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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 Sveriges Kvinnolobby, 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

Ensure women's rights in the post-2015 development agenda

Sveriges Kvinnolobby would like to emphasize the strong need to recognize women's full and universal human rights as a key perspective in the post-2015 development agenda. We call for a stand-alone goal on gender equality and for gender mainstreaming in all goals, targets and indicators.

The implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls has not succeeded. In order to make the new goals a sustainable reality, it is necessary that they emanate from a framework based on a women's rights perspective. The priorities highlighted within the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women have to play a major role in shaping the new agenda.

It has been proved in many reports and discussions that women's rights are intimately linked to the three pillars of sustainable development: economic, social, environmental. A stand-alone goal is needed to set the targets to be mainstreamed into all spheres of society.

As gender inequality is structural, existing from community level right up to national institutions, a stand-alone goal has to be accompanied by mainstreaming equality between women and men in all goals, targets and indicators. Moreover, adequate and sustainable financing for women's rights and gender equality should be guaranteed in regional, national and local government budgets.

It is of absolute necessity that States recognize women's right to education and work that enables economic self-sufficiency, as well as the equal representation of women and men in all aspects of decision-making.

We further want to highlight the links between gender equality, an end to violence against women and the importance of sexual and reproductive rights. Ending violence against women should be a priority, with targets and indicators enabling real progress in women's lives. In particular, we would like to see prostitution recognized as a form of violence against women and purchase of sex as a crime. It constitutes an obstacle to equality between women and men, is a violation of women's dignity and detrimentally impacts on women's sexual and reproductive rights. Language such as "sex work" should not be used; it does not refer to international agreements such as the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, or to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Sveriges Kvinnolobby and its member organizations urge States Governments and the United Nations to ensure:

- A stand-alone goal on gender equality and the rights of women and girls, with clear gendered targets and indicators
- A cross-cutting gender equality perspective throughout the post-2015 development agenda and gender mainstreaming in all goals, targets and indicators
- Adequate and sustainable financing for women's rights and gender equality in regional, national and local government budgets

Sveriges Kvinnolobby recognizes the need to mobilize the global women's rights movement and to make adequate use of the knowledge and experience that the movement holds. To further focus our efforts and to ensure the implementation of the Platform for Action and a sustainable and gender-equal development, our organization has initiated a Nordic conference on women rights.

The Nordic conference will take place from 12 to 15 June 2014 and aims at critically reviewing how the implementation of the Platform for Action can be accelerated in a changing environment. The conference will make recommendations on new action on women's rights to the Governments of Nordic countries. It is further our intention to empower women's organizations and renew efforts towards gender equality. Given that the process of developing a new universal development agenda beyond 2015 runs in parallel to the preparation for the Nordic conference, women's organizations in the Nordic region recognize their historic possibility to contribute with new ideas and innovative approaches.
