



## Economic and Social Council

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### Commission on the Status of Women

#### Fifty-eighth session

10-21 March 2014

**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 African Action on AIDS, European Union of Women, Federation of American Women’s Clubs Overseas, Hadassah Women’s Zionist Organization of America, Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children, International Alliance of Women, International Association of Democratic Lawyers, International Council of Women, International Federation for Home Economics, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Federation of Social Workers, International Federation of University Women, International Inner Wheel, National Council of German Women’s Organizations, Pan Pacific and South-East Asia Women’s Association of Thailand, Servas International, Socialist International Women, Soroptimist International, Women against Violence (Europe), Women’s International Zionist Organization and Zonta International, non-governmental organizations 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

We, the undersigned international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, members of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Status of Women, present for the information of and consideration by the participants at the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women the following statement on the review theme, “Access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women’s equal access to full employment and decent work”.

One of the greatest requirements for achieving sustainable development and eradicating poverty is an educated female population. Many studies show that the more educated the mother is, the higher is the health standard of the whole family, and that investment in the education of women and girls is directly linked to gross domestic product (GDP) growth.

Education is a prerequisite for real democratic participation, for exercising rights and duties as citizens, as well as for mutual respect. It is the cornerstone of peace.

The agreed conclusions of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, adopted in 2011, list all the measures necessary for educating women and girls to enhance their opportunities in science and technology.

While we recognize all the programmes and initiatives and appreciate the progress made in some regions, we remind the States Members of the United Nations and international organizations of the importance of implementation and monitoring to achieve established targets.

We urge the United Nations system and Member States:

- To develop programmes promoting education for all women and girls at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels
- To design special programmes for women and girls in sparsely populated areas, areas affected by climate change and/or natural disasters, areas of extreme poverty and areas of water scarcity
- To integrate education for women and girls into all development aid programmes
- To include women and girls living in refugee camps and those suffering from the effects of armed conflict in education programmes
- To encourage co-education as a means of contributing to gender equality
- To train teachers in gender equality and participation in decision-making
- To provide mentoring for immigrant women and girls
- To encourage life-long learning by offering new opportunities to women who did not have access to education when they were young
- To promote research in science and technology in fields such as gender medicine and green technologies in order to provide more opportunities for women

- To integrate science and technology in all curricula, so that women and girls have better educational and employment opportunities
  - To give access to adequate resources for women and girls on an equal footing with men
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