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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 Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer, 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

Gender equality in Argentina 20 years since Beijing

In the 20 years since the Fourth World Conference on Women there has been great change in Argentina and in the world in general. For Argentina, the common denominator has been progress towards greater equality between men and women. However, we are still far from achieving everything that we, women and feminist organizations, aspire to and everything that Governments promised in the Platform for Action.

In Argentina, the main successes have been the regulations and laws that have been adopted and that represent a huge step towards equality and recognition of the rights of women. The limited implementation of that legislation and difficulties in making it a reality for all women and girls are the principal issues at stake and the main challenge.

Progress has not been the same across the 12 areas of concern that were set out in the Platform for Action. However, the greatest obstacles and delays in fully addressing them have concerned sexual and reproductive health and rights; violence against women and girls; access to work and the reduction of the pay gap between women and men; policies concerning care, which remains almost exclusively the domain of women; the effective strengthening of the institutional mechanism for the advancement of women (the National Women's Council); equal participation in politics and all areas of action; and changes to the depiction of women and girls in the media and women's involvement in running and managing media operations.

In addition, Argentina must withdraw the reservations included in the Platform for Action, the majority of which do not now correspond to legislative progress that has been made since 1995.

The evidence is clear and telling. Unless urgent steps are taken to overcome these inequalities, Argentine women and girls will continue to be denied their right to live a dignified life.

We call on Governments to commit, in the conclusions of this session of the Commission on the Status of Women, to achieving that goal swiftly and unreservedly.
