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Statement submitted by The Canadian Federation of Business and Professional Women, 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

The Canadian Federation of Business and Professional Women is honoured to submit this written statement in line with the priority theme of the 68th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, “Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective.”

Key Ideas

- **Inclusive Economic Empowerment with Pay Equity and Unpaid Care Work:** We emphasize the imperative of inclusive economic empowerment, encompassing both pay equity for work of equal value and the recognition of the disproportionate burden of unpaid care work shouldered by women. Gender disparities persist in income, asset ownership, and economic opportunities, posing formidable barriers to achieving gender equality. We strongly urge member states to adopt comprehensive policies that not only promote equal pay for equal work and address occupational segregation but also prioritize initiatives to alleviate the unequal burden of unpaid care work on women and encourage women’s entrepreneurship.
- **Access to Quality Education with a Focus on Digital Inclusion and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics:** Education is a cornerstone in the fight against poverty, and it is vital to recognize that access to education is closely tied to internet access, particularly in rural, remote, and Indigenous communities. Evidence highlights the profound impact of investing in women’s education, not only on the health and economic prosperity of their own families but also on future generations. Additionally, a strong emphasis should be placed on providing equitable access to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics education. We urgently call upon governments to prioritize these issues by investing in girls’ education, dismantling barriers, and offering comprehensive sexuality education. In doing so, we empower women and girls with the knowledge and opportunities needed to shape their own futures and contribute to society’s advancement.
- **Strengthening Institutional Mechanisms for Gender Equality and Empowerment:** Robust institutions serve as the foundation for achieving gender equality. It is imperative to acknowledge that many women continue to face barriers that hold them back from attaining decision-making roles. In this context, mentoring and career-path planning emerge as essential mechanisms that can facilitate women’s progression in various fields. Furthermore, it is crucial to establish institutions with policies and mechanisms designed to support women in the workplace. Such initiatives may encompass flexible working hours, the provision of on-site childcare facilities, and more. We call upon member states to bolster these institutional mechanisms for gender mainstreaming, actively encourage women’s participation in decision-making processes, and ensure that the voices of women resonate in policymaking at all levels. By doing so, we create an environment where women are not only present but empowered to thrive in their chosen fields.
- **Gender-Responsive Financing with Clear Measures of Success:** Robust and unwavering gender-responsive financing is indispensable for achieving gender equality. We emphatically urge governments to allocate substantial budgets to gender-focused programs and projects and to steadfastly ensure that development funding meticulously addresses the distinct needs and priorities of women and girls. Additionally, it is imperative that these programs and projects

incorporate clear and measurable indicators of success to track their impact and effectiveness in advancing gender equality.

- **Collective Action:** Recognizing that no single entity can achieve gender equality alone, we encourage collaboration among governments, civil society, and the private sector. We emphasize the importance of partnerships and joint initiatives to accelerate progress towards gender equality.

Organization Information

The Canadian Federation of Business and Professional Women is a non-profit organization committed to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in Canada. With a network of professionals and businesswomen, we advocate for policies and actions that advance the status of women in all sectors of society.

In conclusion, the Canadian Federation of Business and Professional Women believes that addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective are pivotal for achieving gender equality. We urge member states to take bold and decisive actions in these areas to accelerate progress towards a more equitable and just world for all.
