



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
9 November 2015

Original: English

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### Commission on the Status of Women

#### Sixtieth session

14-24 March 2016

**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 Socialist International 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

The Socialist International Women welcomes the discussion of women's empowerment and the importance of the contribution of women to the progress of sustainable development. Our global society cannot reach its full potential when entire segments of that society, particularly women, remain oppressed and excluded from participation in, or benefitting from, developments and initiatives in their regions. This year marks an historic turning point in the global perception of the importance and value of all of humanity, and the protection of the land and seas of the planet that sustains us. The agreement of the 17 Global Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015, 25-27 September 2015, New York, demonstrates the on-going commitment of world leaders and representatives to completing the work begun with the Millennium Development Goals. The Socialist International Women asserts its steadfast support of the progress and momentum of the Sustainable Development Goals, and is committed to ensuring gender inclusiveness across all platforms.

The achievements over the past 15 years, since the inception of the Millennium Development Goals, have made an immense difference to the lives of millions of women and girl children, and begun the critical process of decreasing maternal, infant and child mortality rates. We now have gender parity in primary education in 130 countries, women's access to paid employment has improved to the extent that women now hold 40 per cent of jobs in sectors outside agriculture, and women's presence in public sector and government roles has increased to unprecedented levels. With the support of the United Nations and affiliated agencies, women are also being enabled to share their knowledge and skills to support each other, which positively impacts on the wider community. An example of this is the recently formed National Yemeni Midwives Association in the Republic of Yemen, which recruits unemployed midwives and equips them to provide reproductive healthcare in their homes to women in their locality.

These are magnificent achievements, but there remains much work to be done to fully emancipate all women and girls worldwide. A number of gender related issues continue to be of acute concern, including violence against women, gross inequalities in the levels of women's unpaid family and household work, women's unequal rights and control over financial assets and property, wage and sex discrimination, reproductive rights and access to healthcare, and rights and access to participation in decision-making processes at local and national levels. Challenges also remain in capturing gender specific data on these issues. Without this crucial data, it is difficult for humanitarian agencies to make informed assessments and recommendations that could directly target specific local, regional or national concerns. It is vital that the post-2015 agenda addresses these outstanding issues, incorporating gender specific targets across all goals, to aid implementation by influencing sociocultural behaviours, public policies and legislation.

Together, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals are a powerful framework for action, to build on our achievements and ensure continuing progress to end gender discrimination and end the denial of the most basic of human rights to women and girls. The Socialist International Women particularly endorses Sustainable Development Goal 5, Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, as

instrumental in addressing the social and infrastructural factors that lie at the core of gender-based inequality.

The Socialist International Women endorses the global dissemination and discussion of gender inequality issues to provide the visibility needed to ensure accountability, encourage increased capture of relevant data, and support the open review and discussion of outcomes.

The Socialist International Women reiterates its support for the recommendation that the post-2015 Development Agenda includes measures proposed by the Beijing Platform for Action, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The Socialist International Women — a non-governmental organization with consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council — recommits to continue working for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Global Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Socialist International Women will continue its work to inform its 139 member organizations on gender related issues, to stimulate further commitment to the initiatives and programmes of the United Nations in their respective countries. The Socialist International Women will continue to encourage support across all regions for the implementation of the objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Global Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Socialist International Women takes this opportunity to call upon all Member States to:

- Incorporate the gathering and measurement of gender related data to enable detailed review and assessment of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Global Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Maintain support for the interventions and contributions of local populations and organizations, particularly non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, to aid in the ground-level implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Global Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Capitalise on the skills, knowledge and experience of local and migrant populations to help develop inclusive policies and legislation, with particular emphasis on gender sensitive issues affecting women and girl children.
- Ensure the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals provide a flexible, pragmatic framework that recognises and supports integration within local and national sociocultural and legislative environments.
- Promote the principle of Global Goal 5, Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, across the implementation of all Global Goals, to ensure visibility and encourage habitual gender inclusiveness in the formulation of public and private policies, and local and national procedures and legislation.