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Statement submitted by Educational Foundation for African Women, 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.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.



Statement

Educational Foundation for African Women suggests three key areas of intervention/action towards the achievement of the theme for the 2015 session of the Economic and Social Council.

They are:

(a) Continued critical review of the Millennium Development Goals in relation to the relevant aspects of sustainable development goals. This will lead to a wholesome synergy between the recent past and the present.

(b) Identification of pivots/springboards in the sustainable development goals that can serve as rallying points for others for more attention/focus. The proposed sustainable development goals are all very interesting and largely achievable. There are however some of these that serve more like a pivot on which some others rest. In our opinion sustainable development goal 5: “Attain gender equality, empower women and girls everywhere.” is one such goal. On this hinge the attainment and sustainability of sustainable development goals 1, 2, 3, 4 and 8. In many countries especially in Africa and Asia women and girls constitute over 70 per cent of the poor. Again they are also those prone to being without food, decent jobs and basic health, education and facilities. Sustainable development goal 13 — “Promote actions at all levels to address climate change” — in our opinion is inherently underpinning sustainable development goals 9, 11, 12, 14 and 15. Industrialization and its ever advancing technological frontier, understandably, has improved life on this planet and remain a crucial index in the “civilization” rating of countries across the globe. The highly industrialized nations are adjudged more developed and “civilized”. Industrialization has also created, over the years, serious problems of pollution and if not checked may do very serious damage both to our planet and life on it, now and in the future. The global weather changes have also put in a serious state of flux availability and management of supply of good drinking water. Our intention is not to undermine any sustainable development goal but to suggest a pooling of some for effective implementation.

(c) Periodic review of achievements and challenges in the various sustainable development goals globally. There should always be a periodic review of successes and challenges in the implementation process.