



# Economic and Social Council

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## Commission on the Status of Women

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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 Women’s Writing Guild, 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

As we gather to commemorate Beijing+30, we are called to reflect on the monumental strides we have taken since the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995. This pivotal gathering not only laid the foundation for a global movement for women's rights but also inspired organizations worldwide to mobilize, empower, and advocate for a more just and equitable world for all women. As we celebrate this milestone, the International Women's Writing Guild (IWWG) stands with renewed commitment to the vision of the Beijing Platform for Action and the UN's continued work toward advancing gender equality, social justice, and human dignity.

At IWWG, we believe that the power of words—the written and spoken word—holds transformative potential to shift narratives, spark dialogue, and drive meaningful action. Writing is not merely a reflection of the world as it is; it is an expression of the world as it could be. Through storytelling, poetry, memoirs, and essays, we bear witness to women's experiences across continents and generations, crafting a collective voice that demands recognition, justice, and change. For over four decades, IWWG has nurtured women writers across the globe, encouraging authentic expression, personal healing, and social activism through writing. As we step into the future, we embrace our role as a platform to amplify marginalized voices and create spaces where intergenerational and global inclusivity are not just aspirations but lived realities.

At the core of the Beijing Platform for Action is the recognition that women's rights are human rights—universal, indivisible, and inalienable. As we revisit this framework 30 years later, we must acknowledge that while significant progress has been made, we have much more work to do. The ongoing struggles faced by women in underrepresented communities, Indigenous women, women of color, LGBTQ+ women, women with disabilities, and women from low-income backgrounds demand our unwavering commitment to inclusivity. These voices, too often marginalized, must be elevated in all spaces of advocacy, particularly within the realm of creative expression. Writing, in this regard, becomes a tool of liberation—a means to give voice to the silenced and empower the vulnerable.

IWWG recognizes that true inclusivity requires more than token representation; it calls for meaningful engagement and equity. This is why we have launched InterPen, our intergenerational and intercultural writing initiative, designed to create bridges between women writers of different ages, cultures, and backgrounds. Through InterPen, we support cross-cultural exchange, mentorship, and creative collaboration that spans generations and geographical divides. By bringing women together to share their stories and shape the global narrative, we are fostering a global sisterhood where each woman's voice is heard, respected, and celebrated.

The strength of the IWWG community lies in its diversity. Our members come from all walks of life, from the emerging writer seeking her voice to the seasoned author contributing to literary canons. Through writing workshops, mentorship programs, and conferences, we provide a platform where women's stories—from the villages of Africa to the streets of New York City—find a home. As we move forward with Beijing+30 in mind, we commit to expanding these efforts, ensuring that the voices of women who have been historically marginalized—especially women from the Global South—are at the forefront of our work. Through this inclusivity, we honor the intersectionality that has shaped women's experiences and respond to the urgent need for gender parity in all areas of society.

A significant aspect of our mission aligns with the Beijing+30 vision of intergenerational collaboration. We believe that the wisdom of older generations, combined with the energy and perspectives of younger women, creates a powerful

synergy for change. Writing has always served as a means of preserving history, culture, and knowledge. At IWWG, we are intentional about cultivating intergenerational dialogue through writing that respects and honors the experiences of elder women while uplifting the ideas and activism of younger generations.

Our commitment to intergenerational writing is demonstrated through programs that bring women from different generations into conversation, using the written word to address global issues such as climate change, economic justice, and political representation. Through creative writing, memoirs, and storytelling, we encourage younger women to learn from the lived experiences of those who came before them, ensuring that the battles fought and won by previous generations are not forgotten. Likewise, elder women are given the opportunity to mentor, guide, and support the next wave of activists, writers, and leaders, creating a continuum of knowledge, solidarity, and empowerment.

As we reflect on the goals of Beijing+30, it is clear that the feminist struggle has always been about more than gender. It has been about dismantling systems of oppression that perpetuate inequality and injustice. In this spirit, IWWG embraces writing as a form of social activism. We believe that words have the power to confront injustices, challenge discriminatory systems, and imagine new possibilities for a just world. The stories of women in conflict zones, women facing economic hardship, and women fighting for political representation must be told—loudly and unapologetically.

Through our Writing for Justice program, we equip women writers with the tools to use their craft as a means of advocacy. We recognize that in many parts of the world, writing is a courageous act of resistance. For women whose voices have been silenced by authoritarian regimes, oppressive social norms, or patriarchal violence, writing becomes an instrument of survival. As we look toward the future, we are committed to supporting women writers who are using their pens to fight for freedom, dignity, and equality. In doing so, we align ourselves with the global feminist movement that seeks to eradicate poverty, combat gender-based violence, and advance women's leadership across all sectors.

As we look toward 2030 and beyond, it is clear that the goals set forth in the Beijing Platform for Action remain as relevant today as they were three decades ago. We are reminded of the need for continuous collaboration, innovation, and commitment to creating a world where every woman and girl can thrive. The International Women's Writing Guild stands ready to support the UN's work by amplifying women's voices and advocating for policy changes that align with gender equality, human rights, and environmental justice.

The challenges we face are significant: climate change, political instability, economic inequality, and the global refugee crisis disproportionately affect women and girls. In response, IWWG commits to using writing as a force for addressing these global issues. We will continue to provide platforms for women to articulate their visions, challenge existing power structures, and promote solutions that center the needs and rights of women globally. Our forthcoming 2025 International Women's Day Anthology—an intergenerational, global collection of writings inspired by the UN Beijing +30 initiative—will serve as a testament to the power of writing in shaping a more equitable and sustainable future.

In conclusion, the International Women's Writing Guild proudly joins the Beijing+30 movement with a commitment to promoting global inclusivity, supporting intergenerational dialogue, and using writing as a tool for justice. We believe that by telling our stories, we not only bear witness to the struggles and triumphs of women around the world but also contribute to the collective action needed to create a better future for all.

Together, we write the world into being.

In solidarity, 一起加油, 一起努力; في تضامن; En Solidarité; солидарности; En  
Solidaridad

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