



## **Economic and Social Council**

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### **Commission on the Status of Women**

**Sixty-sixth session**

14–25 March 2022

**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 Women’s Board Educational Cooperation Society, 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

To the layman climate change, environmental and natural disasters are issues reserved for the people who converge in the United Nations building in New York to discuss or for government officials at various levels to worry about. In as much as a large population of Nigerians have poor knowledge about climate change and its consequences it does not undermine the fact that we are already experiencing its adverse effects.

These adverse effects are evident in the environment and more so in economic sectors such as agriculture, fishery and forestry. Who else but the poor rural people are more vulnerable to the impact since they depend on subsistence agriculture, live in unplanned or informal urban settlements and migrate from rural to semi-urban or urban areas for better lives?

The spate of disasters irrespective of the cause have negative implications for lives, food and livelihood, security, human capital welfare and infrastructures. In Nigeria it gives rise to low crop yield, food shortage, diseases and public health crisis, loss of shelter and road networks.

The hospitality industry is not left out of the impacts of climate change and environmental disasters. Many locations suffer the most from irregular weather and seasonal changes as they are exposed to dangers of rising sea levels, flooding, water shortages and erosion which damage natural landscapes. All these negatively affect business performance for everyone.

As a not-for-profit with a focus in hospitality education and vocational skill acquisition for women, we teach environmental education and work ethics to our students in the school's curriculum. This raises much awareness on the activities that are detrimental to the environment and possible solutions to such problems for the benefit of everyone concerned. We communicate reduction of carbon foot prints through trainings offered to colleagues in the industry in order to promote adoption of green initiatives so they can make impacts in their own space.

We have established rules and regulations which guide students, staff and other workers of our projects on waste disposals. Waste products from the classrooms, offices, kitchen and restaurants are segregated into different waste bins, well labelled and positioned for different nature of waste. We collaborated with Ecoprune, a private environmental solutions company based in Lagos that tackles waste pollution through recycling and we are still exploring other means to improve on waste disposal and create a safer environment.

Other best practices are the use of energy saving appliances especially lightings; composting food waste which are used as organic fertilizer for our gardens and farms where organic vegetables are grown; students and staff are encouraged to make use of cloth shopping bags made available in our schools, make use of glass bottles, and biodegradable or recycled packaging instead of plastic bags.

This is the little bit we have been able to do in our various projects and we suggest that more awareness is made especially via social media platforms and in schools. People should be made to appreciate their environment and come to realize that if we do not take good care of the earth, we will pay dearly for the degeneration which will occur.

To achieve gender equality and empower all girls and women in the context of climate change, we suggest that:

- Schools should be made to teach environmental education and adopt practices for students to imitate especially as it relates to reducing the risk which are

normally female oriented such as keeping the surrounding clean, pollution free and drainage free.

- Local authorities and community heads should educate their members on climate change, environmental disasters and their role in mitigating it.
  - A culture of taking care of the earth should be advocated for all so that we maintain our homeland. Both genders should be involved in this culture of care which should start with maintaining a clean and safe environment. Women are the ones who suffer most when there is crisis due to any lack of care as they have to contend with maintaining and keeping their family safe. Empowering them with the necessary skill and knowledge to enable them achieve this is paramount to achieving gender equality.
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