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Written statement submitted by Jeunesse horizon, 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 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Written statement

Our organization has conducted a study on empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality in Cameroon. Its purpose is to identify concepts, take stock of problems and present a number of solutions.

Based on the concepts of poverty and social exclusion/inclusion, our analysis of the socio-cultural, political and economic situation in Cameroon shows the persistence of gender inequality in all spheres despite government efforts to improve the status of women. A number of socio-cultural constraints explain this situation.

In most social groups in Cameroon, men enjoy male privileges, but they share with women experiences of deprivation of liberty and humiliation due to political and social oppression.

Women account for more than half of the Cameroonian population. They are disproportionately affected by conflict, violent extremism, food insecurity and the lack of health care. As a result of discrimination and unequal access to resources, women are also at greater risk of poverty and gender violence.

In April 2003, the Cameroonian Government committed itself to resolving this phenomenon by adopting the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and defined its primary objective, which is “to substantially reduce poverty through strong and sustainable economic growth, more efficient spending, appropriately targeted poverty reduction policies and stronger governance.”

Improvements have been made in national policies and programmes on gender inequality. Despite these efforts, implementation falls far short of the commitments made.

Jeunesse horizon believes that women’s empowerment is everybody’s business. Each and every one of us needs to do his or her part to ensure social inclusion and equal treatment for the excluded and marginalized at all levels. This can be accomplished by instructing young people in human values.
