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to the special session of the General Assembly entitled**

**“Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for
the twenty-first century”**

Statement submitted by Participatory Rural Development Society, 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.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

Participatory Rural Development Society is a non-profit, non-governmental, and non-political Humanitarian Relief and Development Organization working to help the most vulnerable beneficiaries of Disasters Emergencies and Conflicts in Pakistan. The Organization was established in 2004 and registered in 2008 under Section 20 of Societies Registration Act, 1860. Participatory Rural Development Society is currently targeting major districts of the Province with its head office based in Peshawar. By working directly with communities to identify real opportunities for lasting and positive change, Participatory Rural Development Society have implemented a variety of projects, including Emergency Response, Food Security and Livelihoods, access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation, Health Promotion, and raising awareness on respect for human rights with special focus on protection issues.

Participatory Rural Development Society has successfully implemented Water Sanitation and Hygiene and Health project funded by Climate-Weather Research and Forecasting/United States Agency for International Development-Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance in the conflict affected area of Tirah Valley, Khyber Agency. These two projects enhance the reputation of Participatory Rural Development Society and worked as a base for liaison with Law enforcement Agencies, Provincial Development Management Authority, Federal Provincial Development Society and other stakeholders.

With Gender at the core of every initiative, Participatory Rural Development Society adapts it as its cross-cutting theme. This effort supports in attaining the mission of the Participatory Rural Development Society. The organization policy on gender identified gender mainstreaming as a key strategy for addressing gender inequity, inequality and the empowerment of women in all its activities. Participatory Rural Development Society encourages a more systematic and integrated approach to addressing gender issues in project design and implementation including the monitoring of gender design features and benefits and results for women and men. The Programme is concerned about changing the position of women in social, economic and political lives and not merely the condition of women. It is therefore both a process and an outcome. There is a strong emphasis on the interfaces of Gender issues with other priority themes of eradicating poverty.

The overall objectives of Participatory Rural Development Society Gender Strategy are Develop mechanisms and systems for effective inclusion of gender as a core activity in all emergency, rehabilitation as well as development and poverty reduction programme;

Improve capacity for gender mainstreaming at all levels;

Review and modify policies to create a wider range of opportunities for women;

Establish strong monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to measure progress and outcomes.

The major components of Participatory Rural Development Society Gender programme strategy are as follows:

All the Programmes of Participatory Rural Development Society are concerned about changing the position of women in social, economic and political lives and not merely the condition of women. There is a strong emphasis on the interfaces of Gender issues of eradicating poverty and protecting the environment. Participatory Rural Development Society programmes perceive women as agents of change rather than mere beneficiaries.

Participatory rural development Society believes that Economic growth and social justice call for increased attention to the integration of women into the development process and it is for this reason Efforts are being made to integrate the women potentials by involving them in the development processes. Participatory Rural Development Society has accepted the challenge to involve women in this process. Economic empowerment of women requires improved access to and control over productive resources, including knowledge, credit and marketing channels.

Participatory Rural Development Society programs believes in active involvement of communities.

Participatory Rural Development Society is working for the social empowerment of women (education, health and access to justice, violence against women, women in the family and community, and the girl child). The organization also strives for the economic empowerment of women (poverty, women in the rural economy and informal sector, and sustainable development). Participatory Rural Development Society also includes in all the programmes the political empowerment of women (power and decision-making).

Participatory Rural Development Society always considers gender as a cross cutting integral part of all program and project design, implementation, and in monitoring and evaluation of impacts.

Based on an analysis of gender differences and inequalities, Participatory Rural Development Society identify project beneficiaries disaggregated by sex and provide an explanation of how project components are designed to take into account gender differences and address gender inequalities that hinder economic growth and poverty reduction.

Participatory Rural Development Society Employees and partners are encouraged to introduce programmes and activities which enhance women's access to resources and provide opportunities of asset creation for women.

Participatory Rural Development Society ensures that projects are designed on practical gender needs and take due consideration to whether the project in the long term addresses the strategic interests of women. Participatory Rural Development Society analyse the impact of interventions on beneficiaries and view projects, through a gender lens so that gender differences and inequalities that limit economic growth and poverty reduction are addressed in project design. Monitoring and evaluation plans in Participatory Rural Development Society are focused on Gender incorporation and include provisions to track impacts on specific beneficiary groups, such as women, men, girls and boys (as relevant). Participatory Rural Development Society ensures that disaggregated data available is periodically analysed.