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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 Istituto Diplomatico Internazionale, 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

In order to address successfully the gendered nature of digital inequality especially in rural areas, State Members should invest in increasing their technology and internet networks, adopt policies in order to facilitate Women and girls access to education to information and communications technology and technological devices functioning and maintenance, invest in financial online services of banks, lending and micro-credit institutions, to be made available through user friendly apps on smart phones who have become the more globally used and almost cheapest devices. At the same time formation on the Sustainable Development Goals through new curricula at different study levels (primary, secondary and universities) should be widespread in order to generate sustainable use of the technology, having into consideration both improvement in the welfare and the addicting and dependence impact the use of technologies could cause to people and in particular of the women and young girls using them for the first time.

We are certain that, in this way, in the light of the above, the very dignity of women would be better protected, expected that the facilitated and shared access to the study and use of new technologies, would contribute not little to breaking down the barriers of socialization that a woman in rural areas still suffers.
