



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
29 May 2015

Original: English

2015 session

21 July 2014-22 July 2015

Agenda item 5 (c)

High-level segment: annual ministerial review

**Statement submitted by Center for Global Nonkilling, 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.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.



Statement

In a statement to the 27th session of the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/27/NGO/114), we provided arguments for the inclusion of the prevention and reduction of killing in the post-2015 development agenda. We thus welcome the inclusion in the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals proposal for sustainable development goals of target 16.1: “Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere” and encourage all parties to include such a goal in the final outcome document and in the wider post-2015 developing agenda.

We consider the right to life and therefore the duty not to kill as the moral and legal support of target 16.1. We have the knowledge needed to drastically reduce levels of violence and build killing-free societies. Last September, a World Health Organization conference at the University of Cambridge explored “Global Strategies to Reduce Violence by 50% in the Next 30 Years” and its Global Status Report on Violence Prevention (December 2014) presented an encouraging 16% global decline of homicide rates since the 2002 World Report on Violence and Health; a decline which can be connected to successful implementations of prevention practices. We have also published a wide range of supportive cross-disciplinary studies.

Significant know-how exists within the United Nations and its Member States, including prevention and reduction of killing which as a measurable component of sustainable development goals will bring about the necessary social, political and institutional momentum needed to put violence prevention policies, programs and strategies into effective practice. Failure to seize this opportunity for building safe killing-free communities worldwide may jeopardize other development goals, as already established in General Assembly resolution 63/23.

We hereby call for:

- (a) Setting baselines and targets for the prevention of violence in general with an emphasis on measurable lethal violence;
- (b) Scale up prevention programmes that have been proven successful;
- (c) Ensure that existing laws relevant to violence prevention are fully enforced;
- (d) Tracking progress toward its reduction and eventual elimination by strengthening data collection. For this to happen and for the wider target of sustainable development goal 16 to be fulfilled, a shift of attention toward prevention must occur at the United Nations and in Member States;
- (e) Funding and staffing for the United Nations agencies and departments working on prevention of violence should be expanded and violence prevention shall be considered a transversal component for action across the United Nations system. Ministries and infrastructures for peace, disarmament and non-killing are needed in every country;
- (f) Specific constitutional provisions such as Japan’s Article 9 or other legislative measures need to be adopted by Member States, thus taking constitutional and legislative action to embark on the transition towards non-killing peace, collective security, disarmament and development.