



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
2 June 2009

Original: English

Substantive session of 2009

Geneva, 6-31 July 2009

Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda*

**Annual ministerial review: implementing the
internationally agreed goals and commitments
in regard to global public health**

Statement submitted by Family Welfare in Brazil Civil Society, 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 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2009/100.



Statement*

BEMFAM is a Brazilian non-governmental organization, dedicated to defend and promote social, socio-environmental, sexual and reproductive, individual and collective rights, contributing to social development and health improvement. Since 1965, it works to increase the access of all people, particularly the poorest ones, marginalized and without assistance, to services in sexual and reproductive health.

BEMFAM understands that health is a right of all and defends the universal and egalitarian access to actions and services for its promotion, protection and recovery. In this context, it seeks to support policies of women health care, designed to foment the implementation of actions that contribute to guarantee human rights of women.

The international health policies setting, particularly in regards to sexual and reproductive health is guided by inequalities. Important changes have been observed in recent decades, mainly in the 1990s, which brought new challenges with the accomplishment of International Conferences organized by the United Nations. Several conferences were consolidating a terminology regarded to sexual and reproductive rights; however, they were not enough to ensure their goals. In the world, women still suffer from discrimination and violence, and are the main victims of exclusionary processes in different levels and spheres.

To meet these challenges, it is important to take actions to strengthen political and financial commitments so that governments can extend the relative advancements achieved. BEMFAM exhorts the Members states of the United Nations to implement the following recommendations:

- Promote gender equality through social services, including education and health services;
- Strengthen integrated policies for the reduction of maternal morbidity;
- Extend universal access to contraceptive methods;
- Ensure universal access to prevention, treatment and care to HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis;
- Guarantee policies and integrated services designed to attend the needs of adolescents and youth, and
- Create and strengthen permanent spaces of dialogues and joint decision making between governments and civil society.

* Issued without formal editing.