



## Economic and Social Council

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**High-level segment: annual ministerial review**

### **Statement submitted by International Network of Liberal Women and Dones per la Llibertat i Democràcia, non-governmental organizations 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.

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\* E/2011/100.



**Statement\***

Important progress has been made towards achieving equality between women and men. Women's access to education and participation in the paid labour force has grown and legislation has been adopted for gender mainstreaming and equal opportunities. Women have contributed significantly to the expansion of the world growth in the last decades and their income has become also an important factor to their households. However, women are still largely excluded from economic decision-making. They face low wages, poor working conditions and limited employment and professional opportunities. Domestic and community work does not figure in national accounts. Also cultures, customs and beliefs make many women and girls worldwide ignorant about their lawfully guaranteed rights and opportunities and universal primary education is far from being solved, especially in Africa and Southern Asia, where a vast majority of children, mostly girls are out of school.

**International Network of Liberal Women considers:** (a) To keep girls in school, incentives have to be provided; (b) Gender-based violence at and on the way to school has to be eliminated; (c) Primary and secondary schools, training centres and universities have to be gender-sensitive; (d) Girls have the same right as boys to a good quality education; (e) Gender stereotypes have to be removed in regard to women's and to girls' access to science and technology. The media can play a key role in showing a non-stereotyped portrait of women; (f) Decent work is equal pay for equal work; (g) Customs and cultures cannot restrain women from employment; (h) Promotion of equal sharing of family responsibilities is basic for women's employment.

International Network of Liberal Women considers that the newly created UN-Women entity has to play a key role in the implementation of women's rights, equality and gender mainstreaming therefore stresses that:

- The four United Nations entities, United Nations Development Fund for Women, Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues, Division for the Advancement of Women and International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women dealing with women's rights to be totally enshrined in the newly created UN-Women entity
- UN-Women to be the leader in coordinating the United Nations system's work on gender equality and accountable gender mainstreaming
- UN-Women to have a global civil society advisory Board, in order to create partnerships, as well as to benefit from expertise and knowledge
- UN-Women to create systematic and formal collaboration mechanisms with civil society, i.e. women's organizations in countries where the entity is also present, in order to coordinate the implementation of projects, programmes, activities and policies on the ground and at the same time managing more efficiently the funds

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\* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

- UN-Women to have close contact with all Member States of the United Nations offering action plans and guidelines of gender mainstreaming for their countries
  - UN-Women to start a worldwide media campaign together with civil society for worldwide education for women and girls, as does United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
  - UN-Women to fund as does UNICEF
  - UN-Women to have a close relation with UNICEF because of their activities with children and their families.
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