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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 International Muslim Women’s Union, 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

Statement submitted by the International Muslim Women's Union at the sixtieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, October 2015

The International Muslim Women's Union is an international non-governmental organization. It is a pioneer in bringing together the Muslim women of the world as individuals and organizations. It was established following a meeting held in Khartoum in 1966 in which women's delegations from 65 countries participated. These delegations sought to create an international platform for Muslim women.

The union's key objectives include:

- Supporting women's issues and rights by creating an appropriate environment in which women can play their primary role in society.
- Advocating for women's issues and working to strengthen and develop national legislation consistent with international conventions in the framework of the prevailing cultures in each region.
- Strengthening the right of women to work and supporting the principle of equal wages for equal work.
- Supporting women and empowering them to participate effectively in the political, economic and social spheres to thereby enable them to play their role in development.
- Empowering women economically to combat poverty and eliminate hunger.
- Combating harmful customs that violate the rights of women to education, work, etc.
- Protecting the rights of women to health by adopting programs that provide health services to women and children.
- Caring for women in war and conflict regions, protecting women's rights, and promoting dialogue rather than war to achieve security and stability and entrench world peace.
- Working to establish peaceful, safe communities in which basic services are provided.
- Building partnerships with national, regional and international institutions to achieve joint development goals.
- Incorporating women effectively and strongly in all aspects of political, economic and social life; and granting women their full rights to assume important functions and major responsibilities.

Other goals of the International Muslim Women's Union that are consistent with the sustainable development goals of promoting peaceful, healthy societies include: granting women the right to empowerment and work, obtainment and protection of women's health rights by adopting strong health programs concerned with mothers and children, and acting to support and develop laws that support women's rights.