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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 International Muslim Women’s Union, 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

On the wake of the 4th World Women Conference in Beijing, in 1995, the International Muslim Women Union came onto the international scene. It was established in 1996 and given the special consultative status at the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Most of our leadership was present with active participation in Beijing. Hence the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was present in our strategy.

Since the Union is an international organization for Muslim women all over the globe, it embodies and caters to our vision, aspirations and ambitions. A vision based on the Islamic perspective and on the Islamic approach towards all walks of life, without losing sight of the contemporary issues in the international arena.

The Union is very much concerned with eradication, or rather alleviation of poverty. As such our projects are designed to meet this goal.

As mentioned earlier, the Union is a Platform for Muslim Women worldwide, it is a vision for a sounder world order, where conflicts are resolved, and justice, peace and religious tolerance prevail.

The Union is hosted by the generous country of Sudan. Out of gratitude and appreciation, we should mention that poverty is one of the challenges in this developing country, it is further aggravated by the unfair, unjustified and uncalled for unilateral sanction imposed on its people.

Actually, women and children are the real victims facing challenges in education, health and social protection. Not to mention the unrelieved debt situation.

It is only opportune to mention that these situations are not exclusive to Sudan, but other developing countries suffer the same tragic fate.

The financial situation of these countries is critical, which has made the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals' unreachable.

In the final analysis, we women under "The International Muslim Women's Union" umbrella, call upon the international community to support these developing countries by working to relieve debts and uplift sanctions, so to enable them to achieve the sustainable development goals for the post 2015 agenda.

Furthermore, we in the Union hail and salute the noble struggle of women under occupation and show our solidarity towards the uprooted, displaced and women refugees.