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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 World Federation for Mental Health, 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

A major challenge in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals where women and girls are concerned is the absence of a component on mental health. Women experience mental illnesses, especially depression, more often than men. Such illnesses are widely prevalent and treatment, where available, is often poor. They have a costly impact on families and on national economies when people are unable to work or care for children.

The World Health Organization's new Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020 seeks to improve mental health care and treatment in every country and encourage the recognition of good mental health as an asset to society. Inclusion of a specific mention of mental health in the post-2015 development agenda would help the implementation of the Action Plan and contribute to the improvement generally of women's well-being.
