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entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and
peace for the twenty-first century”

Statement submitted by Betneely Charity Foundation, 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

Betneely Charity Foundation has over the years committed its mission to the empowerment of women through promotion of gender integrity, Gender solutions and gender humility. Betneely has created a forum where the class could network with the low socio-economic gender group and they see themselves as women of common good.

In a world where crisis is often abated when it is escalated, we sometimes tend to look at our current state rather than the future state. We bask in the now and leave the future for those in it. Fortunately for us, the tides are gradually shifting. A good number of people are beginning to project their actions. These ones consider their actions and the repercussions for them. However, on the other hand, we are always swift to point a finger or play the blame game when things go wrong. Often we blame the government, the institution or the mindset of others whilst forgetting to look inward. Sometimes we assume that being in this world and not making an impact will only affect us. Little do we know that our voices need to be heard. Our impact is also as important, it causes a ripple effect in society. The anti-colonialist, Mahatma Gandhi famously said, “You must be the change you wish to see in the world”.

The change must start with you, us. In speeding up the process of gender equality, no one can afford to sit back and wait for the leaders to do it all by themselves. Significantly, our leaders emerge from our societies, born out of our systems and structures. Therefore, we must collaborate. We must make their passion our passion. This goes beyond patriotism. In every sphere of life, we must strive to see that women are empowered. We keep on reiterating the issues of oppression of women and girls all around the world, but why don't we turn every obstacle into an opportunity for progress and success?

We admire the passion and drive that is stirred up at every gender conference, forum, and meeting. If only they could be channeled into our everyday lives and activity; where we constantly call out the wrongs, we see. Where we walk or drive across the streets and tend to girls and women in need of a miracle. Rather than defining a woman based on her mistakes, we could see past all that to offer a helping hand. We have often learned and relearned the fact that women are vital in every society. No woman or girl should be left behind. Therefore, we must be intentional with repositioning our policies and institutions at large to be gender responsive. We must get as many collaborative hands-on deck as possible if necessary. At the Betneely Charity Foundation, we are a body with a key driving force of “Building people and changing lives”.

The goal is to transform the lives of people we come across, never leaving them the same way we met them. To make a difference in their lives, in one way or the other. Sometimes, one need not look far for someone to help. Globally, the poverty rate has increased by 0.2 percent according to the World Bank report in March 2023.

Taking from this year's theme of “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”, the preferable solutions should be taken into great consideration. We should make investments in the girl child at every opportunity we get. Investing in her education is investing in the woman she will become. Investing in women and their healthcare and strengthening and equipping health facilities will also play a large role in the long run. Considerably, every level of government should have improved and accessible healthcare facilities in the 21st century, down to the grassroots. We are grateful for the widespread enlightenment and clamor for gender equality so far.

As a matter of fact, it can never be overemphasized, for there are still societies across the globe that only regard women as baby-making machines or household machines. The potential of women is disregarded and overlooked. This is not to say that those in these societies are evil but only that they are not enlightened. Ignorance is not so bliss after all. Through engaging in enlightenment by investing in education, healthcare, and job/economic opportunities for women, we can see that eradicating poverty is not so far-fetched. We long to see men helping women, women helping women.

There should be no gaps, however, women should stand in the gap. Moreover, there is a call for the calibration of the mindset of human beings towards gender sensitivity. As new generations are born, parents, teachers, and every agent of socialization should be intentional in conditioning the mindset of children to treat others as equals regardless of race, gender, deficiencies, and the likes. It is important that we train minds to be gender responsive. After all, we cannot force anybody to do anything against their will. This is where the issue of human rights comes in. Then again if the rights of people are impeding the rights of women and girls the society then there is a need for the reworking of systems and policies. Integrating a gender perspective into key strategies of the state such as the financial aspects that are crucial to poverty eradication can unlock resources specifically tailored to promote women's empowerment.

In committing to the CSW68 Session priority theme, Betneely Charity Foundation admonishes that to accelerate 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 women and girls in rural communities must be provided with:

- Provide the ticket to a better life: clean water.
- Support girls and women in crisis.
- Mentor a girl close to home.
- Invest in a small business owner in empowering rural women.
- Use your voice to help keep girls in school and make available sanitary towels for continued clean health and hygiene.
- Help a widow and women in crisis in communities.
- Utilize your story to tell the women in your life that you care.

We urge global leaders to prioritize these actions in fostering a more equitable world for all women and girls for our sustainable future.
