



## Economic and Social Council

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### Commission on the Status of Women

#### Fifty-fifth session

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Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”: implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives**

### **Statement submitted by the International Council of Psychologists and the World Federation of Ukrainian Women’s Organizations, non-governmental organizations 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.

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\* E/CN.6/2011/1.

## Statement\*

1. We are committed to the promotion of families' well-being through advocacy, lobbying, education and consultation on issues, policies and actions at the United Nations that directly affect families globally.
2. We firmly believe that one of the most enduring and sustainable investments in the well-being of families is to women's empowerment through increased access to education, training, science and technology and greater inclusion in the workforce. This long-term investment in the strengthening of the status of girls and women will serve to improve the quality of family life by ameliorating economic as well as emotional well-being for all members of the family.
3. The promotion of women's equal participation in education and training improves family functioning by increasing employment opportunities and consequently increasing family income and quality of life. Moreover, the family emotional climate is ameliorated through the educational and professional empowerment of women, as empowered women are less likely to be perceived as a burden and are less vulnerable to family violence. In addition, educated women are more likely to invest in the health and education of their children, thereby contributing to improved overall family health (mental and physical) and aiding in breaking the cycle of illiteracy and poverty.
4. Family policies are fundamental in the promotion of equal participation of girls and women of all ages in science, technology and full employment, by providing women with needed support in the form of care options for children and the elderly, career breaks such as maternity leave, and promoting family-friendly environments.
5. We recommend that Governments support the education of girls in science and technology, and the development of women's careers by addressing the underrepresentation of women and girls in science and technology education at all levels, starting with primary through tertiary education as well as employment in different sectors.
6. We also recommend that Governments study and collect information on gender divisions of labour in society at large, especially in science and technology.
7. We further recommend that Governments establish policies that include women in reforming scientific and educational institutions.
8. We recommend that Governments allocate sufficient funding to women's non-governmental organizations whose goal is to increase women's participation in science and technology.
9. We also recommend that Governments collect statistical data to identify fields with low female participation, and set quotas for women to occupy positions as project managers and academic faculty in science and technology.
10. In order for women to fully participate in science and technology around the world, institutional structures, cultural stereotypes and social division of labour must be studied and addressed.

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\* Issued without formal editing.