



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
6 November 2023

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women

Sixty-eighth session

11–22 March 2024

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 Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan, 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

Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan is an organization dedicated to the cause of women empowerment for over three decades. Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan was established in year 1992 with a vision to create a society where women are recognized, valued, and provided with equal opportunities for growth and development. Our organization is deeply aligned with the principles and goals outlined by UN Women, focusing on gender equality, sustainable development, and the establishment of a peaceful and just society. Through our unwavering commitment and diverse projects, we have positively impacted the lives of more than 200,000 marginalized women and girls.

Our work stands as a testament to the transformative power of dedicated efforts in advancing gender equality. Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan stands as a beacon of hope, tirelessly working towards the upliftment of rural, marginalized, and deprived communities in the Indian state of Rajasthan. Through our comprehensive initiatives spanning education, gender equality, sustainable livelihood, women empowerment, social inclusion, health etc we are providing our best to the people we serve. Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan's unwavering dedication to the upliftment of rural, marginalized, and deprived communities serves as a testament to the transformative power of grassroots initiatives. Our multi-level approach, paints a comprehensive picture of what Impact truly entails.

We all know that Gender equality is more than an aspiration; it is an intrinsic pillar of sustainable development and the cornerstone of human rights. In a world where more than two-thirds of the illiterate population comprises women, the urgency of this cause cannot be overstated. While 143 countries have affirmed equality between men and women in their Constitutions, there remain 52 nations yet to take this essential step. It is imperative, regardless of our geographic location, to recognize that gender equality is a universal human right, and its realization is critical to every facet of a thriving society.

Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan has undertaken a range of initiatives aimed at advancing gender equality, promoting development, and fostering peace within our communities. Below are some of our key programs:

Empowerment through Education: We firmly believe that education is the cornerstone of women's empowerment. Our organization runs numerous educational initiatives, including scholarship programs, vocational training, and adult literacy classes, to ensure that women have access to quality education and skills development opportunities.

Economic Empowerment: Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan is committed to creating economic opportunities for women through entrepreneurship development, microfinance initiatives, and skill-building workshops. By providing women with the necessary tools and resources, we enable them to become self-reliant and financially independent.

Health and Well-being: The health and well-being of women are paramount to their overall empowerment. Our organization conducts awareness campaigns, health clinics, and workshops on reproductive health, maternal care, and nutrition, ensuring that women have the knowledge and access to services needed for a healthy and fulfilling life.

Advocacy and Policy Influence: We actively engage with local and national policymakers to advocate for policies and legislation that promote gender equality and women's rights. Our advocacy efforts are aimed at creating an enabling environment where women's voices are heard and their rights are protected.

Community Mobilization and Awareness: Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan places a strong emphasis on building resilient and inclusive communities. Through community mobilization efforts, we work to challenge harmful social norms and stereotypes, promote women's participation in decision-making processes, and foster a culture of mutual respect and support.

In recent time, Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan is tapping on the cause of gender equality through a visionary initiative we term SAMATVA, a Sanskrit word which means Equitable Practices. Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan organized two events on SAMATVA at United Nations Office at Geneva during 52th & 54th Human Rights Council sessions and it was the beginning of SAMATVA and the entire audience expressed their interest in going forward with it. At a time when our interconnected world is striving for inclusivity and equal opportunities for all, the implementation of SAMATVA can significantly contribute to fostering a better society for everyone, transcending boundaries and cultures. This transformative concept envisions a world where every woman enjoys equal rights, opportunities, and respect. At the heart of SAMATVA lies a universally recognizable logo, akin to symbols that signify dietary choices. This emblem serves as a powerful commitment, enabling businesses, governments, and organizations to transparently communicate their dedication to gender equitable practices and facilitating women's advancement across all organizational levels.

In an interconnected world where diversity thrives, a universally acknowledged symbol for gender equitable practices is a powerful tool for information dissemination. This emblem transcends language barriers and cultural boundaries, making it effortless for individuals worldwide to identify entities aligned with SAMATVA's values. Such a visual marker fosters awareness, encourages change, and promotes accountability, setting a new standard for global social responsibility.

SAMATVA's logo has the potential to revolutionize societal attitudes and practices, much like the transformation brought about by symbols indicating dietary choices. Entities displaying this emblem proudly would not only showcase their commitment to gender equity but also inspire others to follow suit. Governments endorsing this symbol would signal their dedication to creating a more inclusive society, driving policy changes and initiatives that empower all individuals.

The SAMATVA initiative seamlessly aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, acting as a catalyst for their achievement. Specifically, SAMATVA can contribute to Goal 5: Gender Equality, Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, Goal 10: Reduced Inequality, Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, and Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals.

The global adoption of SAMATVA holds the promise of profound positive implications, including cultural transformation, increased economic growth, enhanced social cohesion, youth empowerment, and heightened government accountability.

In order to fully harness the power of SAMATVA, we implore the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women to lead the charge in advocating for its global adoption. By establishing an international framework that encourages governments, businesses, and organizations to integrate this symbol into their practices, we can collectively work towards dismantling gender-based inequalities.

The advantages of SAMATVA's implementation are manifold. It would offer global visibility, transcend cultural and linguistic barriers, establish gender equity as a societal norm, contribute to economic growth, and empower individuals to make informed choices.

Honorable Members of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, your support for this initiative would catalyze its adoption by nations, businesses, and organizations worldwide. Let us work collectively to create a world where gender equality is not just a distant dream but a tangible reality. In recent, Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan commends the passage of the bill reserving one-third of the parliament's seats for women in India. This monumental decision marks a significant stride towards gender equality and reflects the nation's commitment to inclusivity and progress. The recent passage of the bill to reserve one-third of the parliament's seats for women in India is a watershed moment in the country's history. Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan wholeheartedly supports this legislative move and views it as a testament to India's commitment to gender equality and inclusive governance.

In conclusion, Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan remains steadfast in its commitment to the ideals of "Women 2000." We believe that through collective effort, determination, and collaboration, we can create a world where women are equal participants in the development and peace-building processes. SAMATVA is not just a symbol; it is a beacon of hope, a catalyst for change, and a testament to the boundless possibilities of a gender equitable world. Let us take the first step toward a brighter future by embracing SAMATVA and inspiring others to join this global movement. Together, we can redefine the contours of societal norms and create a legacy of equality for generations to come.
