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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 International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, 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

Actions taken by Member States regarding Women, Land and balanced ecological Development are vital and are essential pathways to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and are specifically key in moving forward the effective promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women as called for in the Beijing Platform for Action.

The current models employed in the economic and land sectors still shut out Women. Economic restraints must be eliminated and stronger accountability by governments needs to be implemented if we are to move towards gender and climate justice.

Attention to mechanisms and instruments like land taxation, land leasing, pre-emption rights and land banking can no longer be ignored.

Looking back to the resolution [A/RES/66/216](#) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 22 December 2011 the problems of women and access to land and land rights were addressed.

Recalling its resolutions [52/195](#) of 18 December 1997, [54/210](#) of 22 December 1999, [56/188](#) of 21 December 2001, [58/206](#) of 23 December 2003, [59/248](#) of 22 December 2004, [60/210](#) of 22 December 2005, [62/206](#) of 19 December 2007 and [64/217](#) of 21 December 2009, and all its other resolutions on the integration of women in development, and the relevant resolutions and agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women, including the Declaration adopted at its forty-ninth session and Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”, The General Assembly urged Member States to adopt and review legislation and policies to ensure women’s equal access to and control over land, housing and other property, including through inheritance, land reform programmes and land markets, and to take measures to implement those laws and policies. The General Assembly also urged Governments to take measures to facilitate equitable access to land and property rights by providing training designed to make the judicial, legislative and administrative system more responsive to gender-equality issues, to provide legal aid for women seeking to claim their rights, to support the efforts of women’s groups and networks and to carry out awareness campaigns so as to draw attention to the need for women’s equal rights to land and property.

Lessons learned from the 2018 World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty included looking deeply at the models and practices of land economics and land tenure and the subsequent report from this Conference highlighted that, Land, unlike other commodities can be bought and sold and is, immovable. From a legal perspective, only the rights can be bought and sold. This makes the Land market in a way a ‘derived market’. Land consolidation instruments need to be coordinated with other instruments as restructuring taxation measures, clear spatial planning frameworks and community-based Land banking. Governments can encourage and implement viable land based municipal finance policies such as Land Value Capture and Taxation to finance. Any level of government can begin to help women gain access to land and property by using such mechanisms.

The Feminist Task Force and many other women’s organizations participating within the Non-Governmental Organizations framework of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women have identified the impact on women, women at the grassroots level, and the intersectionality of the feminization of poverty, gender and racial injustice, and climate change.

It is time for Governments to seriously take actions that include moving economic, Land tenure and financing systems toward guaranteeing that women gain access to and management of Land and Natural Resources, if we all wish to further the effective implementation of the Beijing agreements and the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals.
