



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
29 November 2022

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women

Sixty-seventh session

6–17 March 2023

**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 United Umuada Igbo Club International, Inc. (UUIIC), 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 onset of COVID19 pandemic has restructured the entire world directing us to the New Normal of a Digital World. Digital technology has become critical to our lives from phone calls, conversations to meetings, telemedicine, education, schooling, conference and online businesses and marketing. Digital experiences and opportunities are now very necessary for human and global development creating online education, access to formal and informal learning; access to information and support relating to health and well-being; being able to engage with creative and cultural practices; expressing ideas and opinions; for leisure, play, and connecting with peers; to find employment, career information, entrepreneurship opportunities.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action noted as the platform on which gender equality is rooted pointed on the need to increase access to women on technology and STEM education. However, the gender digital divide places girls in disadvantaged when it comes to digital adoption, having girls denied access to and use of digital technology than boys, and often are not benefitting from digital technology as boys.

Women in rural communities are challenged by the effects of the new normal on technology and digital world. As developing countries adheres to using technology to market their products, exchange business opportunities and improve on their economy and business expansion, the women in communities of developing countries are left behind. Their farm and business products are not opportune to fit on top the new normal realities. The women are not knowledgeable about the technology change and have little or no access to available technological resources. Removing collective barriers would allow women to thrive and even take on other rural women's equal economic rights, economic and digital empowerment and independence are essential to the achievement women's economic rights especially in rural communities.

Digital technologies could help women access new markets, work flexibly and distantly, acquire, and interact with customers, receive training, and provide mentoring, improve financial autonomy, and access finance for their ventures

United Umuada Igbo Club International, UUICI a leading global organization of professionals empowering Igbo women worldwide through services and advocacy to preserve our rich cultural heritage, which is rooted in maintaining peace, respect, and observing our family values and have been committed to this mission in promulgating gender equality and generation equality issues among Igbo women in communities.

The United Umuada Igbo Club International, UUICI over the years established initiatives that could enable the organization provide empowerment, education resources and services to women in communities of Southeast States Nigeria, creating global connections for them and mentoring them on how to advance the business.

These women noted for their smart and intelligent attributes re-imagines themselves to much better opportunities and United Umuada Igbo Club International, UUICI considers the priority theme of CSW67 Session, Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls a necessary priority for women in communities of developing countries. These women efforts and commitment to eradication of poverty and ending hunger in their homes and lives of their children requires concerted innovations towards technology change to enable the achievement of gender equality and empowerment among them.

In committing to the priority theme of the CSW67 Session United Umuada Igbo Club International, UUICI conforms to the agenda of the Session but affirms that

Inclusive Digital Economy with focuses on gender equality especially on women in rural communities be brought to book

Emphasis should be made to explore more on technology change and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls

Action oriented policies on barriers rural women and marginalized groups face towards digital inclusion and digital equality should be provided to guide women organizations and advocates to resourceful and meaningful director.

Women and other traditionally values, culture, and barriers in order to create a more inclusive digital society that have negative impact on women need to be made inclusive to the agreed conclusion of the CSW67 Session

For action to be taken on reducing the barriers women face in digital inclusion, a deeper analysis is needed. Such deeper analysis should be one that could reflect on innovation and technology change to advance the course of gender equality.

UICI believed that in the digital age, digital tools and technologies might be the missing ingredient to solving the gender equality problem if not directed towards;

Power towards ability of women to make decisions and act on them

Power within a woman or girl's sense of self-esteem, dignity, and self-worth

Power with a woman or girls' strength gained from solidarity, collective action, or mutual support

United Umuada Igbo Club International, UICI affirms that innovation and technology change occur when women and girls are provided with adequate skills and knowledge that could enable them work adequately through expanded access and control over resources and changes to the institutional structures that can ultimately shape their lives and futures as key elements in model of women and girls' empowerment.

United Umuada Igbo Club International, UICI believes that the capacity of women and girls to take purposeful action and pursue goals, and be able to express themselves in decision-making, leadership, and collective action. And these are necessary ingredients for innovation, connectivity, formal and informal rules, and practices, that shape and influence women and girls' ability to express and assert control over resources.

Within United Umuada Igbo Club International, UICI, we are currently developing our initiative on Orange Day to address Gender Based Violence on Gender Equality as well as to explore the role our organization could play in educating on digital literacy on rural women. We also see great potential to apply the empowerment model within our existing efforts to mainstream gender lens within our core program content and strategies.

With the CSW67 session priority theme, we wish to integrate our approach to learning with principles that could frame the analysis and synthesize the testimony that can better understand women and girls' empowerment as it relates to innovation and technology change

Within world women in rural communities, United Umuada Igbo Club International, UICI are supporting the development of guidance on how to better measure women and girls' empowerment, using the model of innovation and technology change as an organizing framework to commit to advance our mission on measuring empowerment and contribute to the challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls.