

---

**Commission on the Status of Women****Fifty-fourth session**

1-12 March 2010

Item 3 (a) (i) of the provisional agenda\*

**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”: implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and its contribution to shaping a gender perspective towards the full realization of the Millennium Development Goals**

**Statement submitted by International Council of Women; National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women’s Clubs, Inc.; National Council of Women/USA; Soroptimist International; World Federation of Ukrainian Women’s Organizations; American Psychological Association, 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.

---

\* E/CN.6/2010/1

## Statement

We, the International and National Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council) are committed to promoting advancement of women's equality of life through empowerment of women throughout their lives. Since the Beijing +10, it has generally been agreed that the Beijing Plan of Action has been left behind with more attention given to the Millennium Development goals (MDGs). The MDGs have their value without question; however, at this time, we are concerned that more attention must be given to women's issues because they are last on the list in every area. Women take excessive burden of work compared to men. They are excluded from progress in determining policy and stereotyped in the role of domestic work. 15 years after Beijing Platform of Action women are still discriminated against and violence against them still prevails.

We urge the promotion of planned gender mainstreaming and gender strategy in all policies and programmes. We must strengthen legal frameworks.

It is of an essence to ensure women's economic empowerment and access to and control over resources. Women must be given access to knowledge, especially of the practical type that can mean the difference between life and death to their families, such as learning how to combat malaria, to make compost, to obtain better nutrition, and how to swim. This knowledge will support them in protecting themselves and their families in their day to day battles, in times of crisis and in natural disasters.

Now, more than ever, women are recognized as the cornerstone of our societies. Therefore, it behooves governments, development agencies and communities to support them and to ensure that their needs are met in order to elevate the overall human condition. We support sustainable improvement of women's position and quality of life to achieve realization of justice and gender equality at the national, regional and international levels. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action has done much to focus the world on the importance of uplifting women in our society and guaranteeing them equal access to their basic human rights; yet, much is left to do. In 2010, the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration, let us renew our commitment to women and reconfirm our belief that they are fully entitled to all the benefits of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

---