

## Sample statement

**Summarize the statement below. Your summary should be between 250 and 300 words long and should include all the main points. Start your statement “The speaker said that” and continue in the past tense using reported speech (for more detail see “[Indirect or reported speech](#)” in the United Nations Editorial Manual).**

Madame Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

It has been 21 years since the World Summit for Social Development was held in Copenhagen and the adoption of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. But poverty eradication still remains a global and major challenge for the international community. Social exclusion continues to be a challenge in many parts of the world, by virtue of growing inequalities and decent-work deficits.

This is an important year for social development. The United Nations member states adopted the ‘New York declaration for Refugee and Migrants’ a few days ago. We are also celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Declaration of Right to Development which provides us an opportunity to recommit ourselves to implement its provisions for achieving a just and equitable world

Last year, the member states adopted the historic 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Agenda. The momentum, for progress in those areas, must be matched by progress in achieving the objectives of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action on Social Development.

Poverty eradication through people’s empowerment has always been the top development priority of my government. Our people-centric model with its seven elements; poverty eradication, education, skill development, elimination of discrimination and extremism, inclusion, participation and employment generation is guiding the government to realize its vision for a poverty-free prosperous country.

My country has made commendable progress in respect of most of the social indicators in last two decades. It has sustained a GDP growth rate of 6+ percent in recent years and touched the landmark growth rate 7 percent in 2015-16 that has played a positive role in eradicating poverty. The robust growth has been accompanied by corresponding improvement in several social indicators such as increase in the life expectancy (which is 70.4 years in recent years) and lower fertility rate (2.3 in 2014), despite having one of the world's highest population densities. The population living below poverty line is 12.9 per cent in 2015-16 which was 56.7 per cent in 1991.

Significant progress has been made increasing equitable access in education. The net enrolment ratio in the primary school is 97.7 per cent. In addition, gender parity in primary and secondary enrolment has already been achieved. The proportion of population using safe drinking water and improved sanitation is 98 per cent and 56 per cent respectively.

Despite our many social, economic and environmental challenges, and more importantly resource constraints, we have made substantial progress in bringing the issue of disability to the forefront. Particular attention is being given to ensuring the right to education of children with disabilities. Apart from formal learning, skill development programme and vocational training are imparted to persons with disabilities to help them to get self-employed.

My country continue to underscore the crucial role of international cooperation, including north-south, south-south and triangular cooperation, in realizing the internationally agreed development goals, and

most importantly, in promoting the Programme of Action of the Copenhagen Summit. We underline the need to focus on a more strengthened, coherent and integrated development approach, including the fulfilment of commitments on internationally agreed official development assistance, and the timely implementation of all commitments under the global partnership for development.

We are pleased to note that since the proclamation of the International Year of the Family in 1994, the international community continues to undertake a range of activities and commitments in support of its objectives. We continue to recognize that the observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014 provided a useful opportunity to strengthen national family-centred policies and programmes.

My delegation stresses importance on effective enforcement of labour laws with regard to migrant workers, inter alia, those related to their remuneration, their working conditions and condition of their health, safety of work and right to freedom of their associations.

I would like to conclude by urging all stakeholders to renew their commitments to further advance social development by intensifying their efforts to implement Copenhagen Declaration and Program of Action within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We expect the role of the Commission for Social Development should be strengthened as a potential platform for following up the social dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals.

(704 words)