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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 50 countries make up the membership. The association was founded in 1919. Medical Women's International Association recently celebrated its 100th anniversary in July 2019 in New York where it was founded. For the past 100 years the mission of Medical Women's International Association has been 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 United Nations Economic and Social Council and is in official relations with the World Health Organization.

The executive consists of 13 elected positions encompassing president, past president, secretary general, president-elect, past president treasurer and eight vice presidents representing the eight geographic regions. Every three years Medical Women's International Association holds an international congress and the venue is one of the member countries whose national association hosts the congress. The between triennial meetings, each region holds a regional congress.

Medical Women's International Association has member organizations and individual members from all continents. With the priority theme being "the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action", Medical Women's International Association notes that some of our physician members, have been active non-government organization participants in Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action since its inception in 1995 and have been working on the critical areas of concern.

Our global band of members provide both medical care and health education in diverse settings in urban and rural communities and as a part of the services provided, we address the effects of gender based violence and gender disparity by partnering with other organizations both locally, nationally and globally. For example, the members in various countries provide mobile health services in remote tribal areas for women and children. They also conduct regular health camps providing vaccinations and maternal care to serve the communities in tribal areas. Training and teaching activities in prevention of cervical & breast cancer and human papillomavirus vaccination are routinely administered by Medical Women's International Association members. Also actively participating in various national health programmes of the country leading to improvement of the health indicators of Sustainable Development Goal 3.

In summary Medical Women's International Association's goals align well with Sustainable Development Goal 3, 5 and 17 and critical areas of concern of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action especially regarding women and health, Medical Women's International Association has been working to address inequalities and inadequacies in health care and related services for many years. For example:

- C.1 increase women's access throughout the life cycle to appropriate, affordable and quality health care, information and related services
- C.2. strengthen preventive programmes that promote women's health
- C.3. undertake gender-sensitive initiatives that address sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, and sexual and reproductive health issues
- C.4. promote research and disseminate information on women's health
- C.5. increase resources and monitor follow-up for women's health

Relating to gender equity and violence against women, 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

The Medical Women's International Association will be well represented at the sixty fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2010. It is a privilege to have Category II status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council and to collaborate with various groups of stakeholders to address women's health across their life span, as well as their empowerment, and their representation in the work force.

Medical Women's International Association recognizes the important advocacy role played by the Commission on the Status of Women and the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action and would specifically like to request the Secretary-General's office to prioritize universal health coverage for women and the girl child a top priority in the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development.
