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**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and
to the special session of the General Assembly entitled
“Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for
the twenty-first century”**

Statement submitted by Il Cenacolo, 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

Leadership of women through a new comprehensive advisory service

The reality of today is that women have not yet arrived at a point where they are able to obtain the same degree of success in their careers as that afforded men. Why is that? The Organization Il Cenacolo has looked into the problem with the aid of numerous professionals and trained experts in the field who also possess a Humanistic background.

There are many social reasons to explain this reality starting with male-centred education which still persists today. We believe that while examining the various causes, the problem must be solved upstream and that a paradigm shift is needed at all levels starting with women themselves.

We believe a woman needs to be taught not to expect the world to give her what she naturally deserves but to be proactive in changing the world around her. Women should examine their image as it appears in their surroundings; they should take notice of, and be able to decipher between, what she is expected to do and what is her true value and personal desire.

This process needs to be looked at with the perspective that women should not try to emulate or surpass men but use their femininity to complement them. Today's women are too often trapped in roles that permeate all corners of her life — as mother, sister, wife and lover. The goal isn't to eliminate these stereotypes, but to teach women to use them to their advantage. So, if a role is not thoroughly understood for what it is, it may cause frustration and misjudgement of family values as well. It will be the responsibility of the coach, psychotherapist or counselor to inform and train the working woman.
