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**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”**

Statement submitted by Project 1948 Foundation, 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

Climate change poses an immediate risk to rural women and girls in Bosnia and Herzegovina, especially those living and working in elevated farming regions. Landslides, floods, wildfires, and droughts create urgent disaster conditions that endanger women's physical safety, in addition to jeopardizing the employment and entrepreneurship of women and girls innovating in the agricultural sector. A swift response is necessary to safeguard women and girls' health and financial security in Bosnia and Herzegovina to prevent further death, disability, and economic vulnerability caused by climate disasters. Our on-ground initiatives are at the nexus of Sustainable Development Goals 16 and 5 – addressing the linkages between Gender Equality and establishing Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.

Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, including the environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes, is why our organization cultivated the Data Dragon project. The data collection project will survey 90+ local Bosnian non-governmental organizations to determine the physical, environmental and occupational hazards faced by their on-ground humanitarian staff. The collection of this data will be utilized to inform disaster risk reduction policies and work to shift the national perception of addressing extreme weather. In turn, we plan to share data with the Delegation to the European Union for monitoring the protection, safety, and security of humanitarian workers in Summer 2022 to strengthen adaptation and mitigation efforts. Bosnia and Herzegovina is in an unwavering political stalemate, with a lack of gender-inclusive financing, the tripartite state shows weak institutional linkages, and the underinvestment in data collection and capacity building are the main challenges preventing climate change from becoming a national priority.

Our non-governmental organization provides a program to policy design by implementing strategies to support women leaders in all sectors and at all levels and ensure protection strategies are implemented for women leaders in all their diversity. Our firm commitment to the Women, Peace & Security agenda and Humanitarian Action Compact advocates for the full inclusion of women leaders in promoting gender-responsive policy making at all governmental levels, advancing Sustainable Development Goals 5 and 16. The data gathered through our project will provide valuable insight regarding the safety, security, and operational capabilities of nonprofit organizations that focus on environmental mitigation, the occupational well-being of workers, and knowledge sharing with Ministries of Justice. The future collation of this data seeks to advocate for tripartite governmental response and setting a national standard for disaster risk policy.

The survival rate of disaster events is significantly lower for female populations globally, with many cyclones and hurricanes impacting women at a ratio of 14:1. Post-disaster response and programming must put gender equality at its center to minimize the risk of post-disaster exploitation, violence, and displacement. The women and girls of Bosnia and Herzegovina must be protected from the effects of disasters such as the 2014 floods, which impacted 39% of the total population. Therefore, we call on Member States for gender-responsive budgeting and the equitable distribution of disaster relief resources. By triangulating gender-focused finance, resource sharing, and increased disaster response decision-making by women leaders, the safety and security of women and girls is safeguarded in times of uncertainty.

We urge Member States, International Organizations, Civil Society, the Private Sector, and academia to invest and enhance coordination in supporting women's leadership at all levels in all decision-making structures on peace, security, and humanitarian action. We strongly urge Member States to champion inclusive,

sustainable approaches and equitable partnerships to increase women leaders' influence, visibility, and resource base in all their diversity. We welcome the initiatives of the Commission and express our deep appreciation for the longstanding dedication to a comprehensive approach to gender equality and women's empowerment. We take note with the interest of the comprehensive approach that Norway has implemented with Resolution 1325 and women's critical role in humanitarian response and post-conflict reconstruction that helps aid our work in Bosnia and Herzegovina by establishing precedent in the implementation of gender-balanced missions and operations.

We express our deepest gratitude to the United Nations for their continued support of grassroots organizations and partnerships. Lastly, we would like to reaffirm our commitment to collaboratively achieving equality, development, and peace for women worldwide through the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action with advocates and allies at all levels of government and with United Nations leaders around the globe.
