strategies, not only are the objectives not achieved, as already stated, but worse, poverty might actually increase in such areas.

Given the foregoing, it is essential to draw up eradication strategies that identify, as a first stage, countries' disadvantaged areas and strata.

In addition, such studies must take account of the differing features of poverty in urban and rural settings.

Finally, there must be regular follow-up and monitoring of the actions undertaken to ensure the reliability and effectiveness which are the ultimate objectives.

Poverty eradication is also a matter for the populations concerned, which have to take responsibility for and ownership of sound management of projects so as to draw the maximum benefit from them over the long term.

This is all the more relevant in the light of the bitter assessment made at several locations that the well-being of the populations lasted no longer than the duration of the project.

As has been stressed, the objective of any struggle to eradicate extreme poverty can be truly achieved only if the benefits of sustainable development are evident well beyond the scope of the projects put in place.

It is thus important to recognize that poverty eradication takes many forms and has many dimensions, as well as being highly strategic. It should not be forgotten that money is not the solution to poverty. This particularly applies in our countries, where the widespread dictum that "Money is lent only to the rich" is so very true.