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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 WOOMB International Ltd, 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

Significant advancements in communication technology have greatly enhanced the ability of WOOMB International, World Organization Ovulation Method Billings, to educate women in the natural processes of their reproductive faculties. This instruction is at the center of WOOMB International's initiatives in implementing the Billings Ovulation Method® of natural fertility management. Self-empowerment of all women and girls is achieved through education, independence, and self-determination in the knowledge that WOOMB International imparts to them.

Women and the needs of women have always been at the helm of technological development and the process of technological change throughout the centuries. The structures of society demand the acquisition of greater management skills, thus requiring an evolving template for advanced technology. In our modern age, the ability to communicate has progressed from the telephone to the internet, and our instruction of the Billings Ovulation Method® has evolved along a similar trajectory within these mediums.

As a forerunner in fertility management strategies, WOOMB International has navigated the digital age with innovative advances in technological communications by providing interactive computer application programs to women for their betterment and monitoring of their health within their reproductive menstrual cycles. While maintaining that physical, in-person teaching and training in the Billings Ovulation Method® are ideal, WOOMB International actively engages in providing thorough instruction to women and girls through all of the current mediums of communication available. These innovative advances are particularly apparent in developing countries whose industrialized infrastructure is replete with technological diffusion, enabling their populace to benefit from the processes of digitized invention.

WOOMB International approved the development of Fertility Pinpoint.com, about the year 2000 AD. The computer-based web program was made available to existing and new users of the Billings Ovulation Method® at that time. It can now be accessed through smartphones, and it is designed to allow the user to follow the instructions of the Billings Ovulation Method® and keep a digital record of their own fertility activity, which can be shared with an accredited Billings Ovulation Method® teacher for ongoing support and further instruction.

WOOMB International has further enhanced its availability and connection to women and girls with the development of its first fully approved smartphone application, NFP Charting Online for iOS and Google smartphone devices beginning in 2007 AD. Almost 500 Billings Ovulation Method® teachers access the application to communicate with more than 2,400 women and girls throughout 21 different countries, currently. More recently, WOOMB International has approved the development and use of two other smartphone applications, Billings Teacher and Billing App in October of 2020 AD, having both been developed in 2018 AD. The Billings Teacher App is used by more than 1,300 Billings Ovulation Method® accredited teachers to review the charts of the women and girls who have requested their aid, and to monitor the training education of women who are training to become Billings Ovulation Method® teachers. The Billings App has over 46,000 registered users from 162 different countries who are able to record their fertility daily and have access to an accredited Billing Ovulation Method® teacher without cost.

As there are a plethora of fertility tracking applications now available to women and girls, the ability for them to record their fertility and communicate with their Billings Ovulation Method® instructors through these official and authenticated applications has become paramount and invaluable in the navigation of this digital technology. WOOMB International and the Billings Ovulation Method® have always

maintained that the recording devices, whether physical paper or digital interface, are to allow the woman to follow the indications of her own fertility without the hindrance of making any assumptions as to what may occur within her fertility cycle in the ensuing days. The assumption that predicting her oncoming fertility is a positive and worthwhile attempt at foreseeing a woman's pattern of fertility negates the true essence of her understanding and her ability to follow her fertility as it unfolds.

The evolution of digital technology has also provided the means for WOOMB International's teacher-training correspondence course to be utilized both in remote areas and in virtual circumstances where physical in-person venues are unavailable, to facilitate the training of new teachers and continuous upskilling of existing ones throughout the world to ensure accurate and authentic information is provided and disseminated to all.

Drs John and Evelyn Billings of Melbourne, Australia developed the Billings Ovulation Method® in 1953 and founded WOOMB International in 1978 to provide affiliation to national organizations that became involved in disseminating this knowledge of fertility to women and girls within their own countries. As many as fifty-five countries throughout the world now have their own national WOOMB International affiliated teaching center and are dedicated to imparting the authentic strategies inherent within the Billings Ovulation Method® of natural fertility regulation. In 1982 following a three-year study, the World Health Organization recognized the proven benefits of the Billings Ovulation Method® for women and girls across all socioeconomic regions and noted it to be 97.2%–97.8% effective in the natural spacing of children. For nearly 70 years, the Billings Ovulation Method® has been at the service of all women, in aiding them with a true understanding of their fertility health.
