

United Nations

E/2021/NGO/XX



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.: General

July 2021

Original: English and French

2021 session

13 July 2021 – 16 July 2021

Agenda item 5

ECOSOC High-level Segment

**Statement submitted by Apostle Padi Ologo Traditional Birth
centre in consultative status with the Economic and Social
Council***

The Secretary-General has received the following statements, which are being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

Commented [MOU1]: Insert the official name of your organization here; All other elements of the cover page need to stay unchanged.

*The present statements are issued without formal editing.

E/2021/NGO/XX

Statement

1.0 Introduction:

1.1 Objective of the Statement:

To draw United Nations' attention to the impact of COVID-19 on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

1.2 Purpose of the Statement:

It will help United Nations to draw relevant lessons for policy actions that will help achieve Agenda 2030.

2.0 Overview of the Issues:

In collaboration with Australian Agency for International Development, International Needs Australia and Suhum Municipal Health Administration, We have been implementing Sustainable Development Goal 3 since 2009 to reduce infant and maternal mortality in a very poor community called Sra. Sra is where cultural minority group called Krobos are located in Suhum Municipality in the Eastern Regional part of Ghana. We have saved thousands of lives. Many more could be saved if more resources were available to ensure Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 reach every mother and child in Sra. These have been our focus before COVID-19 emerged.

2.1 The Impact of COVID-19:

Ghana recorded its first case of COVID-19 on 12 March 2020. There were lockdown and social distancing as measures to curb the spread of the virus. This affected economic and social activities negatively. Work of institutions like our organization came to a halt. The pandemic has become a threat to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals as it is entrenching poverty not only of the Krobos in Sra but entire Africa. Because of COVID-19, current estimate suggests that the world's progress in achieving zero poverty in this region by 2030 will be set back by seven extra years (Mahler et al., 2020). The effect of COVID-19 on poverty is felt not only by the people but also Sustainable Development Goals Advocacy and Implementing agencies like our organization.

3.0 A Way Forward:

A key policy implication from these observations is that we have to broaden and accelerate social protection programs to assist both new poor and existing poor.

To reduce poverty, we encourage United Nations to support grassroot organizations like ours to organise communities like Sra into farming to plant economic trees such as mango. The fruit will be sold to generate income. This reduces poverty. The Mango plant will also reduce emission of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere which reduces global warming. The mango fruit is a food or nutrition which reduces hunger. It will also create a job for peasant farmers. Under many international agreements and rights conventions, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, it is a globally shared responsibility to ensure that mothers, newborns and children are protected, supported and given the best opportunities to have a healthy life.

United Nations

E/2021/NGO/XX



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.: General

July 2021

Original: English and French

Word count: 498

Commented [MOU2]: A written statement submitted by an NGO in **general consultative status** must not exceed 2,000 words, and a written statement submitted by an NGO in **special or roster status** must not exceed 500 words.