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**Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and
the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:
priority theme: strategies for the eradication of poverty to
achieve sustainable development for all**

Statement submitted by Center of Civil Initiatives Support, 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

Uzbekistan — on its way to gender equality and sustainable development

Introduction, objective and purpose of statement:

At the Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September, 2015, UN Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030. All 17 SDGs are connected to the Uzbekistan Strategic Plan focus on sustainable development and welfare improvement. Commitment on gender equality is a critical element in achieving those goals by 2030. SDG 5 sees equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life at the centre of promoting gender equity.

In Uzbekistan, good achievements in the area of gender equality are observed (MDG 3 — parity in primary and secondary school enrolment is achieved). We see that more women are beginning to hold management positions in the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan. With past and present achievements we need to look even further and ask ourselves what needs to be done in order to further promote participation of women in decision-making positions in the Parliament, Ministries, and local governments with the goal of eventually reaching parity of completely equal representation.

However as in other countries, there is still a long way to go. Increasing enrolment at tertiary level, promoting job opportunities and most importantly, enhancing women's share in decision-making are all key areas to address. Indeed, in most societies the role of women was traditionally associated mainly with family and home, limiting their time for personal and professional development. NGO's, including CISC stands ready to support the government in implementation of the new sustainable development agenda, and further deepening the efforts towards gender equality the empowerment of women and girls.

Incentives are needed for women to participate in political and social activities. Incentives such as training women to develop leadership and management skills; reinforcing cooperation between government and non-government networks working in the field of protecting the rights and interests of women; seminars with leaders of political parties and women wishing to engage in political activities and the creation of a pool and database on women with capacities of holding managing and leadership positions.

The purpose of this statement is to create an active dialogue between parliamentarians, government organisations and NGO's to promote equal opportunities for women, gender sensitisation of society through the Global Sustainable Development Goals.

Overview of the issue as it relates to the work of the NGO

Key areas of concern include:

- outdated patriarchal stereotypes of “female predestination” existing in the public mind the notion of “women's issues”, and provision of awareness raising on gender equality and the elimination of such stereotypes.

- to extend the participation of women in the fields of power and control, lack of participation in politics;
- support for women to participate in activities that are value by society; and not just work in the home
- increase access to ownership of property;
- to expand the gender culture in society;
- to increase awareness by parliamentarians, law enforcement officials, state employees, social workers, youth and the public about gender equality issues to ensure the stable socio-economic development of society;
- availability of statistical data, especially data regarding women's access to resources, participation in the informal labour market, and the other for conducting a gender analysis and monitoring of the gender situation at the level of all regions;
- strengthening the institutional framework for the promotion of gender equality.

Specific examples of accomplishments by the NGO and remaining challenges

NGO representatives in Uzbekistan are actively involved in the implementation of socially important projects including monitoring compliance with laws in the field of protection of human rights and freedoms, ensuring transparency of government activities via participation in the work of committees. Committees including the national Interagency Commission against human Trafficking, Republican Commission for Coordination of Activities against the Spread of HIV Infection, Interagency Council for Coordination of the Activities of government Bodies in legal Propaganda and Education, Public Council under the Ministry of defense, Interagency Working group to review current state of compliance with human rights and freedoms by law enforcement and other government bodies and Interagency expert group for monitoring of implementation of national Action Plan under CEDAW.

Government and NGO's of Uzbekistan in carrying out its international obligations in the field of women's rights is based primarily on the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as other relevant international legally binding instruments. CISC is actively cooperating with international partners, including: United Nations Population Fund — UNFPA, OSCE, Asian Development Bank, World Bank, “UN-Women”, “Feminists League “ Kazakhstan, CANGO-China Association for NGO and others.

CISC is working in partnership with national organisations such as Women's Committee of Uzbekistan, the Council of Federation of Trade Unions of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Labour, other ministries, departments and public organisations on the strengthening of women's economic empowerment. CISC with national partners is working on the creation of a constant active dialogue between parliamentarians, government organisations and NGO to promote equal opportunities for women and men, gender sensitisation of society, the implementation of the United Nations Convention “on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women” (CEDAW) and the Beijing Platform Action Plan (PDP).

A way forward: expectations, specific recommendations

The main activity of CISC will include

- Participation in the formation of the national SDG connecting to gender issues and poverty;
- Promotion of the equal rights and equal opportunities, increase of the Civil society's gender sensitivity;
- Implementation, reporting and monitoring of the UN Convention "On the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women" — CEDAW in Republic of Uzbekistan;
- Providing social partnership and consolidation of government, NGO's and public society on equal rights and equal opportunities for women and men of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- Organising and conducting trainings, seminars, round tables and consultations on gender issues;
- Together with national and international partners preparing and publication of statistical gender disaggregated review "Women and Men of Uzbekistan".

Conclusion

CISC is keenly aware that the agenda for "Strategies for the eradication of poverty to achieve sustainable development for all" requires us to do more to strengthen the Uzbek society. Together with partners all over the world, we must build inclusive and productive communities for all so that the aim of gender equality, social integration, full employment and decent work for all becomes an achievable reality.
