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**Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda  
Priority theme: Social integration**

**Statement by the International Council on Social Welfare, a non-  
governmental organisation in General Consultative Status with the  
Economic and Social Council**

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**ICSW full statement on social integration at  
<http://www.icsw.org/un/un.htm>**

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentleman.

I present this statement on behalf of the International Council on Social Welfare which is a non government organisation with a membership that represents thousands of NGOs throughout of the world. Madam Chair, ICSW congratulates you on your election as chair of the 47<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission for Social Development. Finland has a strong record of leadership in global social development. ICSW recognises Finland for its long term commitment to innovative, generous and inclusive development policies.

Madam Chair,

Social integration was the fourth component of the Programme of Action arising from the 1995 World Summit for Social Development (WSSD). It disappeared in the 2000 Millennium Declaration. (A/RES/55/2)

With the current economic crisis governments have a rare opportunity to construct a society for all. It should not be seen as a coincidence that the brief for

ECOSOC covers both economic and social policies. The world strayed in the 1990s to create a disconnection between economic and social development. It must be obvious to most policy analysts that the current economic crisis has exposed the inability of the market model to deliver social development as a natural consequence of economic growth. Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs Mr Sha Zukang said at the opening of this session of the Commission that "markets, on their own, cannot deliver economic prosperity, social inclusiveness and justice for all". The International Council on Social Welfare agrees with this statement by the Under-Secretary General.

Madam Chair

ICSW has a message for the governments of donor countries and the governments of donor recipient countries.

First the donor countries need to recommit themselves to meeting the goal of contributing 0.7% of gross national product (GNP) to Official Development Assistance (ODA). This commitment was first made 35 years ago. Most donor countries fall short of the 0.7% goal. In these times of economic troubles the temptation for donor governments is to treat ODA as a discretionary part of national budgets.

ICSW argues that donor governments should embrace a broader concept of national budgets that makes ODA an intrinsic component of national budgets not an optional component that is cut when times are tough.

Second, our message to donor recipient governments is to seek and establish partnerships with civil society to reach national consensus on economic and social policies. Civil society has direct access to the most marginalised in our communities. Without partnerships in development, countries run the risk of exacerbating social disintegration rather than fostering social integration.

Madam Chair

All governments can assist the process of social integration by adopting a global social floor. Under-Secretary General Sha said – "Governments should therefore consider introducing a social protection floor for the most vulnerable and marginalised groups as another concrete step toward social integration". A global social protection floor will reduce the devastating impact of economic crises on the poorest in our communities.

Madam Chair, in conclusion,

Social integration should be a globally accepted concept. Dr. Kamwi in speaking on behalf of the African Union said the partnership with the international community, UN Agencies and civil society organisations "is vital because if we allow the development gap between Africa and other continents to continue to widen, sustainable development in the continent will remain a dream and the African people will continue to suffer".

Without stable nation states it is hard to believe we can achieve global economic and social stability and true social integration.