Commission on the Status of Women
Sixtieth session
14-24 March 2016
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 New Future 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

After 20 years, we have witnessed joint efforts and positive outcomes of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women with the guidance and inspiration of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. In that sense, New Future Foundation is delighted with two major outcomes that occurred in 2015. First, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development between 13 and 16 July, 2015 that contained a strong commitment to ensuring gender equality and women’s and girl’s empowerment. Second, Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015 on 25-27 September in the same year, particularly with regards to Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Areas of concern of the 60th session will include “Women’s empowerment and the link to sustainable development. The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls”, action appraisals of the current session commenced by governments, civil societies, United Nations and other stakeholders will be reviewed to ensure their work will enhance progress in areas as “women and poverty, education and training of women, women and health, violence against women, women and armed conflict, women and the economy, women in power and decision-making, Institutional mechanism for advancement of women, human rights of women, women and media, women and the environment and the girl-child”. Such establishments will enhance the future outcome of empowering women across the globe.

History of violence against women is tied to the history of women being viewed as property and their gender assigned as subservient to men. In the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed on 10 December 1948 by the United Nations General Assembly, “violence against women and children” is considered as one of the most serious violation of human rights. According to research reports from around the world, violence against women and children is very common and profoundly consequential. Together physical and sexual abuse contribute to poor physical and reproductive health in women, drug and alcohol abuse, depression, suicides, poverty and hunger, and mortality both in women and their children. Intimate violence undermines women’s economic livelihood, women’s participation in public life and women’s involvement in politics, where they can be part of the decision-making process affecting their lives. Violence against women and girls is a major dimension of gender inequality worldwide (United Nations Secretary-General Report, 2006).

In this context, New Future Foundation would like to participate in the contribution and implementations of programs for women in poverty, as many of them are marginalized and ostracized from health access and proper treatments. The most vulnerable include indigenous women, migrants and refugees.

These groups especially deserve our attention with regard to programs with resources, access to protection and equal opportunity for education. New Future foundation believes that the female youth literacy program should be implemented among countries that have a significant gender-gap, and to encourage young women to participate in programs such math or engineering. Empowering women to participate in different areas of studies at a young age can help them develop an understanding of the world, which can help narrow the gender gap in political participation.
Calling upon ending violence against women, New Future Foundation ensures supporting the capacity to create relief shelters from donors and stakeholders for women who have been subjected to violence. In retrospect of different neighbourhoods, counselling for such women should be accessible. Creation of jobs for women and the encouragement of women to take on political roles is a necessity. Young women entering the workforce should have equal access to resources. Career development programs should be obtainable to certify opportunities for women in the labour force. New Future Foundation believes in advocacy for women to participate in protecting natural resources to generate sustainability, provision of agricultural development programs for women should be accessible for learning purposes on how to protect our environment.

In the implementation of the outcome of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we will fulfil our commitment to further actions in advancing the attention on gender perspectives, strengthen interactive dialogue among stakeholders, and reinforce the participation of women in decision-making. We appreciate the Commission on the Status of Women for playing a leading and strategic role in comprehensively organizing the work towards gender equity and the empowerment of women. In this connection, we agree that we should focus on ways and means to accelerate the implementation of commitments in the context of current challenges.

For more productive results, steps and measures for action-oriented recommendations should be based on exchanges of national, regional and global experiences, lessons learned, good practices and new insights to close remaining gaps and challenges and accelerate implementation. In addition, broad-based participation and dissemination of information will contribute to sustainable progress from collaborative brainstorming.

Finally, we would like to reiterate our strong commitment and support for HeForShe solidarity campaign for gender equality initiated by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. We endorse its goal that is to engage men and boys as agents of change for the achievement of gender equality and women’s rights by encouraging them to take action against inequalities faced by women and girls. We should point out that gender equality is an issue that affects all people socially, economically and politically.

We look forward to the coming of the day when unwavering gender equality is achieved.