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Statement submitted by World Jewish Congress, 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

Throughout the decades, women all over the world have been shattering barriers that discriminate and impede them from gaining equality and equity. Such efforts and accomplishments have paved and empowered the next generation of women to have a brighter and hopeful future. Today, on the domestic and global front, women still struggle to thrive personally and professionally. Deterring their chance to succeed proves that inequality and inequity towards women is still a present issue.

Nowadays, multiple organizations advocate on behalf of women to combat these pressing issues. The Commission of the Status of Women has been on the forefront in promoting socioeconomic opportunities and prosperity for women. The annual conference unites various stakeholders to address and propose solutions on pressing issues faced by women in present times. The United Nations has been crucial in promoting collaboration and cooperation between nations and different organizations. Their ongoing efforts play a big role in improving women's situation by developing concrete recommendations for actors to implement at domestic and international levels. The World Jewish Congress applauds the endeavors of the United Nations and the Commission of the Status of Women.

The World Jewish Congress supports the effort that has been made in advancing women's equality and empowerment in areas such as education. We believe that equal access to education, regardless of gender, can significantly enhance personal and professional well-being and success. The World Jewish Congress believes that when minorities face discrimination, women within these communities are even more exposed, having to also face discrimination based on their gender. Thus, the best means to help minorities to overcome those discriminations is through education.

Education is a powerful tool in combatting all forms of hate and discrimination as well as promoting equality for all, regardless of age, gender, religion, and race. Our organization has been on the forefront in placing a greater emphasis on education in areas such as the Holocaust and combatting antisemitism. In partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), we launched an educational website about the Holocaust (aboutholocaust.org), which aims to reach students and young people across the world in dozens of languages, including Arabic and Farsi. We are confident that by unceasingly investing in education, together, we can fight the negative, discriminative and hateful tropes that impede minorities' rights and freedom.

Judaism places great importance on education and equality. Jewish people value education because it is embedded in Jewish culture. Education has also been an effective means to transmit and preserve the culture and tradition to the next generation. In some parts of the world, the opportunity for Jewish women to gain education enables them to become leaders, pioneers, and innovators, and has helped pave the way for the next generation of women to succeed in various fields.

For example, Henrietta Szold, an American Zionist Jewish leader, was the founder of Hadassah – a Zionist women's organization that created infrastructure for a modern medical system in Palestine, serving both Jews and Arabs. Rebecca Sieff, born to a wealthy Jewish family in England, founded the Women's International Zionist Organization – an organization that advances the state of women and Jewish education in Israel and the Jewish Diaspora. These are only a few examples of successful Jewish women, who championed the cause of equal access to education and opportunity for women to overcome the socioeconomic and political struggle faced by nations around the world.

Israel has a rich history of successful women. Since its establishment, the country has been committed to promoting gender equality and continues to endorse women's empowerment worldwide. Women in Israel stand out as leaders in many fields such as law, medicine, and politics. The most notable one is Golda Meir, who was the first female Prime Minister to be elected in the Western World in 1969, at a time when world politics were heavily dominated by males. The country has also been actively promoting women's rights around the globe through organizations like Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and has committed to ending child marriage by 2030. These accomplishments can happen because in Israel, women make up 57 per cent of students entering higher education.

As such, as the representative body of over 100 Jewish communities worldwide, the World Jewish Congress encourages all kinds of participation, commitments, and discussions to end intolerance and unfairness towards minorities. We are committed to the advancement of education to solve the pressing issues of women in all parts of the world.
