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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 Medical Women’s International Association, 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.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

The Medical Women's International Association (MWIA) is an international non-governmental organization (NGO). Women physicians in more than seventy countries make up the membership. The association was founded in 1919. Embodied in its mission is the objective to raise the health status of the communities in which the members work, especially the health of women and children in those communities. MWIA has category II status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and is in official relations with the World Health Organization.

The executive consists of 13 elected positions encompassing President, Past President, President-elect, Secretary General, Treasurer and eight Vice Presidents representing the eight geographic regions. Every three years MWIA holds an international meeting, the next which will be in New York in July, 2019, the year of our 100th anniversary. Between triennial meetings, each region holds a regional congress.

MWIA has member organizations and individual members from all continents. With the priority theme being, "Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls," MWIA notes that many of our physician members are rurally based and care for rural women. Our members provide both medical care and health education. Included in that care are the effects of violence and gender disparity as part of the care needs of the population. MWIA's goals align well with SDG 3.

Further to gender equity and violence against women, in 2002, MWIA led the way by writing a Training Manual on Gender Mainstreaming in Health for physicians and other health care professionals. The concepts covered in that training manual, namely sex, gender, sexuality, gender roles and gender equity are all relevant when we speak of Violence Against Women. MWIA has now developed an online module on Gender Based Violence for health care professionals which can be found on the organization's website.

With regard to the review theme, "Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women" (agreed conclusions of the forty-seventh session), MWIA has co-signed the written statement submitted by the Swedish Women's Lobby.

The Medical Women's International Association will be well represented at the 62nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March, 2018, and will present a parallel event based on the priority and review themes. It is our pleasure and privilege to have Category II status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and to collaborate with others regarding women, their health, their empowerment, and their representation in the media.