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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 National Council of Women of Canada, 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

Peace and Stability

The National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) has a long-standing history, spanning more than 132 years, of advocating for global peace, justice, and humanitarianism, both within Canada and on the international stage. We remain determined in our resolve, to be a champion for peace, stability, dignity and equality.

Throughout this 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, we will continue to highlight the critical need for peace and stability amidst ongoing wars and multidimensional conflicts which affect every aspect of life in all parts of the world. The issues of poverty, hunger, equality, health, dealing with economic growth and development, and climate change, do not progress and there is an increase in the risk of violence against women and children.

Peace and stability, fueled by mutual respect and cooperation, are essential to fulfilling the United Nations Beijing Political Declaration and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Peace is not a concept, nor merely the absence of conflict but rather the means to life, freedom, equality and justice; an ongoing state of mutual respect and cooperation.

Drawing on the United Nations Charter, we urge member states to reflect upon the General Assembly resolution A/RES/377/20 (V), the 294th meeting 1950, [377 \(V\)](#) Uniting for Peace, para A. with particular attention to opening statements which declare: “We the peoples of the United Nations Determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.”

As defined in the United Nations Charter, preamble Chapter I articles 1 and 2, we ask that member states reflect upon the General Assembly resolution A/RES/377/20 (V), the 294th meeting 1950, [377 \(V\)](#) Uniting for Peace, para A.

“We the peoples of the United Nations Determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war” is one of the opening statements in the Preamble of the UN Charter. This sentiment was a primary impetus for the establishment of the United Nations, founded by individuals who, by 1945, had experienced the destruction of two world.

Since its inception on October 24, 1945, when its Charter took effect, the UN has frequently been tasked with preventing conflicts from escalating into war and assisting in restoring peace after armed conflict, as well as fostering enduring peace in societies emerging from warfare. At this time, to strengthen global peace, we must rethink mediation and peacebuilding to be able to address today’s challenges. Peacebuilding is an ongoing process that requires constant communication, collaboration, and innovative ideas. Given the complex nature of modern conflicts, a new approach is essential. To be sustainable, peace must be nurtured continuously throughout the world.

For a better world, The United Nations needs to have as its foundation, the unity of humanity striving for peace and stability. To work to ensure no one is left behind, despite geopolitical tensions, climate change, and the rise of non-state actors who complicate traditional approaches to peace. Technological advancements, while offering new tools for communication and development, also present new threats. Resource constraints and structural obstacles further impede our efforts. Despite these challenges, we must remain steadfast in our commitment for peace in this world.

Recommendations

The Role of Women in Peacebuilding

Women have always played a crucial role in peacebuilding. From grassroots movements to international diplomacy, women bring unique perspectives and solutions to the table. In Canada, organizations like ours have promoted peace and justice for more than a century and are committed to continuing to do.

A Call to Action

We call upon our fellow citizens, policymakers, and global leaders to do everything possible to achieve peace at home and around the world. This requires a multifaceted approach:

1. **Promote Inclusive Dialogue:** Engage all stakeholders, including women, youth, and marginalized communities, in peacebuilding processes. Their voices and experiences are invaluable in crafting sustainable solutions.
2. **Invest in Education and Development:** Address the root causes of conflict by investing in education, healthcare, and economic development. Empowering individuals and communities reduces the likelihood of conflict and fosters a culture of peace.
3. **Strengthen International Cooperation:** Work collaboratively with other nations and international organizations to address global challenges. Peace is a collective responsibility, and we must support each other in this endeavour.
4. **Innovate and Adapt:** Embrace new technologies and innovative approaches to peacebuilding. This includes leveraging digital platforms for dialogue and using data-driven strategies to predict, prevent and end conflicts.
5. **Commit to Humanitarian Principles:** Uphold the principles of justice, equality, and humanitarianism in all actions, including providing aid to those affected by conflict and trauma, thereby ensuring that human rights and the dignity of each human being is respected.

As Canadian women, we recognize and believe in the transformative power of peace. We urge you to join us in our mission, dedicating and aligning all efforts towards a future where peace is not just a distant dream, but a living reality for all.
