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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 WOOMB International, 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.



Statement

WOOMB International wholeheartedly supported the determination expressed in the Beijing Declaration:

- (a) To advance the goals of equality, development and peace for all women everywhere in the interest of all humanity;
- (b) To acknowledge the voices of all women everywhere and taking note of the diversity of women and their roles and circumstances;
- (c) To recognize that inequalities and obstacles are exacerbated by poverty, particularly of women and children;
- (d) To recognize the right and inherent dignity of women and the girl child as an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- (e) To seek the empowerment and advancement of women, including the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief, thus contributing to the moral, ethical, spiritual and intellectual needs of women and men, individually or in community with others, thereby guaranteeing them the possibility of realizing their full potential in society and shaping their lives in accordance with their own aspirations.

Our organization has sought to implement those goals in the 20 years that have followed. In particular, it proclaims the right of all women to control all aspects of their health, in particular their own fertility, which is basic to their empowerment (as indicated in paragraph 17 of the Beijing Declaration).

Our organization seeks to achieve this aim by promoting and teaching the Billings Ovulation Method of natural fertility regulation, which:

- (a) Offers to every woman, everywhere, knowledge of her fertility and reproductive health;
- (b) Gives every woman an understanding of her patterns of fertility and infertility throughout her reproductive life in order for her to manage her fertility and plan her family safely and effectively;
- (c) Teaches a woman what is normal in her fertility patterns so that she is immediately alerted to abnormalities, thus giving her the opportunity to seek appropriate investigation or treatment and protect her health;
- (d) Ensures access to an inexpensive and effective means of regulating fertility without harm to a woman's body, health or relationship.

The Billings Ovulation Method has been scientifically validated and exhaustively trialled, in particular in Third World countries, and found to be acceptable to women of all religions, circumstances and educational standards.

While the Fourth World Conference on Women was being held, John and Evelyn Billings were beginning a series of more than 20 trips to China, where thousands of teachers of the Billings Ovulation Method were trained, under the auspices of the Chinese Health Department, to take the Method to the Chinese people. A major trial of the Method conducted in China in the following years found it to be 99.5 per cent successful in avoiding pregnancy. In those provinces where the

Method was established, the abortion rate was found to be considerably (seven times) less than in other areas of China and the reproductive health of the women benefited exponentially.

Women who are given knowledge of their fertility are empowered to control their family size and enhance their reproductive health.
