



# Economic and Social Council

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## 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 International Alliance of 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.

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\* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## Statement

International Alliance of Women, an international non-government organization founded in 1904 and holding General Consultative Status since 1947, has examined the issues posed by the Priority Theme: 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. The Commissions of the Alliance are the experts in their several fields and they have taken on the task of formulating recommendations to the upcoming Session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Decision-making bodies will not address poverty of women and girls, and the strengthening of institutions and financing with a gender perspective, unless and until women equally participate in all levels of those bodies, and all members and officers/administrations of those bodies undergo regular compulsory training in gender perspectives, women and girls' inequality, and how to ensure equality for women and girls.

Therefore, the International Alliance of Women's Democracy Commission proposes that:

- In addition to programmes and policies directed to ensuring women's equal representation and participation in national and provincial or state Parliaments and local government (local councils and representative decision-making bodies):
  - States Parties must ensure that women participate equally and are equally appointed to:
  - Leadership and administrative positions at all levels within all political institutions including political parties;
  - Leadership and administrative positions at all levels within government including all government departments, commissions, committees and policy making and decision making bodies;
- States Parties must, where necessary, introduce equal opportunity/antidiscrimination/human rights legislation or amend existing legislation to ensure that all elected bodies including national and provincial or state Parliaments and local government (local councils and representative decision-making bodies) are covered by the laws aimed at gaining equal rights and equality for women and girls.

Inspired by the Priority Theme of the previous Session the International Alliance of Women's Commission on the Digital Divide requests that the Session in 2024 take the following into account in order to develop agreed conclusions:

At this moment there is a 'cost of living crisis' most everywhere in the world and it hits women and their children particularly hard. We formulate as priorities:

- The implementation of gender equality in all policies at national and international level;
- Consistently referencing women and girls in all their diversity as the majority of primary caregivers for children and as more likely to be unpaid carers for disabled and older people;
- As a person who may be assaulted with impunity, the value of women is degraded with the continuation the widespread occurrence of men's violence

against women, among others, rising number of femicides and the use of gender-based violence through the use of ICT and social media;

- Closing the gender pay and gender pension gaps by implementing equal pay, that is equal pay for work of equal value;
- Implementing gender budgeting in all budget policies at national and international level to ensure that government services reach all sectors of society with equal support;
- Recognising gender bias in data, Artificial Intelligence and algorithms leads to developing gender sensitive and intersectional data and use them in analyses for equitable outcomes;
- As the world moves toward more electronic connection and labour practices, the importance of (digital) education throughout the life course, including older women and women and girls with disabilities cannot be neglected.
- We must not let children be submerged by the growing gap created by Artificial Intelligence, since although it can be a wonderful tool, it can also be a brain eraser. Education must impress upon children that they have a wonderful brain which can help them bridge the gap and create an equitable future.

In reference to the Review Theme: Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls International Alliance of Women and its Commission on Migration offers the following:

International Alliance of Women (IAW) welcomes the position of the sixty-third session of the CSW, as expressed in its agreed conclusions, paragraph 25, while noting “the vital importance of birth registration for the realization of all human rights, including the right to social security, as well as the social protection systems”. It “expresses concern at the low levels of birth registration among migrant women and girls”, among others, and “expresses further concern that all persons without birth registration may be more vulnerable to marginalization, exclusion, discrimination, violence, statelessness, exploitation and abuse”.

Many international agreements establish the right of everyone to be recognized as a person before the law; Article 6 of the Declaration of Human Rights, Article 24.2 and 24.3 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to mention only the most important.

Article 7 of the International Covenant on the Rights of the Child confirms the right to be registered immediately after birth, the right to a name, the right to a nationality. Yet, according to UNICEF, the births of one fourth of children under age five worldwide have never been officially recorded. This means that apart from not having access to the above mentioned fundamental rights, those children are prone to the multiple forms of abuse, such as being abducted, trafficked, sold, being forced to marry, or becoming a sex slave.

International Alliance of Women is of the opinion that a very important aspect of birth registration is the path it opens to nationality, especially for children born to a refugee mother with an absent, missing, or dead father. It is also important to establish family ties through a birth certificate. In doing so, it will be easier for the child to prove its nationality, when going back to its parent’s home country. This is even more important when the law of this country makes it impossible for a mother to pass on her nationality to the child.

In preparing for the Commission on the Status of Women's agreed conclusions 2024 on its review theme, and in view of the Commission's own assessment in the agreed conclusions 2023 as outlined above,

International Alliance of Women strongly urges the Commission on the Status of Women to contribute to the process leading up to the Summit of the Future 2024 by addressing the obligation of United Nation member states to implement Target 16.9 of the Sustainable Development Goals "to provide legal identity for all including birth registration by 2030".

International Alliance of Women and its supporters call on the governments of the Commission on the Status of Women to take these well-reasoned recommendations, based on foundational UN documents and principles into consideration as they create the Conclusions of the 68th Session in 2024.

Endorsed by:

Canadian Federation of University Women  
Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas (FAWCO)  
Graduate Women International (GWI)  
International Association for Religious Freedom  
National Alliance of Women's Organizations  
Soroptimist International  
The Canadian Federation of Business and Professional Women  
Women's Federation for World Peace International

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