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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 OneMama Incorporated, 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

OneMama Incorporated's mission is to bring prosperity and health to people all over the world by empowering women as caregivers, mothers, businesswomen, and agents of change for their rural communities. It is also critical that the voices of women and girls be heard during the twenty-five-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995. With a five-year review and implementation milestone quickly approaching towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 2020 will prove to be a pivotal year for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was an important historical milestone for all women globally bringing attention to women's concerns and recognizing women as equal partners in policy development. It reaffirmed that women's rights are human rights and that women need to enjoy equal rights and opportunities with men to create sustainable and just societies. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action made comprehensive commitments under 12 critical areas of concern and specified ways to implement improvements on national and global levels. The objectives addressed included the development of gender-based methodologies and the revision of laws and administrative practices. On the international scale, the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action had a significant impact, but further action is crucial to ensure gender-responsive strategies, gender based-research, practices, guiding principles, and continuously considered public and private sector operations.

OneMama Incorporated operates in the East Africa Member State, Uganda, and in the United States, partnering with the consultative non-government organization, Women's Intercultural Network, that adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action as a framework for grassroots organizing in California and in Uganda. We have witnessed a significant win for women in our United States operating municipality of San Francisco, California with the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women as a city-wide ordinance in 1998. The implementation brought women closer to equality by requiring gender analysis of government departments and creating the gender equality principles initiative. These tools adopted the human rights lens, helping to prevent discrimination and integrate gender considerations into daily operations first within the city departments and more recently in the private sector.

Between 1980–1985, OneMama Incorporated's primary program's operating territory – Uganda – both signed and ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. The Member State, however, is not without challenges implementing it and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. In the 2018 Global Gender Gap Index, Uganda was ranked 43rd out of 149 countries with a score of 0.724. Gender inequality is still persistent particularly in ownership of productive assets. Women own only 28 per cent of the owner-occupied houses and 27 per cent of agricultural land. Regarding financial inclusion, 48 per cent of adult women do not save their earnings. Despite these challenges, Uganda's gender equality and the empowerment of women draws legitimacy from its Constitution which mandates the State to ensure gender balance and representation of marginalized groups.

Recommendations

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action will occur in 2020 post the sixty-fourth annual session of the Commission on the

Status of Women. Since the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, stakeholders have met on several occasions at the regional and global levels, in 2000 for the fifth anniversary, in 2005 for the tenth anniversary and in 2010 for the fifteenth anniversary to review progress made towards gender equality and the development of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In June 2000, the General Assembly also adopted a political declaration, reaffirming Member States' commitment to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action's objectives. Prior review of the progress Member States made regarding the twelve critical areas of concern remained slow in certain areas, namely in the areas of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 3, 6, 5, 8, 11 affecting gender empowerment, the overall participation of women in economies, and their maternal health. OneMama Incorporated is committed to the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals through its ongoing aforementioned efforts and makes the following recommendations.

Peripherally, we recommend all governments participate by forming national plans of action to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action locally and continue to monitor these action plans by holding regional and local governments accountable. The national plans of action for each country must outline specific activities that the national governments will undertake to improve the situation of women according to the Sustainable Development Goals 1, 3, 6, 5, 8, 11 and the 12 provisions outlined in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Officials should track with a matrix their efforts by goal for all public programs.

Since 1995, and particularly in the last five years according to Uganda's June 2019 national report on implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action by the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development, the government has multiple initiatives underway for the advancement of women and girls in line with the Uganda Vision 2040. Initiatives include The Higher Education and Students Financing Board Act, 2014; Domestic Violence Act, 2010; the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act, 2010; the National Health Policy in (2016) addressing maternal health needs to name a few.

OneMama Incorporated's projects support the governments efforts, and include a newly introduced water purification system and bottling plant to decrease incidents of waterborne illness (Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 5, Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: women and health area); interactive family planning resources that empower women as decision-makers in maternal and reproductive health (Sustainable Development Goal 3; Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: women and health area); domestic violence awareness programs to stem the tide of perpetual violence against women (Sustainable Development Goal 5, Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: violence against women); entrepreneurial programs aimed to raise the economic status of women as stakeholders in their communities and income generators for their families (Sustainable Development Goals 1,2,8; Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: education and training; women and poverty); and agricultural programs to ensure sustainable economic and nutrition in rural communities (Sustainable Development Goals 1,5; Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: women and economy).

OneMama Incorporated also operates in the United States where 25 years later it remains a challenge for the federal government, non-governmental organizations, and non-profit service organizations to make effective use of policy. The United States continues to be one of five member states failing to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women. OneMama Incorporated has partnered with United States based non-government organizations, including Women's Intercultural Network who architected the Cities for CEDAW campaign to continue our efforts towards addressing the 12 critical areas of concern,

namely reducing poverty and increasing women's participation in economies by empowering women as entrepreneurs; addressing maternal health issues in rural communities; increasing women's power in decision making, and supporting training and education.

Globally, we must also engage in public-private partnerships often to increase the presence of women on leadership teams, on private sector budgeting committees, and within the workforce in all Member States. Working as private sector technology and financial institution consulting leaders, OneMama Incorporated's officers ensure private sector participation and compliance with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and Sustainable Development Goals, including influential hiring decisions of women leaders in addition to participation in conferences and authoring books and materials for the advancement of women while raising awareness of global conditions for women.

Individually, we must support efforts in local communities for the advancement of women and girls by asking how we can contribute using the strongest two global frameworks for gender equality: the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women.
