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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 Criminologists Without Borders Inc, International Alliance of Women, Red Dot Foundation, Servicios Ecuménicos para Reconciliación y Reconstrucción, Soka Gakkai International, Unchained At Last Inc, Women’s Refugee Commission, Inc., and Zonta International, non-governmental organizations 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

As organizations who also serve as Executive Committee members of the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Committee on the Status of Women, New York, along with our member organizations, to address the critical areas of concern highlighted in the priority theme of the sixty-eighth 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.” We emphasize the importance of intersectional approach in order to achieve these goals comprehensively as they impact women’s lives in profound ways, to drive meaningful change. The elimination of violence against women and girls, particularly the most vulnerable, is a thread that is woven throughout all of the challenges specified in this statement. Women and girls in all their diversity must be included in leadership and decision-making processes at all levels in order to address the following:

Intersection of Women’s Poverty and Climate Change

We emphasize the critical intersection of women’s poverty and climate change, including the concept of climate debt. Women, especially in marginalized communities, bear the brunt of climate impacts while having the least contribution to its causes. We call for climate justice measures that recognize women’s roles as environmental stewards and ensure their equitable participation in climate adaptation and mitigation efforts, and the need for climate solutions to adopt a differentiated approach that takes into account the specific impacts and needs of women and girls in all their diversity.

Anti-Colonial Feminist Perspective on the Current Macroeconomic System

We urge a reevaluation of the current global macroeconomic system from an anti-colonial feminist lens to rectify historical injustices and ensure that economic policies prioritize equity and empowerment, especially for marginalized women.

Debt Crisis and Its Impact on Women

The debt crisis in many countries exacerbates poverty among women. We call for fair and sustainable debt restructuring mechanisms, acknowledging their gendered impacts, and a transparent process that includes women’s participation.

Care Economy

Recognizing the immense contribution of unpaid care work, we urge governments to invest in care infrastructure and policies that redistribute care responsibilities, enabling women to participate fully in economic and social life.

Technology, Digital Literacy and Access

Bridging the digital gender divide is essential. Efforts should be made to provide women with equal, affordable access to digital resources, education, and safe online spaces, empowering them in the digital era. A focus on safety on technology-facilitated gender based violence is vital to the participation of women and girls while accessing technology.

Water Insecurity and Poverty

Addressing water insecurity is fundamental to poverty eradication. Addressing water insecurity is crucial for poverty eradication and gender equality, as women are often responsible for water collection and management. Gender-responsive water management strategies are essential to uplift women and girls in marginalized communities.

Migration and Poverty

Migration is often driven by economic factors. States should ensure that migration policies protect the rights of migrant women and address the root causes of poverty that compel migration. Women migrants face unique challenges, including heightened vulnerability to poverty. Policies must consider the gender-specific aspects of migration and provide support accordingly.

Military-Industrial Complex and Poverty

We call for demilitarization and a shift in resources from military spending to social programs that alleviate poverty. The military-industrial complex perpetuates gender-based violence and poverty.

Combating Gender Bias in Economic Policy

Governments should reform economic policies to eliminate gender bias. Progressive taxation, equal pay, and gender-responsive budgeting are essential steps towards economic equality.

Education and Poverty

Quality education is a cornerstone of empowerment and poverty reduction. Efforts should be directed towards eliminating barriers that hinder girls' access to education.

Advancing Social Justice

Lastly, an overarching focus on social justice is essential to ensure that policies and initiatives aimed at poverty reduction and gender equality are rooted in principles of fairness, equity, and human rights. Achieving gender equality requires a commitment to social justice. We call on governments to enact policies that dismantle systemic discrimination, promote social inclusion, and ensure equal opportunities for all.

In conclusion, we believe that an intersectional approach to addressing poverty and strengthening institutions with a gender perspective is essential to accelerate progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. We call upon CSW68 to prioritize these areas of concern in its deliberations and decision-making processes, ensuring that no one is left behind in our collective pursuit of a more just and equitable world.