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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 African Trade Center LTD/GTE, 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

Goal 4 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals commits to ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all. It encourages global actions that “ensures that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes”.

A survey conducted in all the regions of the world, indicated that sub-Saharan Africa has the highest rates of education exclusion. Over one-fifth of children between the ages of about 6 and 11 are out of school, followed by one-third of youth between the ages of about 12 and 14. According to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute of Statistics data, almost 60% of youth between the ages of about 15 and 17 are not in school.

As part of our institutional actions, African Trade Center and the Office of the First Lady of Imo State of Nigeria is launching a street-to-school programme as an instrument towards ending this scourge. We are therefore making this statement to request the Commission on the Status of Women to use its influence to engender global actions to reduce education exclusion and finally ensure that every African child – and indeed children in developing nations – are not only in school, but is receiving quality education.
