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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 the 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 Hellenic Association of Political Scientists, believes that the traditional methods applied by international organizations, Member States and NGOs for the eradication of poverty should be continued. Methods such as the provision of food aid, medical supplies, the delivery of financial aid, and the support of structures (development and building of structures) are necessary as actions for eradication of poverty.

Furthermore, the Hellenic Association of Political Scientists firmly believes that it is necessary to establish new foundations, mainly by activating the youth through standard simulation programs. On the one hand, support for classical education must be continued and even reinforced by holistic training schemes, however, in our opinion, the presence of educational simulations can bring about real change. Our organization, besides supporting classical simulations of regional and international organizations such as the Model United Nations (MUN), implements itself, as a pioneer, simulations of local government and decentralized administration. We therefore believe that young people should gain knowledge regarding their political rights and obligations. They need to know how the institutions work. Furthermore, they should be equipped with all the right tools, in order for them to claim their existence in the local community. Such educated young people can eradicate poverty because they will know how the poverty is created and the ways with which it can be tackled. We also propose to the UN the establishment of a central simulation program on issues of local government, social development and daily life. We propose to Member States and to the Non-Governmental Organizations, the creation of similar local government simulations that can change the future.

Furthermore, through these best practices, we educate at least 500 people per year through educational simulation programs and in this way, we offer the local community fully-informed active citizens. In particular, in this context, our Organisation proceeds to the development and completion of programs at the edges of the political, social, economic and legal sciences, while providing appropriate training and education for students and graduates of these disciplines. The most recent programs organized by our organization or under the auspices of the Hellenic Association of Political Scientists, are the following: the Regional Council Simulations (3 Greek cities, Komotini, Heraklion, Corinth), the Athens Security Exercise, the Municipal Council Simulation and Simulation for European Union Institutions. The eradication of poverty as an outcome, as well as a process, concerns the youth and can be achieved by it.

The Hellenic Association of Political Scientists, through the implementation of the educational simulation programs, uses the extracted data and through them is monitoring and evaluating the future engagement of the attendees (young people) with the politics as well as with the procedures of the public institutions. Such institutions hold a key role on the maximization, maintenance or eradication of poverty. Utilizing the monitoring results, we conclude that such programs can be crucial in the uprising of social consciousness and the emergence of active citizens, that will be able to realize that their personal benefit and progress can be only achieved by the prosperity of their community, and the prosperity of their community by their involvement into the procedures accordingly.

For all the above issues concerned, The Hellenic Association of Political Scientists (HAPSc), based on its given willing to promote the scientific research and deepen into fundamental issues affecting the overall social development, established the following four Scientific Institutes: The Institute for Democracy, Parliamentary Activity and Local Government, the Institute for Sustainable Development, the

Hellenic Institute on the United Nations Affairs and the Institute for Migration and Refugees Is. These Institutes, through thorough 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 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 56th 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.
