



# Economic and Social Council

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## Commission on the Status of Women

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**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 Women’s Health and Education Center, 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

### **Our response framework for girls, women and marginalized segment of population**

Established in 2001, Women's Health and Education Center was granted special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, in 2008. It has a vision to build infrastructure in developing countries and to create meaningful opportunities for girls, women, minorities and migrants, to participate in global philanthropy. The organization embraces the tremendous diversity of people, religions, and cultures around the world. In support of this belief, Women's Health and Education Center, has established an academic and cultural focus at important institutions around the globe, to nurture common interests and potential. By supporting reproductive health and research, open dialogue and objective analysis, Women's Health and Education Center has laid the ground work for mutual understanding among countries.

This initiative is providing advocacy, information, and consultation on everyday issues associated with mental health, women's health, child health, violence against women and children, and healthcare policies – to name a few areas. Our e-learning, e-Health and e-Government development is holistic, evidence-based and people-centered. It considers how people live within their own environments and responds to stakeholders' needs.

The objectives of this written statement are:

- To elaborate strategies, which will strengthen national policies, in Education and Health.
- To share the experiences of experts, in improving the accessibility of health services and education; and how best to implement, best practices in health and education.
- Inclusion of girls, women and minorities in literacy programs, and support economic growth and opportunities; and
- Ending Child Marriages.

The silence surrounding the plight of brides must end. None of us live in healthcare systems – we live in our homes, our families, and our communities. Gender equality, including equal access to education and health, is a prerequisite for development. The link between education, health, and earning potential is now well established. To foster environments that promote both physical and mental well-being, we must direct efforts at every level – within and across all sectors of society.

Poverty impairs learning, health and development. The low social status and illiteracy, of women in some countries, limit their access to economic resources, and health-education information. This, in turn, limits their ability to make decisions about their health and nutrition. Decision made in one sphere, affect those in the other.

Women's Health and Education Center aims to help build back better, by taking action to deliver transformative policies for girls, women, minorities, migrants and refugees. This segment of population faces discrimination on multiple fronts, such as barriers erected by hostile communities and/or families, governments, including not being allowed to education, healthcare and decent work with equal pay. The equality of opportunity and treatment for all human beings is essential. We advocate, using the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Framework, as a vehicle to help promote better future to the marginalized population.

## **Women's Health and Education Center's Response Framework**

Social justice requires healthcare, education, food, water, housing, employment, social protection, and digital technologies that no one is left behind. Women's Health and Education Center's initiatives with UN, WHO and UNESCO, aims to address the underlying causes of poverty and inequality, in a world where it is estimated that more than 600 million people still live in extreme poverty. Women's Health and Education Center, focuses on the importance of supporting those countries and communities that host large number of refugees, promoting the inclusion of refugees in host communities, ensuring the involvement of development actors from an early stage, and developing a 'whole-of-society' approach to refugee responses.

Its four key objectives are to:

- Ease the pressures on host countries and communities.
- Enhance refugee self-reliance.
- Expand third-country solutions; and
- Support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.

Women's Health and Education Center, with its partners and UN System, has been actively involved since 2001 and initiated, for more than two decades – the practical application of the Sustainable Development Goals Framework, in many countries. We must implement comprehensive and inclusive policies, change our way of thinking, and prioritize efforts to eliminate poverty and bridge the digital divide. It is crucial for governments to integrate social, economic, and environmental policies to promote social justice.

To strengthen coherent policymaking and strengthening trust in Education & Health Partnerships, for SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 16 and 17, Women's Health and Education Center encourages: Developing countries should formulate strategic plan for coherent policymaking and digital governance with clear, specific and measurable goals to seize the opportunities brought by technological advancement. The planning should reflect country's strengths and weaknesses in science, technology and innovation and highlight the connections (and missing links) between the national needs and objectives and the UN 2030 Agenda – Building inclusive Science Technology and Information global agenda.

The Women's Health and Education Center's Higher Education and Chair Program / Networks, was launched in 2022 in collaboration with the UNESCO and Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI) to improve sustainability literacy for all, with special focus on women, girls, minorities and migrants. It is fostering collaborative research partnerships and networks in both the developed and developing countries. The e-Learning, e-Health, and e-Government Platform is accessible in 227 countries and territories and has established new teaching programs, generated novel ideas through research and dialogue, and contributed to the enrichment of existing higher education partnerships.

The Women's Health and Education Center's program with HESI community, and UNESCO was established in 2022 – as a prime means of building the capacities of International Research and International Network through the exchange of novel ideas, research and higher education. Thus, it promotes North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation as a strategy to develop capacity of institutions. Relevance, anticipation and effectiveness are among the prime goals of the Women's Health and Education Center's Chair Program for Education and Health, which is one of this NGO's most intersectoral programs.

Our recommendations for leaving no one behind are:

- Resettlement opportunities should be complemented by labor migration, family reunion, scholarships and other migration avenues.
- The New York Declaration provides for the negotiation of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, adopted in 2018 will enhance coordination on international migration and protection of migrants.
- Foster societies where everyone is included. Both social justice and digital transformation can improve access to essential services for vulnerable communities, creating opportunities for everyone.
- Expanding UNESCO Chair Program. Promoting global collaboration. Fostering social justice is a collective responsibility.
- Foster inclusive digital transformation. Digital technologies including artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things, have the potential to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities.

Building Sustainable Partnerships, through Women's Health and Education Center's e-Learning, e-Health, and e-Government Initiative: Improving Global Partnership for Education and Health will offer a way forward. While obligations to promote the rights of women and children are protected by international conventions, difficulties in moral obligation into practice still abound.

The United Nations should play a more active role in supporting gender equality and strengthening international exchanges and cooperation. In the age of digital interdependence, the following five sets of recommendations from the Women's Health and Education Center on how best we work together to optimize the use of digital technologies and alleviate the risks are:

- Build and inclusive digital economy and society.
  - Develop human and institutional capacity.
  - Protect human rights and human agency.
  - Promote digital trust, security, and stability; and
  - Foster global digital cooperation.
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