



## 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 ActionAid, African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies, Alliance for Africa, Alliance for Arab Women, Apne Aap Women Worldwide (India) Trust, Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development, Center for Women’s Global Leadership, Coalition against Trafficking in Women, Equality Now, Federation of Women Lawyers in Kenya, Forum of Women’s NGOs of Kyrgyzstan, International Alliance of Women, International Center for Research on Women, Open Society Institute, Parliamentarians for Global Action, Red de Salud de las Mujeres Latinoamericanas y del Caribe, Social Aid of Hellas, Womankind Worldwide and Women’s Environment and Development Organization, non-governmental organizations 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

A global legal framework for preventing violence against women and girls has been put in place over the last several decades, both internationally and regionally. This framework includes detailed provisions on the protection of women's rights, such as those set out in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and General Recommendation No. 19 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women. While Governments should be commended for the progress made so far, significant gaps in action remain. Violence against women and girls persists in all its forms. Millions of women and girls die, are injured or are never born owing to son preference, which is a consequence of ongoing discrimination and sex inequality. The year 2015 is both the target year for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the year of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption by 189 Governments of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women. Accordingly, Governments must commit themselves with renewed vigour to implementing the international legal framework to protect women and girls from violence.

As recommended at the expert group meeting on the prevention of violence against women and girls, held in Bangkok in September 2012, to encourage and support implementation and create momentum to prevent and address violence against women and girls, we would like Member States to commit themselves to undertaking a global implementation plan to end violence against women and girls, with a particular focus on prevention, in partnership with civil society and other relevant stakeholders. The concept behind such a plan could be endorsed at the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women, with the goal of launching the plan in 2015.

As outlined at the expert group meeting, the aim of such a plan could be:

- (a) To intensify and scale up global awareness of violence against women and girls as a global emergency;
- (b) To combine the best thinking on how to proceed with concrete pledges for action;
- (c) To mobilize international, regional and national action by Governments, multilaterals, the private sector and civil society;
- (d) To build the foundation for a standardized and evidence-informed global prevention strategy;
- (e) To increase resources available to end violence against women and girls.

Primarily, Governments should be seeking to identify key areas in which they would commit themselves to making measurable progress and on which efforts for future prevention work could build.

The promotion and protection of the human rights of women and girls, as outlined in the international human rights framework mentioned above, is the starting point from which a global plan should be developed. Achieving gender equality, including through the prevention of violence against women and girls, is essential to meeting other internationally agreed development goals, as clearly

outlined in the *World Development Report: Gender Equality and Development*, published by the World Bank in 2012. The development of a global plan should therefore also be linked to the processes defining the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015.

We call upon Member States to partner with us and to use the occasion of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women to re-energize their efforts and uphold their commitments to the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls by developing a global implementation plan to end violence against women and girls.

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