



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
20 December 2023

Original: English

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### Commission on the Status of Women

Sixty-eighth session

11–22 March 2024

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 Children of Nigeria, 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.

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\* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## **Statement**

The United Children of Nigeria, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering the youth of Nigeria through education and technical assistance. At United Children of Nigeria, we believe in the transformative power of knowledge and skills to create brighter futures for the young minds of our nation. Our mission is to provide educational opportunities and technical assistance to youth in need, equipping them with the tools and knowledge necessary to thrive in a rapidly changing world. We are committed to breaking down barriers to education and fostering innovation and creativity among Nigeria's future leaders. We envision a Nigeria where every child has access to quality education and the opportunity to develop essential technical skills. Our vision is to empower young individuals to become self-reliant, socially responsible, and globally competitive citizens.

## **Our Impact**

Over the years, United Children of Nigeria has worked tirelessly to make a positive impact on the lives of countless young Nigerians. We have provided scholarships, mentorship programs, and vocational training to empower our youth to reach their full potential.

## **Our Latest Achievement**

We are proud to announce our recent milestone—a two-acre land acquisition in Epe, Lagos, Nigeria. This acquisition marks a significant step toward our goal of establishing a state-of-the-art technical training facility. This facility will serve as a hub of innovation, providing hands-on technical training, workshops, and resources to empower youth to pursue careers in various technical fields.

## **Empowering Women for a Brighter Nigeria: The United Children of Nigeria's Women Empowerment Initiative**

The Women Empowerment Initiative is spearheaded by the United Children of Nigeria with a mission to provide free technical training for women aged 16 and above across Nigeria by offering them certification and job training opportunities, regardless of their educational background. We firmly believe that education is the cornerstone of empowerment, and we are dedicated to breaking down barriers and transforming lives.

In alignment with our mission, we are excited to announce a significant achievement—a two-acre land acquisition in Epe, Lagos, Nigeria. This remarkable milestone represents our commitment to creating a state-of-the-art technical training facility. This facility will serve as a beacon of hope and opportunity, equipping women with the technical skills and certifications needed for various entry-level job positions, such as administrative and office support, retail and sales, hospitality and food service, information technology, and many more. Our goal is clear: to prepare women to enter the workforce confidently or support them in launching their entrepreneurial endeavors.

The gender equality journey begins with access to quality education, a fundamental human right. The World Bank reports that Nigeria has one of the highest rates of out-of-school children globally, with girls being disproportionately affected. Poverty is a significant driver of this disparity. In Nigeria, as in many parts of the world, young women face significant barriers to accessing quality education due to socio-economic challenges, cultural norms, and limited opportunities.

## **Empowering Women Through Education**

Education is the most powerful tool we have to empower individuals and transform communities. Yet, many women in Nigeria face barriers to accessing quality education. In impoverished households, school fees, uniforms, and supplies are often unaffordable luxuries. Inadequate educational facilities and resources in impoverished areas further hinder learning and academic achievement. As a result, women in Nigeria may find themselves trapped in a cycle of poverty, with limited opportunities for higher-paying jobs. Our initiative aims to disrupt this cycle by providing free technical training that transcends educational backgrounds. We recognize that not all women have had the privilege of formal education, so our program welcomes participants from all walks of life. Even women who have never set foot in a classroom can join our program and receive a comprehensive education that equips them with marketable skills.

## **Technical Skills and Certification**

At the heart of our initiative lies the belief that technical skills and certifications can be transformative. We are committed to offering training in a wide range of technical fields, from administrative and office support to information technology, healthcare, and engineering. By providing women with these skills, we open doors to employment opportunities that were previously inaccessible. Through rigorous training and hands-on experience, our participants will gain the confidence and competence needed to excel in various entry-level job positions. From receptionists and sales associates to dental assistants and IT support specialists, our graduates will be well-prepared to enter the workforce and contribute to their families and communities.

## **Measuring Progress: Metrics and Data Analysis**

In our pursuit of profound change, we aim to implement robust metrics to measure our progress. Data analysis will play a pivotal role in tracking the impact of our initiative. We will monitor factors such as job placements, business startups, income levels, and overall well-being to assess our effectiveness in empowering women. Our metrics will not only gauge individual success but also evaluate the broader societal impact of our initiative. We believe that empowering women extends beyond personal fulfillment—it has the power to transform communities and the nation as a whole. By collecting and analyzing data, we can make informed decisions, refine our programs, and continually improve our efforts.

## **Holistic Empowerment: Beyond Technical Skills**

Beyond technical skills, we recognize the importance of holistic empowerment. Our curriculum includes classes on financial literacy, conflict resolution, and mental health support, tailored to address the unique challenges faced by women. We understand that financial instability often leads to mental health issues, and our goal is to provide a holistic education that equips women with not only technical skills but also the resilience and knowledge needed to succeed.

## **Childcare Support and Accessibility**

We are committed to ensuring that our program is accessible to all women. We understand that many women face the dual challenge of pursuing education while caring for their families. To facilitate their participation, we are dedicated to offering free childcare during training sessions. By removing this barrier, we empower women to focus on their education and personal growth without the burden of childcare responsibilities.

### **Solving One Problem, Fixing Ten Others**

We believe that solving one problem can fix ten others. Poverty and financial instability have ripple effects that touch every aspect of an individual's life and permeate through communities. By empowering women through education and technical training, we address a multitude of societal issues, from economic instability to mental health challenges. Our vision encompasses strengthening social safety nets to provide economic security for vulnerable women and their families.

### **The Interconnected Causes of Financial Instability and Poverty**

The causes of financial instability and poverty are multifaceted and interconnected. Stress, physical health problems, limited access to education, healthcare disparities, inadequate housing, and limited employment opportunities are some of the complex challenges that impoverished individuals face. These issues create a vicious cycle that traps individuals and families in a cycle of poverty. Our initiative seeks to break this cycle by addressing these challenges at their core.

### **Joining Forces for Change**

We understand that empowering women requires a multi-faceted approach, and we are dedicated to creating and implementing policies that span various sectors. We invite you to join us on this transformative journey, as together, we educate, inspire, and empower the women of Nigeria, fostering a brighter future for all. Join us in making a profound impact. Together, we can create positive change that ripples through families, communities, and our nation as a whole. By empowering women, we not only transform individual lives but also contribute to a stronger, more prosperous Nigeria.

In conclusion, the Women Empowerment Initiative led by the United Children of Nigeria is not just a program; it's a movement. It's a call to action to recognize the untapped potential of women in Nigeria and to provide them with the tools they need to shine. By investing in women's education and skills, we invest in the future of our nation. We envision a Nigeria where every woman has the opportunity to reach her full potential, where financial stability is a reality, and where communities thrive. Join us in this transformative journey and be a part of building a brighter future for Nigeria. Together, we can empower women and change the world—one empowered woman at a time.

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