



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
9 December 2013

Original: English

---

### 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 Advocates for Youth, Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women, Awaz Centre for Development Services, Catholics for Choice, Center for Health and Gender Equity, European Women’s Lobby, Family Care International, Federation for Women and Family Planning, Forum for Women and Development, Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer, German Foundation for World Population, International Planned Parenthood Federation (Europe region), Italian Association for Women in Development, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Population Action International, Red ACTIVAS, Red de Salud de las Mujeres Latinoamericanas y del Caribe, Stichting Rutgers WPF, Swedish Association for Sexuality Education, Vaestoliitto — Family Federation of Finland and World Young Women’s Christian Association, 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 are all aware that an estimated 222 million women and girls who want to avoid becoming pregnant are not using modern contraception, with some 16 million girls and young women becoming pregnant between 15 and 19 years of age. An estimated 39,000 child marriages take place globally each day; 13.8 million girls have undergone female genital mutilation in Africa; 1 in 3 women globally experience violence, including intimate partner or sexual violence by someone other than a partner or both; an estimated 287,000 deaths occur as a result of pregnancy-related causes; and complications arising from unsafe abortions account for an estimated 47,000 maternal deaths.

As organizations working on gender equality, empowerment and sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls, we recognize that, despite all the calls to action, the recommendations, the policies and programmes, the laws that have been introduced and all the other measures that have been introduced and implemented, the progress made on women's empowerment and achievement of their sexual and reproductive health and rights, particularly for adolescent girls, has nevertheless been limited.

We therefore call upon the Commission on the Status of Women, within the framework of the post-2015 development agenda, to promote and support the inclusion of a stand-alone goal on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls and to mainstream gender throughout the framework.

Such a goal should include targets that:

- (a) Protect and fulfil the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls, including the necessary monitoring and protection systems;
- (b) Prevent and eliminate sexual coercion and violence against women and girls, including early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation/cutting and other harmful practices, as well as engaging men and boys and promoting positive norm changes for the achievement of gender equality;
- (c) Ensure that victims and survivors of gender-based violence have universal access to a full range of essential services.

Furthermore, to ensure that the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women, including adolescent girls, are fully protected, we call upon the Commission to promote and support a target under the health goal on universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

---