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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 Hellenic Association of 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

The final report on the 54th Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD) [E/2015/26](#) emphasised the Sustainable Development Goals. The Hellenic Association of Political Scientists (HAPS) further recommends the topics below, that could be addressed and discussed at the 55th Session of the CSocD.

Ongoing regional conflicts still impact the implementation of 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 an influx of refugees and migrants in Greece and subsequently the European Union. Moreover HAPS is concerned about the effect the current economic crisis in Greece will have on its goal of efficiently promoting the SDG's throughout the country. Even in these times of deep economic recession, South European countries are perceived as lands of hope and promise by impoverished populations. Violent conflicts and the demographic explosion in the developing world have contributed to the west-bound tide of desperate individuals and families seeking a better life.

Greece, as a border region of Europe, has experienced an immense flow of immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees from both land and sea during the past three decades. Refugees of all genders and ages arriving from conflict regions have often suffered traumatic experiences and manifest psychological symptoms, including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder requiring adequate health care. In addition, economic immigrants have experienced severe problems that have forced them to leave their homeland in order to access labour markets of other countries. Although the efforts of offering health care by volunteers and accredited NGO's in Greece have been tremendous, more steps need to be taken from the international community in order to contribute to the wellbeing of refugees.

Health is one of the highest human goods and all citizens of all countries should be able to have access to high-quality health services no matter their background or nationality. Health is associated with poverty and sustainable development. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) (1948), health should not be defined simply as a lack of disease or disability, but as a condition of full physical, mental, and social wellbeing. Today, the current prolonged economic crisis and certain fiscal potentialities, the widespread slump on the market, and the increased unemployment constitute a difficult economic climate in many countries across the globe.

Today the demographics of health, disease, and disease patterns have again changed. Health care, health care systems and consequently health care management is constantly evolving. The System theory has led to the wide spread of Cybernetics (CS), closely attached the term of feedback, and Sociocybernetics (SCS). In social systems when dealing with CS, we deal with the meaning of knowledge, language, perception, communication, and self-reference and self-reflection. As already implied CS is closely attached with the term of feedback.

The cyberneticist prefers to regard a property or mode of behaviour as a constraint or restriction on a set of possibilities rather than as a unitary characteristic, (Ashby, W. R., 1956).

The main ideas and tools of these systems can be implemented towards a new, evolving and efficient management model of the Health Sector having the ability to narrow disparities in health to achieve a global health care system.

Particular emphasis should be placed on new technologies, the development and adoption of innovation, fields that are set as high social priorities because of their enormous impact both in everyday life and in the economic and healthcare system of the future. Only a few years ago, it would have been hard to imagine the influence technology has including the introduction of medical applications or the use of supercomputers in medical decision making. In many countries it is still hard to imagine exoskeletons that allow paralysed people to walk or three dimensional printers used to create medical materials and bio-materials. The above is not science fiction, but a new world that requires preparation and in light of which everyone should acquire skills.

What happens with simple everyday matters? Should we press on in order to recommend interventions and actions for the protection of world health by means of measures for personal hygiene, medical care, environmental management, and health mechanics?

It is generally accepted that health and education constitute fundamental requirements for the preservation and improvement of human mental capital in modern societies and, as a result, are defined as high social priorities. It takes special mechanisms, especially now that the patient's experience has begun to influence the health provision model, to provide economic protection to the patient or their family, with respect for every individual's, ignite and independence.

Principles of CS and SCS, such as the more conservative notion of autopoiesis, can be applied and lead to a new, flexible, always evolving, health care system followed by a healthcare management plan with the same principles that fight entropy and take provision for global health and human rights. Notions of SCS can be considered as useful tools in order to face the contemporary problems of a health care system as one of the main purposes of CS and SCS is to increase the efficiency of the human attempts to be confronted with the problems of the contemporary complicated society.

Positive benefits could also come from the cooperation of states and organisations at a global level by using technological achievements such as the information provided by big data, e-health, m-health apps. This information has the potential to ameliorate the quality of services and to respond to new challenges that will arise within the health sector. We should all work together, medical staff, researchers, governments, policy makers, global stakeholders and the UN.

In these terms we could structure a modern Health Care System to improve the distribution of health a model that would meet the needs of consumers as well as assisting to moderate the rising cost of health due to an aging the population, the rise of environmental and lifestyle-related illnesses and the fleet of refugees. It should be noted that besides traditional ways of reducing cost, reduction can occur

as a side product of teamwork, in terms of efficient use of the entities of the health care system.

Under the above scheme the need for a holistic government model (characterised by strong leadership) for the healthcare system is apparent one that views health as not only the absence of the disease. After all, we have to build a healthy future for all, together; because health is wealth.

The Hellenic Association of Political Scientists (HAPSc), based on its willingness to promote the scientific research and fundamental issues that influence social development, supports the work of the following institutes: The Institute for Democracy, Parliamentary Activity and Local Government, the Institute for Sustainable Development, the Greek Institute for the United Nations Organisation and the Institute for Migration and Refugee Issues. These Institutes, through research, have as an ultimate goal the recommendation of feasible strategies to improve the main aspects influencing the social development and therefore lead to the further enhancement and the implementation of the SDGs to the contemporary society.

The Hellenic Association of the Political Scientists welcomes all member states and non-governmental entities to provide viable solutions and strategies which consequently will be enhanced in the agenda of the 55th Session of the Commission for Social Development. These frameworks should promote social diversity and development while respecting cultural values, protecting children and promoting gender equality in contemporary families. Creating an inclusive framework will subsequently reduce extreme poverty and promote education, which is the rethinking element of change and strengthening of social development in the contemporary world.
