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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 Nazra for Feminist Studies, 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

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and 25 years of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security. These milestones come during a time of increased wars, conflicts, climate change, economic crises, and a severe rollback on rights and gender equality.

The Middle East and North Africa region has faced unprecedented challenges, including systematic sexual violence against women in Sudan, gender apartheid in Afghanistan and Iran, and economic gender-based violence in Lebanon, Palestine, and Syria. Despite United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325's ambitions, a gap persists between its goals and the political and financial support needed to achieve them, as shown in Afghanistan's recent peace process.

Women's movements continue to lead efforts for accountability and collective healing. This intersection of the Women, Peace, and Security agenda with women's struggles across the region highlights the urgency of a renewed commitment to gender equality, peacebuilding, and sustainable security. Beijing +30 reaffirms the vision of women's equal participation in decision-making and peace processes, strengthening the Women, Peace, and Security agenda.

We urge governments to adopt gender-sensitive policies and prioritize women's inclusion in peace processes. Now is the time for the Middle East and North Africa region to fully embrace the Women, Peace, and Security vision and ensure a pathway to sustainable peace.
