



## Economic and Social Council

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### Commission on the Status of Women

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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 Association of Women Professional Financial Managers, Chibuzor Human Resource Development Organization, Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre, Heal the Land Initiative in Nigeria, i-Smile International, Irene Menakaya School Onitsha, Law Explorer Development & Assistance Initiative, Leah Charity Foundation, Tabernacle Worship and Prayer Ministry Inc, and Women and Child Watch Initiatives, non-governmental organizations 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

Since the Millennium Development Goals, priorities have been given to gender equality reflecting the ever-increasing efforts by the United Nations towards gender equality. Reiterating further the establishment of the Commission on Status of Women since 1946, the adoption of the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 1979 (OHCHR, 2020), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995 (UN, 1995), the establishment of UN Women in 2010 (UN, 2012), the inclusion of Gender Equality in all the 17 SDGs and 169 Targets, efforts had been significantly in place on successes towards the achievement of gender equality and the untapped potentials on gender equality for sustainable future.

Important gains have been achieved since 1995. More girls are in school than ever before and more countries have reached gender parity in educational enrollment; the global maternal mortality ratio has decreased significantly, and the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel increased over the past decade.

Further still more efforts through SDG 5 and targets, efforts are geared towards gender issues such as unpaid work, sexual and reproductive rights, gender based violences, less participation of women in political and secular positions.

In recent years progress has been uneven and even stalled in some areas. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic threatens to halt or reverse the gains of decades of collective effort on gender equality and the empowerment of women. Across every area, from health to the economy, security to social protection, women and girls are disproportionately affected. We must acknowledge and support the significant role that women play in building strength and recovery efforts in the rapid response and the long-term.

Today achievement of gender equality had reared successes with more opportunities globally created for women in all facets of life.

Since the Post 2015 Agenda, empowerment of women and girls have reechoed the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in various ways and in all facets of gender equality. Women and girls have not relented in the stride to ensure that by 2030, women and girls of all situations receive high level of empowerment to enable them adjust effectively to the present day global warming and climate change.

When women and girls are adequately empowered to live to their full potentials, everyone is included in the beneficial outcome. Various efforts by stakeholders including The Decade of Action and Delivery to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, launched by world leaders in 2019, mobilized initiatives, policies and campaigns to tackle both emerging and existing gaps in the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

Employment of Women and girls enables opportunities to set strategic goals, make investments with partners, align to community, societal, national, and global core values to the continued achievement of gender equality.

## Creating Change

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by world leaders in 2015, expresses a roadmap for progress that is sustainable and leaves no one behind. However, achieving gender equality and women's empowerment revolves around each of the 17 Goals.

Women and Eradication of poverty through SDG 1 have strengthened the capacity of women towards economic development and empowerment of women to world of work and economic development.

The effects of women living in poverty, sexism and racism on institutional structures and across society limit the employment opportunities available to women, availability of caregiving supports, access to public social assistance programs, thereby leading to higher rates of poverty among women, particularly women of color, compared with men. Some of the interrelated causes include the following factors.

- Occupational segregation into low-paying jobs
- The gender wealth gap
- The gender wage gap
- Lack of supportive work-family policies to manage work and caregiving.
- Disability
- Domestic violence
- Inadequate and inaccessible public supports

Our organization have come to terms that although many efforts have been put in place across the world on women and poverty, significant steps can be taken to reduce poverty among women. Such steps could include. A variety of robust policy solutions that will ensure women's long-term economic security.

Closing the gender wage gap to strengthen existing protections and more combat unfair pay practices by promoting pay transparency, protecting workers from retaliation, restricting the use of salary history in hiring and compensation decisions, and much more.

Closing the gender and racial wealth gaps most necessary to ensure policymakers pursue efforts to close the gender and racial wealth gaps alongside investments in efforts to build wealth among women.

Raising the minimum wage, eliminating the subminimum wages for tipped and disabled workers, and ensuring Member states and global finances and wages management agencies, Raise the Wage Act, to develop legislative policy on work wages for women including women with disability and less privileged situations.

### **Ensuring access to work-family policies in consideration for childcare for working women**

Reauthorizing and expanding VAWA to continue the lifesaving work supported by VAWA requires not only to reauthorize the law, but also expand it to better protect and support all survivors and ideal punishment for perpetrators.

Our organizations, Association of Women Professional Financial Managers, Chibuzor Human Resource Development Organization (CHIDO), Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre Cislac, Heal the Land Initiative in Nigeria (HELIN), Irene Menakaya Schools Onitsha, i-Smile International, Law Explorer Development and Assistance Initiative, LEAH Charity Foundation, Tabernacle Worship and Prayer Ministries, and Women and Child Watch Initiatives affirm that "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" policy solutions must address the innumerable ways that uniquely burden women, depress their way of life, and limit their opportunities.

There should be need to improve vital programs that will not only address the workplace disparities, ensuring work-family benefits, and expanding access to lifesaving supports but also include machinery for continuous evaluation and assessment on "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".