



## Economic and Social Council

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### Commission on the Status of Women

Sixtieth session

14-24 March 2016

**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”**

### **Statement submitted by Corporativa de Fundaciones, 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.

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\* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## Statement

Corporativa de Fundaciones is a grassroots foundation providing important leadership in western Mexico by promoting ties and partnerships between civil society organizations and strategic public and private actors, in order to benefit the community and help to empower the most vulnerable population and sectors. From the outset, Corporativa de Fundaciones has been an organization that promotes development as part of its institutional philosophy and helps to sustain viable and innovative social projects, transferring skills and capacity to members of civil society organizations so that they can work in a professional, responsible and efficient manner. The foundation has launched programmes for the empowerment of women, recognizing that the cornerstone of development is their full integration into economic, social, political legal and environmental life. Corporativa de Fundaciones has special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, as well as the Inter-American Development Bank and other international and national organizations.

We welcomed the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals in the context of the seventieth regular session of the United Nations General Assembly. By this action, the international community reaffirmed its commitment to build a better, more dignified and more sustainable world by 2030, following an unprecedented process of consultation all over the world. Corporativa de Fundaciones led one of these consultation processes by conducting the United Nations Global Survey for a Better World (My World 2015) in the western part of the country, where over 400,000 people participated in the creation of the new global agenda for development. We were thus the organization that achieved the fifth largest popular participation in the exercise in the world.

In the My World survey conducted in Mexico, gender equality was ranked eleventh out of 16 priorities for the creation of the new global agenda for development, although 54 per cent of the over 1,957,850 respondents were women, mostly young women. In the particular region where Corporativa de Fundaciones operates and where 48 per cent of the 400,000 respondents were women, gender equality was ranked ninth out of the 16 priorities. These consultations were noteworthy for the fact that women took the lead by doing volunteer work to interest the public in participating in the definition of the new agenda.

In our view, it is essential to acknowledge that, despite the optimism engendered by the adoption of this new agenda – and particularly its fifth Goal – it is crucial to tackle the many and varied social, political, economic, cultural and structural crises that are creating inequality and greater risks for populations, particularly where more women than men are affected. There is still much inequality and social exclusion on our continent, despite the considerable progress made in the adoption of human rights instruments advocating gender equality, resulting in institution-building and reforms, as well as the appointment of women to high-level public office. Poor, indigenous and young women are most affected. Public safety is still a growing challenge, with ongoing forms of violence against women and girls, including femicide, which particularly affects our country.

Women must play an important role of management, innovation and participation in sustainable development. This development must be a horizontal, inclusive and self-managing process that makes use of the resources of people and

of their immediate communities, identifying needs and devising creative solutions which are compatible with the local culture, environmentally sustainable and respectful of human rights and fundamental freedoms, so as to substantively improve people's quality of life in a collective project for good living.

We believe that women should be widely involved in the processes of development for 2030. This means that they must participate fully in the consultations, design, implementation, monitoring and dissemination of global, national and – above all – local indicators and targets. These processes should involve all sectors and social actors, and particularly from civil society organizations, which are very familiar with the needs, desires, concerns and wishes of the basic people and groups but which sometimes do not have access to the spheres of management and governance.

Civil society is a key player in sustainable development, providing liaison between the transnational and the national and local, enabling the people to exercise their rights and sharpening their focus, helping to design public policies and partnerships for development and monitoring their implementation. Civil society is knowledgeable about local solutions and the way they work or do not work and their inclusion can ensure the success of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. We believe that the public is entitled to participate and, together with the State, to create comprehensive strategies for implementation, follow-up, financing and dissemination.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development illustrates the importance of women and young women encouraging unprecedented public participation and a culture of democracy and thus protecting their role as leaders and agents of change for the social, economic, political and cultural transformation of countries. Priority must therefore be given to ensuring that these processes emerge from civil society, in a context that is propitious, financially sustainable and fully integrated in the decisions taken and implemented in the public sphere. In the opinion of Corporativa de Fundaciones, the women of civil society are the mainstay of the process of implementation, monitoring and attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals over the next 15 years. This commitment and effort should guarantee that no person is left behind.

In view of the foregoing, we urge the international community to consider the following specific recommendations during the discussions at the sixtieth regular session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

1. Implementation in Mexico of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should mainstream gender equity in all national, State and municipal goals, targets and indicators. At all stages of its adoption, consideration should be given to the current situation of women facing serious situations including violence, unpaid work, limited control over their assets and property and unequal participation in the adoption, implementation and monitoring of public and private decisions, and femicide, in order to remove all obstacles facing women.
2. Transparent, inclusive, timely and relevant opportunities should be provided at the local, national, regional and international levels for the public to have input at all stages of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development and active, timely and regular information should be given to the public on progress in the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

3. Political participation by women should be encouraged in all types of forum in order to expand their contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals and, in particular, to promote their membership, leadership and mobilization in civil society organizations.
4. It is essential for women to have a voice and a vote in places where public and private decisions, especially those related to development, are adopted, implemented and monitored. Gender equality must be ensured in each and every sphere, in order to achieve not only effective democracy but also the well-being of societies. Proof of this is provided by the important leadership role played by women in the drafting of the new sustainable development agenda.

We reaffirm our commitment to work together with the United Nations for the full achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In addition, we appeal to the Commission on the Status of Women to facilitate conditions and help member States to comply with their obligations and commitments.

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