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### **PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS, CIVIL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT**

**Written statement\* submitted by Federation of Cuban Women (FMC),  
a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is  
circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[20 August 2008]

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\* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the  
submitting non-governmental organization(s).

### **Integration of gender perspective.**

Gender equality and gender justice is based on the necessity of the enjoyment, of women and men, of elementary prerequisites that promote their full insertion into the society, it means the guarantee for all, of the right to development, the right to a peaceful world and solidarity, where all, the powerful and rich countries offer their collaboration and indispensable cooperation to the less developed countries that have been plundered by centuries of their wealth, those that have enriched and sustained the first world countries today.

Summits and world conferences have pled for the Official Development Aids that rich countries should compromise and contribute with the economies of the underdeveloped ones. However, a growing gap is deepening among the rich and poor countries: the rich are richer and the poor are poorer. This evidence shows the inequity, discrimination and unjustness that prevail in the world.

The Millennium Development Goals adopted by United Nations and among them the No. 3 - to promote gender equality and women's empowerment- constitutes an unreachable commitment in many countries and regions of the world. The Convention on the Elimination in All Forms of Discrimination against Woman and the Child Convention, two of the most universal treaties on human rights, reinforce the necessity to achieve justice and equality at all the levels, and promote more equitable relations and benefits of development, without discrimination.

According to UN statistics more than 800 million people suffer hunger every day, 300 million of them are children. Every year 6 million of children die due to malnutrition. More than 115 million children and girls in school age don't receive an elementary education, about 218 million children under 5 years of age work to survive, of them almost 70% work in the agricultural sector, 22% in services and 9% in the industrial sphere. HIV/aids is expanding every minute leaving death, suffering and poverty.

Then there is a huge difference in the enjoyment of the human rights of women and men in the world. Does it mean that to born in Nigeria is a misfortune? Are the African countries fated to be poor and the Europeans to be rich? Why a Kenyan boy cannot enjoy the same rights as a Finnish one? Why does a Thai girl have to prostitute herself and a Swedish citizen to buy to a baby? Is this fair? In this the world we dream with for the future generations?

Phenomena like the social exclusion, the unemployment, the lack of protection for the childhood and elderly, the sexual exploitation, the sale of organs, the traffic in persons, the child labor, the children living in the street.... all this added to the growing hegemony of the Government of the United States that has brought death and desperation to millions of people, the imposition of blockades, indiscriminate bombings, devastating wars, where women are the most suffering people, all this are expression of the imbalance and inequity without precedents in the humankind's history.

In the entire world women, like part of a growing and strong social movement, raise their voices and denounce neo-liberalism based on the exclusion that has been globalized, reinforcing the essence of the capitalist system with imperialistic requests to domain the world.

Gender issues should be taken very seriously, as a part of the policy making by Governments and all the stakeholders of the society as a whole and at the international level. The State must be responsible for the fulfillment of compromises and agreements, expressed in the main international treaties and conventions, as well as in the results of the world conferences on women and the following up processes, which still show the enormous inequalities that prevail, accompanied also by many forms of violence and discrimination all over the world.

Cuban women, victims of the one of the cruelest and inhuman policies in the history, have suffered an economic, financial and commercial blockade that lasts for more than 45 years, a policy systematically rejected by international community, by the UN General Assembly, by the solidarity movement with Cuban people around the world, a solidarity that increases and strengthens.

Despite this inhuman policy that negatively impacts on the society and the family, women continue actively participating in the economic, political and social life of the country. More than 46% of women participate in the economic sphere; 66,63% of all technicians and professionals are women and 43,32% of the Parliamentarians are women too, that locates Cuba in the third place of the world by this results. Women not only are beneficiaries of the social project that in Cuba is taking place, but also are active and necessary force to build it.

We Cuban women are ready to fight all together with the women of the world, for a fairer and better world, of peace for all.

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