



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
9 December 2014

Original: English

---

### Commission on the Status of Women

#### Fifty-ninth session

9-20 March 2015

**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 Society of Iranian Women Advocating Sustainable Development of the Environment, 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**

### **Women and Sustainable Development in Iran**

In the culture and tradition of our country, special attention to the environment and nature is considered a characteristic of humanism. Prevention of waste making controls the proper usage of natural resources with the benefit of sustaining the living environment.

The Iranian women, especially those living in rural areas and villages, as the users and consumers of natural resources, have had a great role in maintaining the environment. Their methods in recycling garbage, reduction of polluting substances, providing food and nutrition shows their key role in fostering environmental culture and the management of the Ecosystem.

The activities and efforts of women at the governmental level, civil society and public level show the development of women in sustainable development.

### **Background of environmental women Non-Governmental Organizations**

Establishment of environmental Non-Governmental organizations essentially dates back to the Rio conference 1992. These group's agenda were designed with the objectives of promoting environmental protection, educational activities and enhancement of environmental culture.

The women's society for combating Environmental Pollution, Women's Society for sustainable development, Women's Society for better living are the most prominent examples.

Environmental dedicated Non-Governmental Organizations have passed through three specific phases in Iran. The first stage concluded in 1994. The number of groups were very limited. Their activities were non-commercial and solely environmental oriented.

The second period continued until 1997. In that time there were 15 associations, most of them organized as societies. The year 1997 to present shows a profound and remarkable quantity and quality increase in women's Non-Governmental Organization activities. Some 450 organizations and some Regional Environmental Networks have come in to existence in these years.

The national report of the women's Non-Governmental Organizations, in the Beijing+15 Conference 1995 is not only a report but is a mutual dialogue and understanding with women all over the world. Focusing on twelve concerns, it builds the basis of this mutual dialogue according to agreements made in the Beijing Platform of Action.

## **Conclusion**

In Iran, as in many societies, there are environmental problems caused by air pollution, noise pollution, water pollution, waste management, manufacturing crisis and uncontrolled urbanization. However the use of agricultural pesticides,

destruction of forests, waterways redirect and even natural disasters is due to lack of knowledge of individuals, groups and organizations, non-governmental or non-participation in social and economic activities.

Women are one of the major groups affected by the Environment and also one of the groups which effect climate change. Their activities affect social life and family life too.

Fortunately, Iranian women today are actively protecting the environment and sustainable development through organisations such as environmental Non-Governmental Organizations.

Agriculture plays the main role in the economy of our country, which provides 1/3 of jobs occupation, and supports 4/5 nutrition need of the country. Agriculture as 1/2 non-oil export of the country supplies 9/10 industrial needs for agriculture products which today is 1/5 Gross National Product.

Countries agriculture depends on activities of 4.2 million rural families. Rural women's participation in economic activities cannot be neglected. Their role in rural development is not transparent.

Lack of sufficient income makes families abuse the natural resources and continue environmental degradation, for instance, using trees in rural areas as a heating system is due to the lack of access to fossil fuels.

## Proposals

Poverty eradication and optimal use of natural resources is an obligation for our country's Development. Therefore we as Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations have established a network with the name of promotion and sustainable development. Environmental problems do not effect limited areas and have no boundaries. Any disaster will affect the whole world and will leave behind negative effects.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has undertaken considerable actions to build an environmental culture focusing on women and children. Face to face training with women on preserving the environment, employing media for making programs for children and adolescents and using books at school by the Department of Environment are some of the actions to be mentioned. It is worth mentioning that working with children regarding the environment builds culture and makes it an internal belief that can be very useful in the future life of these children.

One of the target groups for empowerment is women and Organization for Preserving the Environment has taken measures in cooperation with other Non-Governmental Organizations to hold training workshops for rural women, distribute books, publications, and brochures among rural and nomad women. It is to be mentioned that rural and nomad women are in direct contact with natural resources. Fighting against contaminants, repelling pests, and erosion of the land can be controlled and directed by rural and nomad women. They represent a better understanding of the environment and how to preserve jungles and natural resources. Rural women can also have a crucial role in preventing waste accumulation and pollution of the environment. In urban areas, women can play

important roles in amending behaviours and patterns of water, and energy usage and managing waste disposal and air pollution.

All leaders agreed and signed in Brazil in 2012 and said, with full participation of civil society, to renew our commitment to sustainable development, and to ensure the promotion of economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future for our planet and for present and future generations. Therefore The Network of Environmental Non-governmental organizations for Promotion and Sustainable Development is active in sustainable development of our country. And eradicating poverty is the greatest challenge. In this regard we are committed to free families from poverty and hunger as a matter of urgency.

Currently in our country due to the complexity of environmental issues, environmental factors, abuse has become one of the most challenging situations.

Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations in Iran offer a planned green economy based on sustainable development and poverty mitigation in the framework of sustainable development goals of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

---