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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 Scientific Association of Youth Political Scientists, 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

System marketing of a territory as a base for a long-term sustainable development of regions

The Final Report on the 53rd Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD) [E/2015/26](#) emphasized the importance of the Millennium Development Goals and the transition to the Sustainable Development Goals. The Scientific Association of Youth Political Scientists further recommends the topics below, that could be addressed and discussed at the 54th Session of the CSocD on February 2016.

Ongoing regional conflicts impact the gradual transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals. While Greece is not presently experiencing internal violent conflict, ongoing conflicts and the humanitarian crisis in its expanded geographical region have exacerbated and led to influx of refugees and migrants in Greece and subsequently the European Union. Moreover, the current economic crisis in Greece has deeply concerned EONEPE's goals to efficiently promote the MDGs in a Greek and regional context.

Strengthening social development in the contemporary world require Member States to take into serious consideration the creation of a multi-dimensional agenda of goals to be followed in the following years. The 53rd Session's Report suggested the creation of sustainable goals at a national level by the end of 2015, at a regional level in 2017 to achieve its last stage and global by 2018. EONEPE's contribution to the first stage has been significant with the creation of the Committee of Economics and Governance, emphasizing how good governance promotes democracy and stability nationwide. The participants, mainly academia and young students actively interacted on focus groups related to economic inequality, poverty and public accessibility to health facilities and services.

Strengthening social development in the contemporary world means that member states should also promote gender equality and children's rights in contemporary families. Member States of the CSocD can address areas such as education, nutrition, health, child and youth labour, and where the MDGs and the SDGs have significantly contributed.

To achieve that, EONEPE strongly reaffirms the necessity to protect children's rights and to ensure education. Children have a right to be educated and states must be able to effectively ensure them that right. Furthermore, the norms of international law and resolutions strictly condemn any violation of these rights. EONEPE's contribution, with the frequent submission of reports indicating factors which undermine the significance of actions taken to protect children and reduce gender equality, have subsequently raised awareness within the Greek Government.

Furthermore, social development is strengthened when combatting terrorism, government corruption and extreme poverty; factors which decrease literacy rates in the developing world and deprives the right to education to children below the age of 10. The lack of girl's rights and women's rights when, for example, the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women principles are not being fully respected, increases gender inequality and undermines the complexity of cultural diversity. Respect of culture, religions and societal components strengthen social development in the contemporary world.

In terms of rethinking social development in the contemporary world, EONEPE agrees with the multi-level framework introduced in 2014 and believes that further research and development is required to achieve that goal. EONEPE believes that by rethinking, the CSocD and the international community need to approach the local communities combining cultural education and ensuring protection at the same time. The involvement and engagement of the local communities through peace education promotes stability within families and additional protection of children and creates a new dimension of social development in the contemporary world.

This “inclusive” contemporary model will follow the notion of the 8 Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals creating a new level of discussion and social involvement. It is essential to provide access to education and public information for both young boys and girls as well as their families, to learn how to participate more actively in their local communities, and enhance awareness and cooperation models at all levels of implementation, as stated in the 53rd Session of the CSocD.

Rethinking social development and applying the “inclusive” contemporary model will have a positive impact on other important areas such as severe malnutrition, better health accessibility by creating new jobs opportunities consisting of local and international doctors as well as adequate medical facilities in remote areas with limited geographic accessibility; ensuring the reduction of child mortality and combating HIV/AIDS and other diseases. By rethinking social development and connecting it directly to education, families will be informed on a local and national level on how they could use vaccines and medicine for their families, and learn the risks of exposure to all kinds of diseases.

EONEPE has created a national network of experts working in the field and remote areas with researchers and volunteers assisting those in need and participating actively in the notion of rethinking the social development in the contemporary world.

The question of rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world cannot be met outside the protective umbrella of good governance, respect for cultural diversity and understanding the importance of access to education, health and proper nutrition, gender equality within families and elimination of extreme poverty.

The Scientific Association of Youth Political Scientists welcomes all member states and non-governmental entities to provide viable solutions and frameworks which consequently will be enhanced in the agenda of the 54th Session of the Commission for Social Development. These frameworks should be promoting social diversity and development respecting cultural values, protecting children and youth and promoting gender equality in contemporary families. Creating an inclusive framework will subsequently in the long-term reduce extreme poverty and promote education, which is the rethinking element of change and strengthening of social development in the contemporary world.