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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 Beijing NGO Association for International Exchanges, 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.

[23 May 2022]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.



Empowering Girls Technologically: an Action to Advance Gender Equality

Beijing NGO Association for International Exchanges and its member organizations have long been focusing on issues including gender equality and women empowerment.

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed unprecedented challenges to economic development and global governance, making gender inequality even more prominent. We believe that the equal participation of women is of great significance to economic recovery, governance improvement, and a bright future for common development. We need to take immediate action to give support from different levels and provide solutions for different groups of women.

As women's organizations in Beijing and members of the Beijing NGO Association for International Exchanges, the Beijing Women's Federation and the Beijing Women's International Center have noticed the widening gender gap in emerging fields of science and technology. There is an urgent need to empower women technologically in the technology-driven digital age to ensure women's equal participation. Our solution is to begin with eliminating the gender stereotype that "technology is not for girls" and providing girls with resources and training to enhance their scientific literacy.

In 2021, we launched the "Technology Empowering Girls for Gender Equality" Beijing Action. Through online courses, interactive workshops and innovation competitions, we provide a variety of courses to young women and invite female technological workers to share their stories so as to encourage girls to break through gender stereotypes and inspire their ambitions to work in the technological field. In the innovative competition, girls showed their rich imagination, bold innovation and manual ability. They are looking forward to exploring the universe, paying attention to difficulties in the fight against the pandemic, and advocating green development. The Action has allowed girls to see their future in technology, and their active participation and impressive performance have also shown us the possibility of achieving gender equality in the future development.

Currently the gender gap is widening around the world, but people from different sectors are also making unremitting efforts to overcome difficulties and bridge the gap. We are looking forward to more resources to support the "Technology Empowering Girls for Gender Equality" Beijing Action so that we can strive to build a high-quality learning platform for girls to improve their scientific literacy.

We call on partners across the world to join the Action to enhance cooperation in the field aiming to cultivate more female talents in science and technology and increase the diversity and inclusiveness of solutions so that more girls can benefit.

Beijing Women's International Center, NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.