



## Economic and Social Council

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### 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 Development Generation Africa International, 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 Development Generation Africa International is a non-governmental organization with focus on the inclusion of women in society, peace and conflict resolution and promotion of social dialogues for sustainable development in Nigeria. The large female population in Nigeria demand urgent action and proper mechanisms for their inclusion in society — the largest female population in our history — but they are disproportionately affected by unemployment. Presently, only “two” women made it to the list of over thirty-six (36) federal ministers of Nigeria. And women occupy, presently, less than 10 per cent of elective positions in government as well as business. This is a persistent problem, especially for rural women who do not have the primary means of production (land). Approximately 30 per cent of the women we work with are not employed, trained or educated, and around Nigeria, young women are worse off. We need to act now! How? We need to act together if we are going to realize the significant opportunities presented by this many young women today.

While circumstances vary in various states, our report on What Women Think and Feel — Nigeria informs us that the issues remain the same — the nation’s young women are unable to find sustainable productive work. This contributes to inequality, spurs poverty, and poses a risk to present and future national prosperity and the achievement of sustainable development. The report, discussed with women, identified women’s constraints of lack of motivation and education, and provided potential solutions to the employment and development crisis based on knowledge of successful and promising initiatives. It also highlighted specific populations — young women, youth in conflict and fragile areas, as well as rural and urban women — that requires dedicated attention. One urgent concern was giving women a voice — through the media! A Nigerian women newspaper for women will be desirable — to educate and motivate and inspire the transformative change that we want.

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