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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 Institut Jules-Destrée, 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

Memorandum of decisions

Our goal is to create win-win partnerships with all stakeholders and to set up a Civic Solidarity fund to improve the lot of women in need and therefore the lot of their children. This is the result of the 2015 Millennium Plan of Action for the empowerment of women and gender equality created with UNESCO patronage.

Desiring to work with the international network of voluntary research workers for the 2025 Millennium Plan, in collaboration with all the agencies or networks already working for gender equality and the empowerment of women, we discussed together how to design the 2025 Women's Solidarity Millennium at the international action conference which we organized in the auditorium of the Faculty of Informatics at the University of Namur on Saturday, 25 April 2015.

We make the following recommendations:

Recommendation No. 1

Women and girls in a precarious situation must take ownership of their lives in the hope of improving themselves. All stakeholders must respect their dignity, their privacy and their choice of lifestyle. The energy that they put into improving their living conditions and those of their children is essential for the future of society. Our goal is also to involve boys and men, for instance by banishing gender stereotypes in early childhood in order to raise awareness and ensure equality between women and men.

Recommendation No. 2

We want to use all teaching tools and all levels of education to emphasize that women have the same human rights as men to participate in decision-making and in the political, economic and social choices to create a fair, equitable and sustainable society, giving women equal remuneration and parity access to all stages of decision-making.

Recommendation No. 3

Poverty affects mainly women. It is not an inevitability and the persons affected deserve respect. Their difficulties must be acknowledged but they must not be judged. Gender inequalities are a decisive factor in poverty, in both the North and the South. An analysis of poverty must provide responses encompassing the gender issue. All stakeholders must mobilize to construct a new "co" model: cooperation, cohesion, collaboration, coworking, etc. We are working together in creative solidarity to create a new paradigm: looking ahead to the 2025 Female Solidarity Millennium, 1 + 1 makes more than 2. If we do not combat structural poverty together today, we shall be preserving an unequal society with no future prospects for the generations to come.

Recommendation No. 4

The adoption of innovative solutions to combat poverty must become the focus of all policies and all stakeholders, including those concerning education, ethics, respect and continuing training, with the goal of making joint progress towards sustainable development at the global level.

Resolutions

1. The causes of poverty must be analysed before women become trapped in the cycle of precarity.
 2. Respect for women's rights and for their legal autonomy must be guaranteed, so that they do not fall victim to obscurantism and patriarchy when seeking access to education and employment.
 3. All methods and processes for overcoming poverty must be adopted in consultation with the persons concerned, so that they can take ownership of these proposed mechanisms and their privacy can be respected.
 4. All forms of violence against women (verbal, psychological, physical, sexual or economic) must be denounced, stigmatized and condemned and the perpetrators must be punished by all means available under the law.
 5. Wage equality between women and men must be established once and for all, starting with low wages.
 6. The economic empowerment of women must be consolidated by providing training and employment opportunities and by improving their legal status and rights, promoting the participation and inclusion of women in economic decision-making processes.
 7. The enforcement of all laws must be monitored to ensure equality between women and men, since gender equality policies are a long-term investment.
 8. Women's computer skills must be developed and strengthened, as an essential tool for their empowerment.
 9. There is a need to enhance the skills of women in South countries, to organize creative solidarity and to promote women's financial autonomy by means of collaborative training.
 10. All women need to greater access to the media and to information: one telephone, one woman, one woman, one telephone, particularly as regards all health issues.
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