



## **Economic and Social Council**

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### **Commission on the Status of Women**

#### **Fifty-seventh session**

4-15 March 2013

**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 Udyama, 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

### **Women's participation in disaster-resilient development: practice, challenges and opportunity**

Udyama primarily aims to strengthen and build the capacities of local communities with a view to enhancing adaptation to vulnerability and changing the culture of dependency to a culture of self-reliance. It attempts consistently to stem the rot and rebuild the societal networks that can rejuvenate the resource base. It searches for alternative means to live with dignity and looks to take on the next development challenges with a view to promoting disaster-resilient development and combating variability through evidence-based initiatives and institution-building.

Udyama has given priority to women's participation in its organizational governance structure. Three of its seven members are women.

A community disaster-resilience fund project has been implemented by community women's groups in coastal areas of Odisha, India.

Solar clubs have been formed and are led by women's groups as part of a green energy programme to end poverty in Mathanpalla, Titilagarh, an extremely hot area in India that is reeling from the effects of climate change.

Community safety net programmes (such as grain banks, seed banks and small animal husbandry) are managed smoothly by women's self-help groups.

Our focused programmes, such as those on vegetable cultivation, tailoring and micro-entrepreneurship, are managed by women.

A total of 200 women and girls organized events to celebrate the International Day for Disaster Reduction on 13 October 2012.

This overall approach is aimed at empowering vulnerable communities to participate, negotiate, bring about change, hold accountable the institutions that affect their well-being and improve capabilities in the long run. With its regular activities, Udyama is committed:

- (a) To linking to the broader view of poverty and poverty alleviation, going beyond income poverty to include empowerment, capability enhancement for adaptation to vulnerability and risk reduction, among other things;
- (b) To highlighting the crucial role of context (especially the vulnerability context) and how that influences the asset base, the selection of livelihood strategies and the outcomes for households;
- (c) To giving space to local perspectives and categorizing the strategies that make up local livelihoods;
- (d) To building on the existing foundations to create a multidimensional, integrated perspective that unites the concepts of economic development, reduced vulnerability and environmental sustainability;
- (e) To accelerating more participation in governance;
- (f) To taking more responsibility in terms of demand-driven work, rights-based approaches and a culture of resilience;

(g) To undertaking evidence-based initiatives on personal hygiene, household nutrition, self-esteem and living with dignity;

(h) To networking and making alliance-building efforts so that collective efforts emerge as an important prerequisite to addressing the complex web of poverty, livelihood resilience and distress migration.

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