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Statement submitted by Centro de Investigación Social, Formación y Estudios de la Mujer, 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/2012/100.



Statement

Women, poverty, and employment in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has had a new national constitution focused on human rights since 1999. This fact has not changed the inequality of everyday life for citizens: men and women. It is very difficult to acquire public data and there is no way to compare with empirical information. The right to classify and file public information established in the organic law for the security of the nation was expanded through presidential decree No. 7454 in April 2010. From 65 requests for public information in 2011, 84 per cent were denied, 4 per cent could not be formalized and 12 per cent were not answered. Within these limitations, we have worked to gather information through the Venezuelan Observatory for the Human Rights of Women (a national network of 45 non-governmental organizations) since 2006.

- Independent research and empirical information ratifies the alternate report on the status in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela of the human rights of women and of the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, prepared in 2009.
- Pregnancy in adolescents has experienced a sustained increase during the past decade. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has the highest rate in South America. It affects the increase of poverty in an important way and it was identified as the most dynamic variable for generating poverty.
- The Government lacks a national plan for the prevention of pregnancy in adolescents.
- Homes headed by women in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela have increased from 29 per cent in 2001 to 39 per cent in 2011. In poor homes, this number goes around 45 per cent.
- The feminine population employed in the formal sector of the economy has diminished. Between 2007 and 2009, employment increased in the informal sector and showed a growth of 249,150 persons of which more than half (134,162) were women.
- The tendency to informality of feminine jobs is currently a structural one with all the disadvantages that this conveys. Among them are: the condition of the activity (it is presumed that the inactive condition conceals the activity that women do as housewives), occupational category, place in which the task is fulfilled and enterprise size.
- Equality in wages between men and women has not been reached. Official figures are not presented because they are not being processed. According to what has been investigated from the data, it is known that this gap is diminishing, especially in the sectors of higher income. However, it is not like that in the formal and informal activities that employ mostly women of low income with the serious consequences of an even larger increase in feminine poverty in the country.

- No equal opportunity plan exists in employment, neither by the Ministry of Labour nor by the Ministry of Women.
 - The issue of equal opportunity is not part of the Government agenda, neither is the International Labour Organization (ILO) doctrine of “decent work”. The labour supervision regulations that the Ministry uses lack a gender approach and do not reflect in any sense the guidelines outlined by ILO in its *ABC of Women Workers’ Rights and Gender Equality*.
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