



## Economic and Social Council

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Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda\*

**High-level segment: annual ministerial review**

### **Statement submitted by National Council of Child Rights Advocates, Nigeria (south-west zone), 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.

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\* E/2012/100.



## Statement

The National Council of Child Rights Advocates, Nigeria (south-west zone) views with reservations the festering danger in allowing the continued prevalence of gender discrimination in the provision of job opportunities to women with children in the developing countries, with Nigeria as a case in point.

Taking a cue from the Economic and Social Council's organized event of 27 February 2012, entitled "Breaking new ground: partnerships for more and better jobs for young people", followed by Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon's emphasis on the need to empower women and youth, it has become pertinent to reiterate the need to pay more critical attention to the situation of women, with direct implications for the sustainable development of children in Third World countries.

The main concern of our organization is premised on the two foundational problems which, if not addressed, will continue to undermine the goal of the United Nations in "promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals". Perceived potential issues are:

- Education (primary/secondary)
- For every 100 boys out of school in Nigeria, there are 150 girls in the same situation. Though the gender gap has been closing steadily over the past few decades, nearly one of every five girls who enrolls in primary school in developing countries does not complete primary education
- Recent United Nations Children's Fund estimates indicate that an average of only 43 per cent of girls of the appropriate age in the developing world attend secondary school. The socio-cultural and ethno-religious indices top the multiple reasons for this. Secondary education has multiple benefits for women and children. It is singularly effective in delaying the age at which a young woman first gives birth and it can enhance freedom of movement and maternal health. It also strengthens women's bargaining power within households and is a crucial factor in providing opportunities for women's economic and political participation
- Traditional roles

Historically, the rural women in Nigeria have suffered neglect, violence, extreme poverty, gender biases and poor medical care. A policy to enforce the implementation of agreed norms should be put in place by the global body to bring about the desired change and the realization of the eight Millennium Development Goals agreed upon by all the world's countries, which range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education by the target year of 2015. With three years remaining until 2015, it is the strong opinion of the National Council of Child Rights Advocates, Nigeria (south-west zone) that representatives should discuss the short time frame for the target date and the need for clear guidance on further actions that will promote a brighter future for the children of the world.