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Statement submitted by International Association of Schools of Social Work, 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 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2011/100.



Statement*

We, the International Association of Schools of Social Work, working under the auspices of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations and in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council since 1947, are committed to the promotion of education throughout the world, with emphasis on populations of concern, in particular women and girls. The hundreds of schools and many thousands of graduate social workers that the International Association of Schools of Social Work represents are well-positioned to address the right to quality education for millions of children who are denied schooling due to economic, social and cultural challenges, including violence, armed conflict and HIV/AIDS. Because social work education concerns people of all ages, our scope includes families, communities, organizations and Governments, and our perspective and range of resources are deep and wide.

Social work is a profession whose educational mandate is grounded in social justice and human rights with a history of involvement in women's and children's rights. We are committed to increasing social protection and psychosocial well-being for all, including those with disabilities, and to the alleviation of poverty, gender discrimination and sexual exploitation, all of which create barriers to education.

Community education must be designed to counter ingrained ideology that restricts females. Boys and men must be included in the dialogue so as to convince them that they, too, will progress when their female counterparts do. Accordingly, girls and women must be educated to know that they are worthy of gender equity and human rights. Too often their socialization teaches them otherwise.

The three major international social work and social welfare organizations (International Association of Schools of Social Work, International Federation of Social Workers and International Council on Social Welfare) have committed themselves to a shared global agenda on social work and social development in partnership with the United Nations. We are collaborating to speak with one voice and implement common goals, all of which include a commitment to education.

Recommendations

We recommend the following action priorities to be implemented by educators, community organizations and Governments:

- Increase political will and provide economic resources for social workers and others to address educational concerns, particularly as they relate to the education of girls.
- Provide programming for boys and men to learn that masculinity does not have to be bound to the denigration of females.
- Provide programming for girls and women to increase their awareness of their worth.
- Scale up e-technologies for the educational advancement of girls.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.