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**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women
and to the 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**

Statement submitted by WOOMB International, 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.



Statement

WOOMB International (World Organisation Ovulation Method/Billings), through the Billings Ovulation Method, makes a significant contribution to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals in keeping with the theme of the Commission on the Status of Women. In providing a proven, cost-free, natural way to achieve or avoid pregnancy, the Billings Ovulation Method has the potential to impact important aspects of women's lives, as explained below under the headings: (a) poverty and hunger; (b) primary education; (c) gender equality and the empowerment of women; (d) child mortality; (e) maternal health; (f) the fight against HIV/AIDS; (g) environmental sustainability; and (h) global partnership for development.

The Billings Ovulation Method is a simple-to-learn, effective, cost-free, natural, healthy and sustainable way for couples to avoid or achieve pregnancy while safeguarding the fertility of women and girls. Based on six decades of scientific research, it is now available to women everywhere through the Internet via smartphones and android devices (see www.thebillingsovulationmethod.org and www.fertilitypinpoint.com). It is a truly universal method, available in 22 languages, and accepted by all cultures in more than 100 developed and developing countries. Two websites (www.thebillingsovulationmethod.org and www.woombinternational.org) provide access to updated ongoing scientific research and information about the Method. School-based programmes support parents and teachers by offering information on fertility, pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections to adolescents in a respectful and caring learning environment. However, spreading news of an effective, scientifically validated method of naturally regulating fertility is not in the interests of the hugely funded and commercially profitable abortion industry that is so harmful to women, and is now targeting Africa under such euphemisms as reproductive health, a woman's right to choose, and women's rights.

(a) Poverty and hunger: It is especially important for the poor to have a safe, effective and low-cost method to manage their fertility and family size. The Billings Ovulation Method teaches women, at all stages of their reproductive life, about the bodily sign of their fertility and health, allowing couples to make family planning choices simply, naturally and effectively, in accordance with their economic circumstances. With none of the damaging side effects of synthetic hormonal contraceptive medication, women who practice a natural method of fertility regulation remain healthy and able to contribute to the family's welfare;

(b) Achieve universal primary education: Children stay in school longer when early teen pregnancy is reduced with fertility and infertility programmes such as teen sexuality training within the context of adult responsibility (see www.teenstar.org). Mothers, who are themselves users of the Billings Ovulation Method, pass on age-appropriate fertility awareness to their children, thus undergirding their resolve to resist peer pressure and to remain chaste throughout adolescence. Older women in such tribes as the Luo, Haiti and Kamba in Africa used to impart basic knowledge of the special sign of fertility to their pre-adolescent daughters in a special fertility ritual — a practice that has been forgotten;

(c) Promote gender equality and empower women: Women are empowered through knowledge of their fertility and reproductive systems. By learning and

applying the four common-sense guidelines of the Billings Ovulation Method, a woman can achieve or avoid pregnancy in partnership with her husband, raising her status in his eyes. It is essential knowledge for her to achieve gender equality;

(d) Reduce child mortality: Knowledge of the Billings Ovulation Method enables families to plan the number and spacing of pregnancies, enhancing the well-being of each of their children. “Billings” babies are wanted babies. Abortion is a major cause of child mortality;

(e) Improve maternal health: Use of the Billings Ovulation Method enables women to recognize the first signs of any reproductive abnormality and to seek prompt medical assistance. Because the Method is entirely natural, women remain free of the harmful effects of contraceptive devices and drugs;

(f) Combat HIV/AIDS and other disease: The spread of sexually transmitted infections is limited when couples understand and appreciate the intricate and wonderful nature of their fertility and are empowered to protect it. It has been demonstrated that a husband who understands how his wife’s body functions, through learning the Billings Ovulation Method, will want to protect the woman that he loves. The Method encourages chastity before marriage and monogamy after marriage, which are the very best preventative measures against HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases;

(g) Ensure environmental sustainability: The Billings Ovulation Method requires no artificial manipulation of hormones, such as synthetic oestrogens, which are excreted from women’s bodies into waterways. Such oestrogens entering the food chain have been linked to fertility issues in men;

(h) Global partnership for development: WOOMB International has international affiliates in 33 countries, which teach the authentic Billings Ovulation Method (see <http://www.woombinternational.org/global-outreach.html>). WOOMB International has formed a caucus for the advancement of the Billings Ovulation Method within the United Nations, consisting of 14 non-governmental partner organizations with United Nations consultative status.

Nowhere has the Billings Ovulation Method enjoyed so much success as in China, where there are now over 50,000 accredited teachers. In 1998, the Chinese Medical Journal reported great success for couples wanting to achieve as well as avoid pregnancy. No method of family planning has been so well-researched. Those on both sides of the abortion issue advocate the Billings Ovulation Method in China. In the provinces where it is being taught, the abortion rate has dropped. We therefore challenge all Governments to follow the decision by the Government of China to include the teaching of the authentic Billings Ovulation Method in their child and maternal health initiatives. All women and girls old enough to become pregnant have a right to such knowledge. The alternative is the widespread, well-funded, abortifacient, hormonal contraceptive medication that has become commonplace family planning in many developed countries. This is a flagrant violation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in 1994, which states that in no case should abortion be promoted as a method of family planning (see para. 8.25). However, the Billings Ovulation Method is increasingly seen as a satisfactory answer to so many health costs and is here to stay in the years ahead, 2015 and beyond!