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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 Centre for Public Health, 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 Centre for Public Health is a non-governmental, not-for-profit, non-political, non-religious organization in Nigeria founded in 1997 to reduce the mortality rate from infectious diseases and to tackle the burden of cancer and HIV/AIDS. For decades the Centre for Public Health has advocated for women's health especially as it relates to cervical cancer and Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccination and is proud to once again participate in the discussion at the Commission on the Status of Women.

The Centre for Public Health provides healthcare to rural Nigerians who otherwise may not have access to these services. It provides free healthcare, treatments, and training through the Pink Rose Hospital as well as improvements to 500 regional health care centers. The recent implementation of video-based doctor visits has allowed for more people to safely receive medical attention and information during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Centre for Public Health also has started a toll-free domestic abuse hotline to help combat violence against women and girls.

The Centre for Public Health seeks to educate people about cervical cancer and the HPV (Human Papilloma Virus). Recent studies indicate that 80 per cent of new HPV (Human Papilloma virus) cases occur in low- and middle-income countries like Nigeria. Cervical cancer, one of the cancers linked to Human Papilloma Virus, is one of the leading causes of death in Nigerian women. Every year, roughly 14,500 new cases of cervical cancer are diagnosed and over 9,600 die from cervical cancer, in many cases related to HPV (Human Papillomavirus). Early detection of cervical cancer is key to successful treatment. Through radio broadcasts, door to door campaigning, and informational pamphlets the Centre for Public Health has reached hundreds of thousands of women and informed them of the importance of screenings as well as how the HPV (Human Papillomavirus) vaccine could help prevent many cases. The education on the life-saving effects of vaccination has helped to create demand for these preventative measures. As the Centre for Public Health begins the process of expanding to neighbouring countries, they are also integrating clinics to provide young men and women with the HPV (Human Papillomavirus) vaccines. Centre for Public Health seeks to bring awareness to this preventable disease and promote the health and wellbeing of all Nigerian women.

The Centre for Public Health, working with Every Woman Every Child (EWEC), is highly committed to reducing maternal mortality rate and ratio and under-5 mortality rate, increasing the Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel, and eliminating harmful practices, discrimination, and violence against women and girls among others.

We are calling for the inclusion of the Human Papillomavirus Vaccine in all the national immunization programs. The action against gender-based violence, gender equality, and women empowerment should start from the family level by giving equal domestic chores to males and females from childhood. We should teach the children from the early developmental stage that violence against women is not acceptable. The member states should include all these principles in the school curriculums.