



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
1 December 2017

Original: English

---

## Commission for Social Development

### Fifty-sixth session

31 January–7 February 2018

**Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and  
the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:  
priority theme: strategies for the eradication of poverty to  
achieve sustainable development for all**

### **Statement submitted by African Youth Movement, 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 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

---

\* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## **Statement**

### **Setting the Scene: Nigerian Fashion as a tool for poverty eradication**

Nigerian fashion designers have created a powerful niche for themselves as job innovators and role models. From Ankara to Buba, beads, stones and shoes, ethical fashion has great potential to beat poverty and create jobs for millions of our people irrespective of whether they are educated or not. WE believe the potential of this market is yet untapped and thus call on the United Nations to pass a resolution that will give zero tariff to environmental friendly fashion products from the developing countries and by extension creating a broader market for them to engage and market. Working with Ruthies Clothing Brand in Nigeria, have seen young ladies, widows and graduate males gain employment in an industry that holds great potential for poverty eradication. Fashion like sports holds the key to unity of culture and peoples and so must be prioritized.

---