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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the 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 International Peace and Development Organization, 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.



Statement

The role of the International Peace and Development Organization in combating violence against women

The International Peace and Development Organization is a voluntary organization that is concerned with peacebuilding and development in regions affected by emergency situations. It provides relief, support and assistance, executes projects aimed at propagating a culture of peace and eliminating violence, and conducts socio-economic development programmes.

Legal status of the Organization

The International Peace and Development Organization is a voluntary Sudanese organization having its head office in Khartoum. Since 1995 it has been registered with the Humanitarian Aid Commission. The Organization has a General Assembly which elects its Board of Directors to a three-year term of office. The Board, in turn, designates an Executive to perform executive functions. The Organization also has four branch offices in various parts of the country.

The Organization is a member of a number of networks operating in various domains, including women's issues, peace and HIV/AIDS. As regards its methodology, it relies on the partnership principle: it is linked in partnership with a number of local and international organizations, and with the United Nations, having acquired consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in 2009.

Aims of the Organization

- (1) Action to promote peacebuilding;
- (2) Support for cases involving the rights of women and children;
- (3) Disaster prevention and emergency response;
- (4) Action to strengthen social peace and resolve conflicts.

Vision

Ensuring the dignity and welfare of families, women and children in communities affected by emergency situations in the Sudan by contributing effectively to the task of building an enduring peace and achieving sustainable development.

Mission

The International Peace and Development Organization pursues its mission through an empowerment-of-women strategy, inasmuch as it deems women to constitute a fundamental pillar of peace and development in the target communities. It also endeavours to enhance the protection and survival of women and children. It will seek, with professionalism and integrity, to lighten the burden of poverty in target regions and communities generally.

Examples of the Organization's activities in the domain of combating violence against women:

- (1) **Food security project:** the Organization distributes food to women in crisis regions, sending relief caravans to the regions listed in the protocols appended to the Nifasha agreement and providing various food products and shelter materials. It also executes poverty alleviation projects: the Central Bank of Sudan and other commercial banks make funding available to low-income women, while the Organization provides the bank with the necessary guarantees. Otherwise, those women would not be able to obtain the funding they need for their small business ventures. In addition, the Organization trains the beneficiaries and develops their managerial capacities, thereby enabling them to run their small business enterprises efficiently.
- (2) **Psychological rehabilitation:** the Organization seeks to remove the effects of trauma occurring during and after crises by providing psychotherapy through interviews, sessions and lectures in the regions listed in the protocols appended to the Nifasha agreement, thereby helping to restore psychological stability in a number of cases.
- (3) **Awareness-raising:** this consists in heightening awareness of the dangers of violence and calling for reconciliation, tolerance and acceptance of others. The Organization pursues this aim by holding many training sessions, organizing lectures and seminars, and using drama, music, drawing and sport as means of contributing to the task of attenuating violence in general, and consequently reducing the risk of violence to which women are exposed in these communities.
- (4) **Education and health projects:** these entail the provision of health and education services for women with a view to reducing their risk of exposure to violence. To that end, the Organization provides health and educational services in nearby safe regions.

Challenges

- Availability of the capacities required for rapid, effective service delivery;
- In some crisis-affected regions, customs and traditions that impede assistance to women.