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Statement submitted by World Society of Victimology, 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 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.



Statement

The World Society of Victimology concurs that sustainable development is both ambitious and crucial. It also notes that the progress made since the Millennium Development Goals were endorsed has been uneven and too often not reached the most vulnerable.

Discussion on the transformative change needed is happening in both advanced and transition economies, in developed and developing nations. Innovation is said to be playing an important role in generating employment, enhancing productivity and improving energy efficiency and access to energy services. Innovation is in addition an essential ingredient to improve living standards by providing decent work and decent pay for more people and advancing quality of life through better health. Conversely, the choice and deployment of innovation are routinely affected by vested interests. There are moral, economic and political constraints on the choice and deployment of innovation. It is a commonplace observation that some in the public and the private sectors have a stake in a particular innovation, despite an appearance of neutrality, which may be subversive.

Technology is another ingredient central to “The Future We Want”. Technologies, if utilized wisely, will facilitate transformative change. Technologies will likely offer fresh options and new solutions to reduce poverty, enable economic growth and social development. On the contrary, history reveals that technologies have afforded certain nations the power to industrialize other nations. In so doing, those nations that enjoy technologies have too often dismissed the cultures and traditions of the nations they colonize. In other words, rather than technology fostering the future we all want, it becomes a means of victimization by the powerful.

Science has the potential to avert climate change impacts, such as the destruction of island States and mass migration. Science, if applied properly, will offer solutions to overcoming other challenges associated with development, such as the pursuit of unsustainable consumption by the burgeoning middle and upper classes while poverty and inequalities continue to affect so many peoples. The type of science and technologies that are integral to “The Future We Want” must be grounded on local and traditional knowledge and built on existing cultural values.

Such knowledge and values are factors dominant in the anthropological notion of a vision of the world. There is a nexus between a culture-sensitive approach and sustainable development. To achieve “The Future We Want”, we should seek solutions that are universally encompassing. That future will require a blend of public policy and public funding, as well as private sector leadership and investment. Partnering civil society is also essential to attaining the benefits of innovation, technologies and science.

Crime mirrors society. It is indicative of the political, social, economic and technological structures. The World Society of Victimology holds that understanding how these structures affect individuals and communities helps to explain the victimization that has happened, the victimization that is happening and the victimization that might happen. In debating “The Future We Want”, the organization urges all not to ignore the experiences of the oppressed, the disenfranchised and the powerless. “The Future we Want” is that which puts the human into humanity.