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Statement submitted by Nor Luyce Mentoring Center for Youth, 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

Nor Luyce Mentoring Center for Youth NGO is the first mentoring organization in Gyumri, Armenia working with adolescent girls from and socially vulnerable families. We provide the girls with mentoring relationships, skill-building, career planning, and scholarships to pursue a college degree. This three-phased program promotes empowerment and the opportunity for girls to reach their full potential. The girls are not only provided with a safe space to share their challenges and gain emotional well-being, but they are also provided with support to feel empowered to bring social and economic changes both in their communities and throughout the country. The first of its kind in Gyumri, Nor Luyce provides an innovative and safe platform for adolescent girls from vulnerable backgrounds to boost self-esteem and resilience as well as to empower the girls to live self-sufficient lives, dream big, and achieve their career and personal goals.

In this manner, we urge the world to accelerate action and overall efforts towards gender equity and female empowerment by using the biggest tool of all: education. Education serves as the gateway to having a clearer understanding and path towards personal and professional development in all spheres of life. For instance, female activism and empowerment lead to creating inspiration for younger generations or technology training guides a safe and accessible use of media platforms and devices. Although these are just two examples of all the ways educating women leads to healthy and positive growth, it can be reasonably inferred that education is the key to fostering and increasing chances of success on multiple fronts.

Women's progress and development is a fundamental aspect to obtain progress in society, and investing in their education and empowerment to challenge themselves and follow their dreams has significant implications that lead to long lasting impact. In a global manner, when women receive education, they are more likely to get involved in multiple workforces regardless of the field – therefore contributing to their country's economic growth, make more knowledgeable decisions on a personal and family level, and overall promote women's involvement in career paths where they are underrepresented, motivating women with similar backgrounds and interest to do the same.

In the process of empowerment through education, women will be equipped with fundamental skills and knowledge that will enhance their confidence and self-perception. As women develop multiple competencies, they become a true voice for other women and serve as advocates in a certain area, to demand equity and fairness. Nevertheless, as their knowledge increases, these women will also become key players in civic engagement activities and support initiatives that promote social advancement. They can certainly play an essential role in advocacy for any cause they are passionate about, ultimately creating a more equitable community.

Additionally, women's development can make a long lasting impact on the economic advancements of an area. When women gain larger access to quality education, empowerment activities, and different career opportunities, they work on developing not only personal / professional skills, but also on redefining and reflecting on their unique and valuable perspectives that they bring to the table on a daily basis, which improves their capacity of success at any job market. They become versatile workers – having a passion to lead, implementing inclusive practices and innovative organizations, and crafting efficient work environments.

Furthermore, financial literacy is a crucial area for women's development – providing detailed knowledge about financial management, investment strategies and savings can help destroy cycles of poverty and financial dependency of others. By creating these pathways, financially literate women can create conscious decisions

about their futures, whether that entails pursuing higher education to complete career goals, investing in organizations, or even creating a business. This type of education creates a sense of energy and empowerment, allowing them to foster a stronger stability and financial improvement.

The United Nations provides a key role in the development and advocacy efforts for women – for instance, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action remains a pivotal framework for promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment globally. It outlines specific goals to ensure the full participation of women and girls in all aspects of society, emphasizing education, economic independence, and leadership. The principles of the Beijing Declaration align closely with the mission of the Nor Luyce Mentoring Center for Youth, which supports adolescent girls from orphanages and socially vulnerable families in Gyumri, Armenia.

At Nor Luyce, the focus on mentorship, skill-building, and higher education directly reflects the Beijing Declaration’s commitment to improving access to education and vocational training for girls. One of the Declaration’s key objectives is to eliminate disparities in access to education for marginalized groups, particularly girls from disadvantaged backgrounds. Nor Luyce works to achieve this by offering scholarships and career planning to help girls pursue higher education, thereby breaking the cycle of poverty and limited opportunities that many of these girls face.

Additionally, the Declaration calls for the empowerment of women and girls to participate in economic, social, and political life. Nor Luyce’s three-phased program, which includes emotional support and leadership development, empowers girls to take control of their futures and contribute to positive social and economic changes in their communities. By fostering emotional well-being and self-confidence, Nor Luyce equips these girls to become leaders in their communities, aligning with the Declaration’s vision of enabling women to have an equal voice in decision-making processes.

The three phases of Nor Luyce’s program exemplify the application of the Beijing Declaration’s commitments to advancing women’s rights. In the first phase, the focus is on emotional well-being, allowing the girls to build confidence in a safe and supportive environment where they can discuss their challenges. This aligns with the Beijing Declaration’s emphasis on providing women and girls with access to psychological support and safe spaces, crucial for their personal development. The second phase concentrates on skill-building, where the girls are equipped with the tools they need to succeed in their careers and education, echoing the declaration’s goals of promoting gender equality in education and training. In the third phase, girls are encouraged to plan and pursue higher education through scholarships, creating opportunities for leadership and self-sufficiency, allowing the girls of the program to apply their acquired skills in a globally mindful and productive manner.

Nor Luyce’s activities during the COVID-19 pandemic further showcase its commitment to the declaration’s goals. The organization adapted to virtual programming, providing continuous emotional and psychological support to mentees, and helping them navigate the challenges of isolation. This is critical in light of the Beijing Declaration’s focus on addressing the impacts of crises on women, ensuring their protection and continued empowerment even during times of global disruption.

Moreover, the organization’s alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly on Quality Education, Gender Equality, and Reduced Inequalities further reinforces the relevance of Nor Luyce’s objectives on the Beijing Declaration’s mission. By addressing educational inequalities and fostering leadership among girls from vulnerable backgrounds, Nor Luyce contributes to breaking cycles of poverty and gender-based discrimination. Through these initiatives, Nor Luyce promotes a generation of empowered women who can

influence social and economic change within Armenia, reflecting the global vision of the Beijing Declaration to create a world where every woman and girl has the freedom to realize her full potential.

Ultimately, Nor Luyce certifies that the advancement of women's rights and opportunities is essential for creating a just and equitable society. It is fundamental that there is a collective effort – all members of our community, from organizations to the government, need to break down systemic barriers and provide the needed resources for education and to continue empowerment. By prioritizing the advancement of women, we can create a path for a present where equity and inclusion are main pillars.
