

Oral Statement: 58th Session of the Commission for Social Development

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International Association of Independent Journalists Inc.

I would like to thank the Bureau of the Commission for Social Development and the Commission for Social Development for this opportunity to speak. Greetings to representatives of Member States, fellow NGOs and other attendees, greetings to everyone. My name is Maurice Ali and I am the President of the International Association of Independent Journalists, and I would like to tell you about an in-depth report of ours called "The Issue of Permanent Ongoing Participation of the General Public at the United Nations", or in other words, a permanent ongoing global popular vote at the United Nations!

Affordable housing and homelessness are issues of current discussion at this year's 58th Session of the Commission for Social Development. Many stakeholders are here, but the most important stakeholders are all the actual individuals who are affected by the decisions made here at this session. They deserve to have all their voices heard and while there have been some attempts at worldwide online consensus at the United Nations in the past; it is now time to investigate a more permanent form of participation. Currently in the world, 4.5 billion or 58% are online and 3.3 billion or 43% use smart phones and it is growing by over 300 million per year. For the report we provided a working platform for a general public popular vote at the United Nations through a smart phone application and secure servers. The end result would be a permanent ongoing popular vote of general public sentiment to whatever issue was presented with the aim to help in good policy making for all involved at the United Nations.

Our study showed 72.34% when polled would endorse permanent general public participation at the United Nations. An Android cell phone application was also developed that would allow the general public to participate in popular votes of global interest. It was then shown that the total burden on the internet of a one day global vote of all 7.7 billion people on earth would only increase data usage by one eighth of one percent that day. Finally, the study showed that the Preamble and Article 8 and Article 71 of the "Charter of the United Nations", permit men and women without discrimination to participate at the United Nations in all its organs. I am a citizen of the country I live in, but I also have an identity as a global citizen, and what happens in a country half way around the world can be as important to me as what happens in my own country. Everyone on earth is a citizen of the world and as the ultimate stakeholders all our voices matter, particularly at the United Nations as permanent ongoing participation of the general public. We have the desire to participate along with the technology and infrastructure to make it happen, all we need now is the willingness of the United Nations to make this form of participation a reality.

I thank you for your attention.