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Statement submitted by Inter-Action Globale, 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

Twenty years after the World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in September 1995, we find, upon assessing its Declaration and Plan of Action, that the strategies recommended there are still germane today and that the status of women remains hostage to inequalities, despite the emergence of new policies mainstreaming the gender issue. Appropriate and concrete measures must be taken to correct the imbalances. Those measures are called affirmative action.

Today, the question of violence against women is a sensitive subject, for this phenomenon is gaining ground in our country despite its accession to the various conventions, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

In conclusion, the debate over women's participation in public life and in decision-making, as well as the recommended strategies, will be in vain if our leaders' political will and their commitments in favour of women do not translate into concrete, everyday actions. The struggles for de facto and for de jure equality are inseparable and interdependent.
