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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”**

Statement submitted by Indian Development 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.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

Indian Development Foundation continued its Women Empowerment Mission focusing on its national Project S-3 Sarva Sakhi Swabhiman (project S3).

The program of providing sewing machines to vulnerable rural women and urban poor women is progressing well. Mapping potential hotspots for S-3 projects, identifying the beneficiaries logistically clustering them into a viable group and preparing a project report to present to the corporate entities for support continues. Planning and organizing vocational skill transfer and on machine training has been executed.

Recognizing that continued intervention was needed in most of the centres as acquisition of skill and availability of machines by themselves were inadequate for sustainability, Indian Development Foundation supported the market functions in securing bulk orders and input of raw materials so that seamless supply chain was maintained for these empowered women centres.

A helpline was created and an active prompt intervention mechanism evolved so that these units did not turn sick. Thus Corporate Social Responsibility is a trigger for initiation of the project and for critical financial support but sustainability of the units is devolving on Indian Development Foundation. Planning the life cycle management is a challenge Indian Development Foundation is presently engaged in.

An expanded executable project report for S-3 has been carefully consolidated for easy and acceptable access to Corporate Social Responsibility.

The spectrum of vocation skillset with low end technologies is being studied by the technical advisers of Indian Development Foundation.

Indian Development Foundations various livelihood generation projects have helped many women to earn for their families, send their kids to schools, get medicine for their ailing spouses or operations.

Indian Development Foundation currently has Sarva Sakhi Swabhiman projects (S3 projects) at 12 different locations in India which cater to 1150 women in all. Indian Development Foundation has given these women the backbone to stand with their head held high in society; hence the name Sarva Sakhi Swabhiman which focuses on Women's education and Women's livelihood Skills. Adult education has also become a part of project S3 where mothers are given necessary input on language skills, academics and also accountancy. Through financial literacy models, women are empowered to handle money management and support family savings.

Indian Development Foundation has a vision to become a change maker in the lives of women of this country and help the women of India to lead their lives with Dignity. And we will not rest since we have miles to go before we can sleep.

Indian Development Foundation is a leading national Non-Governmental Organization working for health, education and development. Indian Development Foundation has an excellent track record of three decades of humanitarian service. Networking with over 100 health projects and 171 Bal Gurukuls (after school programmes for poor children) in India, Indian Development Foundation has also established 12 S3 Projects to empower and educate women in the society.