



## 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 Befá Women and Child Care Foundation, 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

Extensive research and experience has revealed that rights violations represent important underlying causes of livelihood insecurity among women. In much of the world, especially in Africa, a lack of access to assets and resources is symptomatic of underlying discrimination, exploitation and exclusion.

The constitutions and laws of our various countries are founded on the ideals of freedom, equality and justice. But, unfortunately, those rights and ideals have remained mere theoretical postulations without any practical bearing on the lives and conditions of women. Women are systematically relegated to inferior positions, especially in Africa.

There is gross inequality between men and women. Undoubtedly, the most delicate and difficult aspect of those rights is the enforcement of guaranteed rights. Until the rights of women are properly and timely interpreted and enforced, attempts to help women change their lives will necessarily always result in achievements that are limited in scope and longevity. Therefore, for us to have a just, democratic and egalitarian society that realizes and enforces the rights of women, we must remake the material conditions of life and usher in a new social order that promotes socioeconomic justice. This implies that the enforcement of the rights of women must be articulated and achieved.

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