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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 African Women’s Association, 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

Empowerment of single mothers in Cameroon

The condition of women, and more specifically of single mothers, is a real problem in Cameroon.

Many girls, when they become mothers before marriage, no longer return to school. They lack the means and resources necessary for the survival of both mother and child. Such situations generally lead to prostitution, vagrancy, lack of self-esteem, and sometimes suicide. These girls are tomorrow's mothers and tomorrow's women bearing responsibility. Better prospects must be made available to safeguard this category of women.
