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Assembly: Priority Theme: “Fostering social development
and social justice through social policies to accelerate
progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for
Sustainable Development and to achieve the overarching
goal of poverty eradication”

Statement submitted by Network of Women’s Non-governmental
Organizations in the Islamic Republic of Iran, 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 Importance of Women Empowering in Sustainable Development and Poverty Alleviation

In any country administration, it is necessary in Sustainable Development programs to have a national plans for structured development proportionate to the country’s needs and towards the improvement and dignity of humanity led to people not to face difficulties in securing a healthy and worry-free life. Society must independently have self-interference in the administration of the state, family management, and ensuring the future of their new generations. It is really truth that creating a strong family institution economically, culturally, and socially is only possible through sustainable development and the use of effective strategies.

Paying attention to the women role as a main factor inside families and society is one of the most vital and fundamental strategies for sustainable development plan, which can ensure the people for a peaceful, scientifically, economically life.

In a sustainable development plan for running the government, not only there is no need for urgent decrees and executive command programs but also real, fair, and all-encompassing competition plays the best role as a regulating and balancing principles in social processes. It is clear that the lack of a strategy in sustainable development plan will cause poverty which led to ignorance, vulgarity, insecurity, injustice, and corruption in the community.

Poverty, as a fundamental factor can harm dignity of society and has a self-reinforcing process and destructive of cultural, social, economic, political, and governmental infrastructures of the country. Briefly, poverty is an issue that, when it emerges, will be accompanied by many abnormal behaviors such as miss-religiosity, irresponsibility, and the silence of consciences.

Indeed, any appropriate solutions that eliminates poverty in the society can create peace, health, vibrancy, motivation, employment, fertility, population growth, self-esteem, and national pride in the proper implementation of sustainable development policies. Women, as a house managers are the first vulnerable groups in poverty conditions.

Women, as a large contributors (nearly 50% of the total population) in society, having the responsibility of child upbringing, longer life expectancy than men, emotional and managerial presence in the family, lack of entry into military structures, have a good capacity to accept any responsibility in the society. They have been able to contribute to GDP up to 40%. So, necessity of paying attention to women, as an unavoidable opportunity is very important and empowering them, can play a significant role in poverty reduction and sustainable development.

It should be emphasized that empowering women is not just a matter of social justice but is a prerequisite for economic development, especially in a time when global economic growth is declining, and economies need to harness all their productive energy to address economic crises.

In fact, “women in society play a significant role in the expansion of businesses and entrepreneurship, as well as in the family’s well-being, through their acquisition of scientific skills and higher education. Over the last four decades following the revolution in IRAN, women have gradually seen more opportunities for empowerment due to their competence and influence in social, economic, scientific, and managerial fields. They have increased their participation in economic and managerial areas at the household and national levels.
Primarily, women, due to spending more time at home and closer access to children, have a better ability to deal with their educational needs, creating opportunities for further education, acquiring various specialties, and gaining scientific skills for economic self-sufficiency.

Consequently, when the universities got ready to admit women, a significant portion of girls has entered universities, that caused increasing the average literacy rate in society.

Today, in IRAN a considerable number of women (20% of the working population) are engaged in high-income and critical professions, including public services, healthcare, production, commerce, and, with managerial skills, they hold positions in executive bodies of the country, large industrial corporations, and private multinational companies.

Women, especially housewives, are the primary decision-makers in most purchases and household furnishings. They support children to marry and create another economic chance which indirectly helps the economy of their own households.

This group is highly targeted by various industries, from automobiles to financial services, luxury travel, and electronic appliances. Women not only hold the key to household shopping diversity and home furnishing but are also a strong driving force in domestic expenses for themselves and their families.

Women in Iranian ancient geographical areas, with the potential for hospitality, hotel management, the promotion of indigenous arts, and the development of communications, have paved the way for ecotourism and tourism in ancient regions. This has not only helped introduce traditional and historical areas of Iran, generating income through the sale of handicrafts which has given them financial support in the family specially for the education of children, particularly girls who were often victims of the lack of continued education due to poverty in rural areas.

In this regard, women have played a significant role in introducing traditional literature and ancient Iranian artifacts, and many young people have honed their skills in attracting tourists and tourism.

Women at home, depending on the skills got from their fathers, grandfathers, and ancestors, and their familiarity with commercialization, have successfully initiated home-based businesses, such as traditional medicine and alternative medicine, the cultivation of medicinal plants, or collecting from nature, or producing carpets and handicrafts. These businesses have not only provided their livelihood but have also created employment opportunities for many unemployed individuals in their families and communities.

Empowering women as the head of households has created direct and indirect business opportunities for 35,000 individuals with a total investment of 13,770 billion rials. Further, with technological advancements and innovative businesses, many women, with an understanding of society’s needs, have been able to offer new solutions for social and economic problems. These have been considered by governmental customers. Nowadays, many educated women with management skills are responsible for running large industrial companies or have invested in them with financial analysis.

It must be emphasized that development sign in any society is the business environment run and managed by women entrepreneurs. Women as the most important human resources, can play a potential role in the development of economic sectors in society, including the business sector. Women’s participation in economic
activities not only enhances women’s capabilities and skills but also plays a key role in the economic and social development of society.”

Moreover, beyond the homemaker’s roles, as an economic manager in sustainable development, they have had a significant impact in the society and could increase GDP.

In fact, women have successfully established 14 production cooperatives in the production of raw materials and have developed a network of 700 supply chains for various products.

They not only provide raw materials to those employed in the production of final products but also take charge of marketing and selling these products. Producers of raw materials track unfamiliar markets and introduce processed products to new and extensive domestic and international markets.

With an economic perspective and diligence, women have overcome employment constraints compared to men, enabling them to take on high-precision responsibilities in various industrial and governmental sectors, thanks to increased literacy and university education.

Women with their initial assets as dowries in marriages, could also become stagnant capital hubs in their homes, by activating their capital in the economic activities of society, they contribute to the growth and prosperity of the country’s economy.

Certainly, with more awareness and active social engagement, women can play a crucial role in achieving a competitive and healthy economy in sustainable development.

With enhancing women’s abilities, we could create greater capacity for them to take more responsibilities in various sectors of product manufacturing. This will strengthen and expand employment, skill development, and innovative businesses at the societal level.

Women serve as educational mentors; household cost and management can support their children’s future. They also participate in fertility and population growth, family health concerns, preserve and introduction of indigenous and domestic arts, contribution in development of tourism, and engage in agriculture and establishing animal farm, various businesses skills and can effective role in sustainable development.

Governments are expected to determine the high added value of women’s empowerment support the country for achievement of sustainable development indicators.

Even, this efficient manpower can play a significant managerial role in society by activating dormant capital and engaging in industrial units, particularly during economic challenges in the level of government.