



# Economic and Social Council

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## Commission on the Status of Women

Sixty-seventh session

6–17 March 2023

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 Medical Women’s International Association, 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

1. The Medical Women's International Association (MWIA) established in 1919, brings 103 years of legacy and action in promoting health, well-being and rights of women and female medical professionals, and mainstreaming gender equity in medicine and global health. The Association is the voice of more than 12,000 female medical professionals across 8 geographic regions of the world, representing 36 affiliated National Associations and individual members.

2. The Medical Women's International Association acknowledges that the gender equality and related targets of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals will be missed without accelerated actions and investments at global, regional, national and sub-national levels.

3. In relation to the priority theme of the 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls), data and evidence available from the United Nations member states, specialized agencies of the United Nations, International Financial Institutions, other development partners and academia, indicate at gender disparities that still prevail. Specifically,

a. Substantial gender equality gaps remain worldwide, especially among low- and middle-income countries.

b. Economic empowerment efforts of women are not sufficient, and as of 2022, the uncontrolled gender pay gap remains at 0.82 US Dollar for every 1 US Dollar that men earn. Women workforce continue to be concentrated in lower paying positions across different sectors, including in the healthcare industry. Furthermore, women have faced unemployment at a disproportionately higher rates during the economic turmoil of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

c. While we continue to witness a global digital revolution, the rapid technological development has not brought equal opportunities for women and girls. Women account for only 57% of the population that use the internet and in low- and middle-income countries women are 10% less likely than men to own a mobile device.

d. Future global market projections indicate that demand for qualified human resources in information technology and innovations will rise, while gender equality is nowhere near to being achieved in the areas. Only 24% of computing jobs are held by women, female professionals leave the technology industry at a 45% higher rate than men, and women account for only 16.5% of inventors listed on international patent applications.

e. In the healthcare sector specifically, women represent 70% of the global healthcare workforce. Yet, only 25% of executive leadership jobs are occupied by female professionals. Women are widely employed as doctors, nurses and other medical personnel across countries of different economic income, but gender parity is missing in leadership positions. Furthermore, female medical professionals are facing a growing need for information-technology skills to administer and/or manage digital health technologies of continuously evolving complexities.

f. Finally, the scientific and operational research findings indicate that economic empowerment of women can facilitate fulfillment of the rights of women, and accelerated progress towards attainment of gender equality goals and targets.

4. Based on the current stocktaking of data and evidence vis-à-vis the priority theme of the 67th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women,

the Medical Women's International Association calls for the United Nations member states to:

- a. Reinvigorate action for implementation of gender equality agenda as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, other international Human Rights treaties, Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.
- b. Enable and protect the human rights of women and girls, including their rights to equitable access, meaningful use and employment of technologies.
- c. Ensure increased political advocacy for expanding education and employment opportunities for women and girls in technology fields, including for female medical professionals and medical students.
- d. Ensure expanded financial investments for closing the gender pay gap, including through increased and equal opportunities for women entrepreneurs and innovators.
- e. Prioritize new funding streams for increased access to technology and innovations for women and girls through traditional donor resources, public-private partnerships and innovative financing platforms for development.
- f. Support experience-sharing between member states and non-state actors, including among civil society organizations for disseminating best practices and innovations for elimination of the gender equality gaps.
- g. Collaborate with academia for generation and documentation of evidence on what works for reducing gender equality gaps in different socio-economic and cultural contexts, including for accelerating access to technologies and innovations for women and girls.
- h. Support innovative public-private partnerships for meeting priority needs of women and girls in different industry sectors, including equal availability of gender-specific personal protective equipment and other commodities for female medical professionals.
- i. Facilitate partnerships with information-technology industries for stronger and more effective advocacy platforms for protecting and promoting the rights of women and girls, reducing gender equality gaps and raising awareness on required actions from multiple stakeholders.
- j. Support targeted investments and interventions for capacity building of medical women and female medical students in view of the increased influence of digital technologies on provision of quality healthcare, and the dominance of female health professionals on the front-line of health service delivery.

5. In preparations for the 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Medical Women's International Association reaffirms its commitment to collaborate with member states, international development partners, private sector, civil society organizations and academia for the advancement of the priority theme (innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls).

a. We hereby confirm that the Theme of the Medical Women's International Association for the new 2022–2025 Triennium "One Humanity: Health Solutions through our Partnerships" fully resonates with the priority theme of the 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

b. The Medical Women's International Association expresses its readiness for partnering with governments and non-state actors for efforts to increase access to information and technologies for women and girls in general, and for female medical professionals in particular.

c. Finally, we reiterate our commitment and continued action for mainstreaming gender equality agenda in medicine and global public health, including for equal access to and meaningful use of digital health solutions by women and girls, and medical women.

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