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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 Tarumitra, 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

Tarumitra works all over the Indian subcontinent to promote the Sustainable Development Goals, care for the environment, and advocate for human rights, especially regarding women and girls. Our organization collaborates with local communities and educates over 300,000 students and young people to claim their human rights, including their rights to equality, a healthy environment, and an inclusive society.

Tarumitra strongly believes that the environment should be protected and preserved for future generations. The uncontrolled use of natural resources such as forests, land, water, and fisheries has caused distressing changes and unnecessary pressure on the global ecosystem. According to the Sixth Assessment Report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, human-induced climate change already affects climate extremes in every region across the globe. The report predicted that without significant reductions in global CO₂ emissions, we would experience further increases in the frequency and intensity of heat waves, heavy precipitation, and agricultural and ecological droughts.

However, not everyone experiences the effects of climate change at the same intensity. Climate change, and its wide range of adverse effects, disproportionately affect those most vulnerable in society, especially women and girls. The World Bank Poverty Overview indicated that women constituted most of the world's poor. Consequently, women living in poverty are the most threatened by climate change and, due to societal factors, lack the necessary education and coping capacities to face an ever-changing global climate.

Moreover, women and girls are still more likely to receive less of a quality education than their male counterparts, which not only disadvantages them from pursuing higher education and better-paying jobs but makes them more vulnerable to climate stress situations. As such, Tarumitra has long advocated for equal educational opportunities for boys and girls, especially as they relate to scientific and green industries.

In its many endeavors to promote an eco-spirituality approach to tackling climate change, Tarumitra has recognized the importance of incorporating green technology. This recognition can be seen through its shown support for emerging green technology such as solar panels, its creation of educational programs that teach local people how to use solar ovens, as well as heavy usage of social media technology as a unifier and educator to promote not only its sustainable mission but to build solidarity with women's rights. Tarumitra, recently, has been implementing its mission for equal educational opportunities through its programs, such as the Environmental Eco Spiritual Residential Camp, which collaborated with local all-girls schools and other local educational institutions to teach girls about the effects of climate change and ways that they can help stop it.

Recent years have shown a more significant push towards implementing more green technology. Environmentally sustainable sources of energy to support the growing population of India have even become a booming industry worth an estimated \$23 billion, according to a 2020 International Trade Administration Environmental Technologies Report. As such, it is vital that we, alongside other organizations and member states, push for more and better roles, opportunities, and initiatives for women and girls to become involved in and lead these emerging green technological sectors. However, this push should not be isolated to the Indian subcontinent. There must be a global push for equal educational and vocational opportunities for women and girls in green and sustainable industries.

Climate change requires a modern approach that utilizes technology to promote global multilateralism and sustainable practices that protects our planet and people. The international community must move forward in solidarity with women and girls if we hope to stop the harmful effects of climate change. Without gender equality, achieving Sustainable Development Goals and preventing the detrimental effects of climate change will remain a dream.
