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Item 3 (a) (i) of the provisional agenda*

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”: implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS

Statement submitted by Al-Hakim Foundation, 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.

* E/CN.6/2009/1.



Statement*

Through its participation in the fifty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Al-Hakim Foundation is representing the Iraqi women. We would like to draw the attention of the world, through our participation in this meeting, to the suffering and injustice that Iraqi women faced during the former dictatorial regime and continue to face due to cowardly terrorist acts that leave Iraqi women, the largest social group in Iraq, to suffer.

The Al-Hakim Foundation is a social, cultural and educational non-governmental organization with a department of women affairs, which has special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

We work hard to enable women to obtain all their rights, including the right to contribute to decision-making and equality in law and in entering the labor market. At the same time, we strive to bring the voice of Iraqi women to all international forums and meetings.

We participated last year in the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women and we are determined to seriously and effectively participate in all international forums dealing with women's affairs. We will continue in our efforts to promote the role of women and help them to play a fundamental role in society equally with men - through providing intensive courses and seminars, and urging the Government to provide employment opportunities for women, and provide humanitarian assistance and support women affected by wars and conflict in our country.

The department of women's affairs in the Al-Hakim Foundation is working hard to raise the scientific and cultural level of Iraqi women to play an effective role in society. We believe that scientific awareness and cultural values play an active role in making women more powerful in the face of challenges and risks, including the risk of HIV/AIDS.

We want to draw the world's attention to the suffering of millions of widows in Iraq, who are the victims of the former dictatorial regime, wars, and terrorism, and we urge the United Nations and all nations and humanitarian organizations to provide aid and assistance to this large social group in Iraq.

We emphasize the leadership role played by Iraqi women, and we appreciate the steps taken by the Iraqi Government for women. We call on all Governments to work to abolish all forms of discrimination against women in employment and other fields of life. We also call for a greater role and support to be given to women's organizations, and to facilitating their presence and participation in international forums and conferences to bring women's voices, in a transparent and clear way, to the world.

* Issued without formal editing.

We stress the importance that the United Nations, Governments and interested organizations work on women's equality, the eradication of illiteracy by providing a means of education, raising the standard of living and combating poverty through employment creation and the equal provision of medical care to women and men.

Finally, we stress on the importance of health education for women and providing basic and essential medical care to women, especially in poor communities, which we believe will contribute to reducing health problems and diseases, including HIV/AIDS.
