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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 Universal Peace Federation, 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

Women have an essential value and central role in peace-building and human development. We cannot move ahead without women serving in leadership positions throughout the world in all sectors of society.

As stated in Sustainable Development Goal 5, let us work to “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.” With this in mind, along with all the associated target goals, it is imperative that there be an immediate and concerted effort among governments, civil society, the private sector and faith-based organizations to work toward the achievement of this goal. In particular, serious effort must be made to:

- Promote equal education of women and girls.
- Prevent gender-based discrimination and, especially, violence against women and girls.
- Strengthen marriage and the natural family as the primary social unit, based on equality and complementarity of men and women in terms of their roles, functions, duties and rights.
- Promote policies and practices that include and involve women as participants and leaders in all sectors of our society.

To achieve these goals, there must be increased partnership among governments, civil society, the private sector and faith-based organizations.
