



## Economic and Social Council

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### Commission on the Status of Women

Sixty-ninth session

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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 United Umuada Igbo Club International (UUIIC) Inc., 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

Our organization is honoured to submit this written statement in line with the priority consideration of the 69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly.

United Umuada Igbo Club International is a leading global organization of professionals empowering Igbo women worldwide through advocacy, education and counselling to preserve our rich cultural heritage and curb gender-based violence. We promote peace, respect, global inclusion that focuses on empowering Igbo women around the world. Our community is committed to supporting Igbo women in various aspects of their lives, such as education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. Through its initiatives and programs, the NGO aims to enhance the lives of women, enabling them to lead fulfilling and empowered lives.

As an organization of professional Igbo women, we found empowerment as an active ingredient for accelerating gender equality among Igbo women and girls through advocacy to preserve our rich cultured gender heritage, curb gender-based violence, and administer economic empowerment. We are committed to the promotion of habitual peace, gender integrity, respect, and inclusion of generation equality.

United Umuada Igbo Club International on recalling the United Nations High Level meeting marking the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, the Secretary-General António Guterres clarion call to Member States, noted the need to accelerate progress toward achieving the goals of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

These goals from Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action remain the bedrock of gender equality and women empowerment which created opportunity for United Umuada Igbo Club International to outreach to Igbo women in native country and in Diaspora on gender equality, economic development, education and empowerment on skills, knowledge, and resources they need to strive into the world of work and positioning. In focusing on empowering Igbo women and girls, we strive to support women in various aspects of lives including education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. Through these initiatives and programs, we enhance lives of women, enabling them to lead fulfilling and empowered lives.

With the era of Decade of Action, we see Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls intimately linked to the achieving Sustainable Development Goals and worked our mission into strategies for eradication of poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective on Igbo women. Our initiatives have recorded tangible success that strengthened our committed efforts more at the grassroots communities.

Gender inequality among Igbo women in Nigeria is one of the oldest forms of inequality, denying women their voices, devaluing their work, and perpetuating unequal positions from the household to national and global levels. Despite some progress in recent years, no country has achieved full economic equality for women or effectively balanced efforts to address poverty eradication. Igbo women remain more likely than other indigenous groups to live in poverty.

The United Umuada Igbo Club International (UICI) believes in the capacity of women and girls to take purposeful action, pursue their goals, and actively participate in decision-making, leadership, and collective action. These elements are essential for fostering innovation, connectivity, and the formal and informal rules and

practices that shape and influence women's and girls' ability to express themselves and assert control over resources.

Within United Umuada Igbo Club International, UUICI, we are currently developing our initiative on Orange Day to address Gender Based Violence on Gender Equality as well as to explore the role our organization could play in educating on digital literacy on rural women. We also see great potential to apply the empowerment model within our existing efforts to mainstream gender lens within our core program content and strategies.

With the CSW69 session priority theme, we wish to integrate our approach to learning with principles that could frame the analysis and synthesize the testimony that can better understand women and girls' empowerment as it relates to addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective.

Within world women in rural communities, United Umuada Igbo Club International, UUICI are supporting the development of guidance on how to better measure women and girls' empowerment, using the empowerment model of skill, knowledge and as an organizing framework to commit to advance our mission on measuring empowerment and contribute to the challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of Igbo women and girls.

United Umuada Igbo Club International admonishes customs, traditions, and history and the believe that embracing and safeguarding our cultural identity. Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective can strengthen our sense of gender empowerment and positioning to leadership, decision making and gender integrity, unity, and pride for a gender world.

In the Post thirty Years of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, United Umuada Igbo Club International will encourage:

- Empowerment
- Culture Preservation
- Advocacy
- Unity
- Gender-based Inclusion
- Gender-Based Priorities on gender issues

United Umuada Igbo Club International will continue to advance gender equality in the Post thirtieth anniversary with significant attention based on inspiring empowerment, cultural celebration, advancing equality through our initiative "Bridging Cultures Embracing You!"