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**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 Africa Development Interchange Network, 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

Full inclusion of women and the youth for an effective implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda in Africa

The post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals adopted in September 2015 provide for an opportunity to strengthen implementation of the global development agenda and raise ambition on programs and actions already developed through different regional initiatives. The African Union, looking at its “Vision 2063”, stands as a specific area from where this implementation will possibly be assessed in the future. For that purpose a special look and focus need to be put on women and the youth to leverage development effectiveness.

Success of the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda can only come through endeavouring to make sure that a people centered strategy is adopted, everywhere, that considers full inclusion of generally marginalized groups like women and the youth. This means that the transformative approach to turn existing natural resources into local development assets for the benefit of citizens must set women and youth inclusion and accountability as non-negotiable principles, at all levels.

The path to success in transforming our world is a development effectiveness circle whereby, as was disclosed in Cameroon and a number of African countries during the post-2015 consultations, a number of priorities are considered to serve the people, including for instance: Health, Education, Employment and Environment; with cross-cutting issues like Infrastructure, Governance, Human Rights and Gender, as preconditions in delivering development services.

Women and the youth must have a say at all levels of development as well as formally contribute to the local, regional and global accountability framework, in full consideration of contextual factors wherever we operate. They must be part of the policy making process and have access to existing capital resources. In that respect women and youth entrepreneurship are capital, especially in rural areas.

Unfortunately, rural areas tend to be neglected or even cheated when capital assets are distributed. Small holders of that category among poor populations, in Africa for instance, cannot easily have access to land to improve their production conditions. Serious reforms are needed along that line, in developing countries, to make sure that access to capital related inequalities are totally curbed.