

## **Statement of ELOISE HYLTON INC to Commission on Social Development 62 Session**

Ladies and gentlemen of the United Nations, today I stand before you to underscore a crucial aspect of our shared journey towards a more just and sustainable future. The theme of our discourse, 'Fostering social development and social justice', is not just a call to action; it's a reminder of the profound human connection that binds us all, irrespective of age.

In our quest to eradicate poverty and achieve the ambitious goals set for 2030, we must remember that our efforts must be deeply inclusive. This inclusivity must span generations, bringing into the fold the often overlooked yet invaluable segment of our society - our older adults. These individuals are not just a demographic; they are the pillars upon which our societies have been built. They are custodians of wisdom, tradition, and experience. In recognizing their significance, we acknowledge that poverty cannot be eradicated in isolation.

It is through an intergenerational lens that we must view our policies and actions. This perspective allows us to see the intricate tapestry of human life, where the young and old are interwoven in a dynamic dance of knowledge, support, and mutual growth. Our policies must reflect this reality. They must be tailored to not only address the unique needs of older adults but also to harness their potential to guide, mentor, and influence younger generations.

As we chart our course towards sustainable development, let us build bridges between generations. Let us create communities where the transfer of knowledge, skills, and values is seamless and celebrated. By empowering our older adults through comprehensive social protection, lifelong learning opportunities, and accessible healthcare, we do more than just honor their contributions. We lay a solid foundation for a society that is fair, equitable, and resilient.

Let us pledge to craft a world where every individual, young or old, is seen, heard, and valued. A world where social justice is not an abstract concept, but a living, breathing reality, nurtured by the wisdom of our elders and the energy of our youth. Together, we can make this vision a reality, and in doing so, take a giant leap towards eradicating poverty in all its forms.

Thank you.