



# Economic and Social Council

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## Commission on the Status of Women

Sixty-fourth session

9-20 March 2020

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 Apex Development Foundation, 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.

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\* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## **Statement**

### **Women ventures and education**

Malawi, a small landlocked country in Southern Africa, still subjects women and girls to the tyranny of gender disparities. Among them, in this member of the least developed countries, are domestic violence, violence against women, teen pregnancies, child marriage, little or no access to proper health care, inability for women to secure loans, gender discrimination, and more. Women comprise 52 per cent of the population of 17 million people, who are basically rural and dependent on rain-fed agriculture.

We will advocate for more funding to empower women and children. We are seeking non-governmental organizations to strengthen our partnerships with local civil societies, such as Life Care Foundation, Mtukulo, Senior Chief Theresa Kachindamoto, and others to bring awareness and raise funds for local programs.

Among its projects, Apex and partners are raising funds to train women to create fish ponds, set up vegetable gardens, establish programs to ensure the return of teens back to school after they deliver their babies, and solicit donations for health supplies to donate to rural clinics.

We seek to elevate women and young women through our initiatives. We hope to collaborate with NGOs to achieve these goals.

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