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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 Worldwide Organization for 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

Whereas women and girls have access to global technological services i.e., the Internet, unlike ever before, it is essential for parents to have software and device tools that allow them control of online content to ensure the safety of their children, because the potential exposure to harmful content is also increased, especially for young women and girls. There exists an abundance of harmful, online content that is specifically created and targeted to young women and girls, including ideas to confuse purpose and identity, the overt sexualizing of the female body, attacks on female biology, and the promotion of risky sexual behavior-even pedophilia, as well as suicide, all which contradict female empowerment, while at the same time encouraging young girls to disregard parental direction, and healthy traditional norms.

Therefore, Worldwide Organization for Women advocates for the universal installation of effective device and software controls as the solution. This renders a parent the tools necessary to ensure the safety of their child, while also protecting parental rights, and preserving open and uncensored online content and dialogue. The Worldwide Organization for Women is not in favor of broad censorship at a governmental level. All people have the right to free speech. The best solution to safety, that also maintains free speech for all, is the right of parental access to tools that allow the administration of parental control over the child's technological uses.
