



**Economic and Social Council High Level Segment open call for Non Governmental
Organizations in special consultative status
New York, 16-19 July 2019
« Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality »**

**Statement made by M. Thierry Zen Ruffinen,
President of Fondation CIOMAL (Campagne de l'Ordre de Malte contre la Lèpre)**

Mr. President,

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Fondation CIOMAL (Campagne de l'Ordre de Malte contre la Lèpre) is proud to be able to participate in the High Level Segment call of the 2019 session of the Economic and Social Council and welcomes this opportunity of promoting the rights of the poorest people.

For 60 years, our organization has been involved in fighting tropical diseases and in particular leprosy, on various continents. Besides primarily providing health services, our organization has progressively addressed the issue of the social and economic inclusion and destigmatization of the persons affected by leprosy and of their families.

As regards the forthcoming High Level Segment, the experience of our organization lies with the Goals 4 and 8, which it strongly promotes, through providing educational facilities to young scholars and students and supporting individual entrepreneurship by extending microcredits to families.

Achieving these Goals requires substantial financial means which are not readily and sufficiently available. Among the least developed countries, this unequitable situation is mainly due to the absence of adequate international bilateral or multilateral support and partly to a failing allocation of the local public finance resources. In this regard, Fondation CIOMAL together with the Sovereign Order of Malta fully support the statement made by the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Ms Amina Mohammed on the occasion of the Interactive Dialogue with the Human Rights Council held in Geneva during its 40th session in March 2019 stressing the need for increased funding to implement the 2030 Agenda.

Therefore our organization calls on the member states, interstate organizations and the relevant international organizations to create a new mechanism deemed to ensure sufficient and regular financial support to the least developed states in order to improve their situation as regards Goals 4 and 8. Our organization suggests the setting up of specialized regional funding institutions responsible for sourcing finance, allotting it in an efficient and equitable manner to the poorest countries, monitoring the implementation of funding programs and guaranteeing that it directly benefits the ultimate needing persons.

Failing this, the Goals 4 and 8 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development would only be promoted but not implemented, leaving behind a number of forgotten countries.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, Fondation CIOMAL (Campagne de l'Ordre de Malte contre la lèpre) and the Sovereign Order of Malta, although recognizing the challenge faced by the creation of a new global funding mechanism, strongly believes that it is a prerequisite for achieving the Goals 4 and 8.

Consequently, our organization calls on member states, interstate organizations, relevant international organizations and other stakeholders to adhere to this proposal of creating a specific funding mechanism and to reflect on the conditions and means to implement it. Our organization also informs that it is willing to cooperate in this project.

We thank you for your attention and consideration of this statement.