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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”

Statement submitted by Medical Women’s International 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

The Medical Women's International Association is an international non-governmental organization. Women physicians in more than seventy countries make up the membership. The association was founded in 1919. Embodied in its mission is the objective to raise the health status of the communities in which the members work, especially the health of women and children in those communities. Medical Women's International Association has category II status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and is in official relations with the World Health Organization.

Medical Women's International Association's current President is Professor Dr. Bettina Pflleiderer from Germany. Medical Women's International Association has eight regions around the world with a Vice President representing each region. Every three years Medical Women's International Association holds an international meeting, the next which will be in New York in 2019, the year of our 100th anniversary. Between triennial meetings, each region holds a regional congress.

In 2002, Medical Women's International Association led the way by writing a Training Manual on Gender Mainstreaming in Health for physicians and other health care professionals. The concepts covered in that training manual, namely sex, gender, sexuality, gender roles and gender equity are all relevant when we speak of Violence Against Women. Medical Women's International Association has now developed an online module on Gender Based Violence for health care professionals which can be found at <http://mwia.net/mwia-training-module-violence/>.

Medical Women's International Association is much attuned to the priority theme of "Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work." In addition to providing compassionate care to their patients, physicians are small business owners. In this capacity they hire many women. Many of Medical Women's International Association's member organizations offer services to women physicians to mentor them in effective business management. In addition, by caring for women patients and helping them stay healthy, this also contributes to women's economic empowerment as they continue to be productive members of society. When ill health ensues, the ability to work decreases and before long economic empowerment and financial independence disappear.

The review theme, "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls" (agreed conclusions of the fifty-eighth session) is at the heart of Medical Women's International Association's work. Millennium Development Goal 3 and Sustainable Development Goal 5 promote gender equality and the empowerment of women — ongoing work by Medical Women's International Association. Millennium Development Goal 4 (decreasing child mortality) and 5 (improving maternal health) sees Medical Women's International Association working at all levels from the front line delivery of health care to these populations to policy making. One of the goals of Medical Women's International Association is to improve the health of all in the communities in which we live, aligning well with Sustainable Development Goal 3.

The Medical Women's International Association will be well represented at the 61st session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March, 2017, and will present a parallel event based on the priority and review themes. It is our pleasure and privilege to have Category II status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and to collaborate with others regarding women, their health, their economic independence and their empowerment.
