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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 United Umuada Igbo Club International (UUIIC) Inc., 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 United Umuada Igbo Club International welcomes the CSW68 Session priority Theme: “Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective” and wish to affirm that since the era of 2015, upon the establishment of the organization, United Umuada Igbo Club International have committed to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of Igbo women adequately on gender equality and empowerment initiatives.

Being organization of professional Igbo women, we found empowerment as an active ingredient for accelerating gender equality among Igbo women and girls through advocacy to preserve our rich cultured gender heritage, curb gender-based violence, and administer economic empowerment. We are committed to the promotion of habitual peace, gender integrity, respect, and inclusion of generation equality.

United Umuada Igbo Club International on recalling the United Nations high-level meeting marking the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, the Secretary-General António Guterres clarion call to Member States, noted the need to accelerate progress toward achieving the goals of the Beijing Platform for Action.

These goals from Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action remains the bedrock of gender equality and women empowerment which created opportunity for United Umuada Igbo Club International to outreach to Igbo women in native country and in Diaspora on gender equality, economic development, education and empowerment on skills, knowledge, and resources they need to strive into the world of work and positioning. In focusing on empowering Igbo women and girls, we strive to support women in various aspects of lives including education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. Through these initiatives and programs, we enhance lives of women, enabling them to lead fulfilling and empowered lives.

With the era of Decade of Action, we see Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls intimately linked to the achieving Sustainable Development Goals and worked our mission into strategies for eradication of poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective on Igbo women. Our initiatives have recorded tangible success that strengthened our committed efforts more at the grassroots communities.

Gender inequality among Igbo women Nigeria is oldest and most forms of inequality denying women their voices, devalues their work and make women’s position unequaled from the household to the national and global levels. Despite some important progress to change this in recent years, no country has women achieved economic equality with purposeful balancing to life on poverty and eradication. Igbo women still more likely than other women of indigenous groups to live in poverty. Accelerating achievement of gender equality to address poverty must be seen to address Lower-paid, unpaid, undervalued: gender inequality in work

Low wages: Across the world, women are in the lowest-paid work. Globally, they earn 24 percent less than men and at the current rate of progress, it will take 170 years to close the gap. 700 million fewer women than men are in paid work.

Lack of decent work: 75 percent of women in developing regions are in the informal economy where they are less likely to have employment contracts, legal rights or social protection, and are often not paid enough to escape poverty. 600 million are in the most insecure and precarious forms of work.

Unpaid care work: Women do at least twice as much unpaid care work, such as childcare and housework, as men – sometimes 10 times as much, often on top of their paid work. The value of this work each year is estimated at least \$10.8 trillion – more than three times the size of the global tech industry.

Longer workdays: Women work longer days than men when paid and unpaid work is counted together. That means globally, a young woman today will work on average the equivalent of four years more than a man over her lifetime.

With these still placed on work for women, addressing poverty in women especially on Igbo women seems far and more efforts are needed to ensure sustainable successes that could address poverty and strengthen institutions and financing for sustainability.

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 CSW68 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 addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective.

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 empowerment model of skill, knowledge and 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 igbo women and girls.

United Umuada Igbo Club International admonishes customs, traditions, and history and the believe that embracing and safeguarding our cultural identity, Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective can strengthen our sense of gender empowerment and positioning to leadership, decision making and gender integrity, unity, and pride for a gender world.