



## Economic and Social Council

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### Commission on the Status of Women

#### Sixtieth session

14-24 March 2016

**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 Associated Country Women of the World, 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

The Associated Country Women of the World, in Consultative Status with Economic and Social Council since 1947, is concerned with the lives of rural women worldwide. At the 60th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women it will focus attention on the following:

Women's empowerment is a key factor in achieving sustainable development. This must start with the status and rights of the Girl Child. These rights include birth registration; health and reproductive care; education; equal rights and opportunities, including access to economic opportunities and technology; land ownership. These will empower her to nurture her family, community and country.

Rural women, in particular, are not just responsible for agriculture and land, but for society as a whole. Therefore they must be given equal access to land ownership and inheritance laws, which supersede traditional practices and laws. Also, access to all levels of education and technology; banking and credit; health care, which should include affordable reproductive and maternal care.

A major obstacle to achieving a stable society and sustainable development, is the ongoing pervasive culture of violence. Globalization and mass displacement has resulted in greater risk to women and girls, including cross border trafficking and prostitution and all forms of exploitation, slavery, forced sale of organs and the practice of Female Genital Mutilation.

The Associated Country Women of the World therefore urges Member States to:

- Ratify, sign, and take legal steps to implement the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women.
- Set Sustainable Development Goals to be implemented at national, regional, community and grass roots levels, with relevant legal mechanisms to ensure their governance.
- Support Non-governmental organizations concerned with and working to implement the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Recognise the value of communities. Ensure their empowerment and development, and with women having equal access to the decision-making process.
- Make the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls rooted in the legal system, and set up appropriate forms of government and legal mechanisms to ensure implementation.
- Support rural women by legalizing their equal access to land ownership, inheritance, technology and training.
- Prevent, where possible, or support, rural suffering from the consequences brought about by land grabbing.

The Associated Country Women of the World represents 400 societies in 70 countries. These member societies have membership totalling seven million or more women in all areas of the world.