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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 Campaign Life Coalition, 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

Campaign Life Coalition is a national, non-profit organization involved in political action and advocacy for legal and cultural change in Canada with respect to protecting human life and the natural family. It works in identifying and assisting pro-life and pro-family candidates to run for public office at all levels of government, promotes civic engagement at the grassroots level, and encourages voting based on principles, not party.

Campaign Life Coalition welcomes the theme of the 66th Commission on the Status of Women, “Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes”.

Our common home

In addressing this year’s theme, Campaign Life Coalition calls upon all Member States and the Commission on the Status of Women to acknowledge that policies and programmes on climate change and environmental and disaster risk reduction, must first and foremost embody the interconnectedness between nature and human beings. To harm our planet is to harm human beings and to harm human beings is to harm our planet. This relationship between the sustainability of our common home and the protection of the inherent dignity of every human life must be preserved in the creation and implementation of social policies.

In recent years, however, this integral ecology has been ignored by political and social movements that prioritize the environment over human life, by promoting population control programs as a solution to climate and environmental concerns.

These population control programs, promulgated through ‘sexual and reproductive health and rights’ policies for women and girls, often target the developing world where economic inequality, poverty, and a shortage of healthcare resources create a perfect storm for activists to push their own agenda forward. Rather than addressing these grave injustices and investing in realistic solutions to improve access to healthcare, close the gap on economic inequality, and eradicate poverty, these programs just eradicate the poor through sterilization and abortion, all in the name of ‘fighting climate change’.

Population control will not stop climate change, nor will it protect vulnerable populations from environmental and natural disasters.

Secondly, being that the family is the fundamental unit of every society, it plays a unique and significant role in how we care for each other and our planet. It is the first school of love and the first experience of a human ecology for children. The growing push for ‘family planning’ policies – including abortion – in the name of reducing human impact on the climate, paints children as a threat to the environment. Coupled with the indoctrination of young people to avoid having a family of their own in the future, these are examples of climate alarmism that create division and fear, rather than provide solutions.

The Geneva Consensus Declaration, a blueprint for sustainable development

In order to move forward in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, Campaign Life Coalition calls upon the 66th Commission on the Status of Women to turn to the Geneva Consensus Declaration, an international agreement signed by 35 member states, representing 1.6 billion people, as a framework for authentic social and political change in the world including in the context of climate change and disaster risk reduction. The 2020 document reaffirms

long-standing UN principles which should be applied to all discussions and policies pertaining to securing a sustainable future for the world.

In light of this year's theme, the Commission on the Status of Women should join the Geneva Consensus Declaration in reaffirming that "every human being has the inherent right to life" and that "the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State."

Additionally, the Commission should join member states in affirming that "motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance" and that "in no case should abortion be promoted as a method of family planning."

The Geneva Consensus Declaration also states that "there is no international right to abortion, nor any international obligation on the part of States to finance or facilitate abortion."

Beyond promoting women's health and the strengthening of the family unit, this ground breaking international agreement provides guidelines for all Member States to prioritize the social and economic well-being of their nations by upholding fundamental human rights, supporting the empowerment of women and girls, and lifting up their families.

Call to Action

Campaign Life Coalition reminds all Member States to preserve the interconnected relationship between the natural environment and human beings, and to ensure that climate policies don't prioritize the environment at the expense of human life.

Campaign Life Coalition believes that the right to life, a founding principle in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, must be at the centre of sustainable development and all climate policies. If the international community is to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, we call upon Members States to defend and uphold the right to life for every human being – before and after birth.

Campaign Life Coalition calls upon all Member States to join the Geneva Consensus Declaration, along with 35 other member states who have committed to working together to empower women, strengthen families, improve and secure access to healthcare, and advance public health policies.
