Economic and Social Council

Commission on the Status of Women
Sixty-second session
12–23 March 2018
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 World Federalist Movement, 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

Empowering rural women is a pre-requisite to fulfilling the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals that aim to end poverty and hunger, achieve food security, and empower all women and girls.

Appropriate and accessible information and communications technologies (ICTs) can be used to bridge the information gap and enable women's leadership. Women's media needs to be resourced to continue to do this as a participatory conflict prevention mechanism.

Particularly in post-conflict situations, community media creates safe spaces for sharing and dialogue to break cultures of silence and document the lived realities of the often unheard populations, especially women, and including rural women, young people, people with disabilities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities.

The community media process, including the use of media monitoring, can also be used as a gender inclusive early warning and early response mechanism — to identify, track, and make visible trends that could cause or exacerbate conflict and be a crucial source of data for state mechanisms as well in the implementation of development plans, policies and other commitments, including international treaties and conventions; women's media networks can also be supported to provide additional — not just alternative — coverage and analysis of the root causes of violence and conflict, which is often missing from mainstream media coverage, where women remain under-represented in news reports.

A good representation of women-enabled participatory models of governance is crucial for conflict prevention in broader society and communities. As women are personally empowered, they are also more capable of preventing conflict within their own homes as well.

––––––––––––––