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Statement submitted by Forum Azzahrae pour la Femme Marocaine, 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 Azzahrae Forum for Moroccan Women and its network of associations advocate for the active contribution of women to sustainable economic development throughout the world. The Forum salutes the ongoing struggles of women to fully exercise their citizenship and other rights and to improve their conditions. It looks forward to a more just future for women in which their special role in rural and marginalized areas and in the least developed countries is better recognized. The Forum is also concerned with the protection and security of all women, particularly in areas of conflict and war.

Regarding the economic empowerment of women in a work world characterized by change, instability and conflicts of interest, the Forum calls upon the international community to:

- Accelerate the adoption of national and international policies that treat women without discrimination and integrate women into the economy and into political and economic decision-making.
- Monitor States' implementation of their commitments to uphold the right to decent work for all and to guarantee greater fairness and equality in labour laws for women in the public and private sectors.
- Protect maternity and provide all legal and social guarantees for the balancing of family life with professional life.
- Put an end to the heinous exploitation of women by employers in factories and the unregulated sector, particularly in poor States with few jobs and deteriorated social conditions.
- Enact laws to criminalize violence against women and sexual harassment, including in the workplace; and establish guarantees to protect women and prevent violations.
- Monitor the fulfilment of international commitments to improve and provide decent working conditions, respect human dignity and protect vulnerable groups.
- Develop indicators to ensure the enforcement of all laws and to close the significant enforcement gap, particularly regarding women's rights.