



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
18 November 2016
English
Original: Arabic

Commission on the Status of Women

Sixty-first session

13-24 March 2017

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 Association National Al Hidn, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council¹

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.

¹ The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

The sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women, with the priority theme “Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work”, comes at a time when the Association Nationale Al Hidn has spent almost a decade contributing to and engaging with the decisions of the United Nations. Its action in the field has focused on women and the family. It has sought to tackle poverty and vulnerability and to defend the right to knowledge, freedom, dignity, equal opportunities and freedom of choice. It has devoted all of its volunteer and staff resources to unlocking the potential of knowledge, teaching, training and empowerment at the local and regional levels. Drawing on its skills, knowledge and accumulated experience, it has been a keen participant in international forums, sharing skills to remove obstacles, and create solutions and alternative approaches.

The situation of women, families and children has suffered setbacks. The Arab region is convulsed by war. Africa has witnessed appalling famines. The human fabric of Europe has been torn apart by the brute force of capitalism. The policy of pushing for a forward leap has ignored the atrocities caused by artificial wars, which have led to genocide and the sadistic rampage of a war machine whose savage violence is made in Hollywood and staged in the Arab region. We must adopt a credible stance and break with that policy, both in form and in substance.

What kind of economic empowerment do we have in mind for women in the Arab region who have been raped, whose children have been killed, whose husbands have been tortured, or who have been driven out of their countries? What kind of economic empowerment do we have in mind for African women who are being offered development plans that are aimed at the consumer, not the producer, in the areas of energy and what is known as the millennium development goals? We believe that women should take control of the means for their own empowerment from local resources and stop being presented as victims in need of financial assistance. Given the position of our own Association and country, we have decided to focus on achieving empowerment in order to rediscover the Moroccan identity and intangible capital and place them at the forefront of empowerment and training.

We call on the Commission on the Status of Women swiftly to focus on international justice and equal opportunities in international and humanitarian security. This is the only way to create competition, creativity and multidimensional economic empowerment. There can be no economic empowerment without freedom; no freedom without dignity; no dignity without security and peace; and no security and peace without empowerment for political stability.

We call on the United Nations, through the Commission on the Status of Women, to restore trust in its institutions by tackling the practical problems of peoples and breaking the vicious circle of stereotypes and bias. Our Association has chosen to devote itself to people’s daily needs and pursue human empowerment as the means to other forms of empowerment, including economic empowerment. The economic empowerment of women presupposes their physical and mental safety and security. Their region’s resources must be protected from all forms of colonialism, whether soft or aggressive.

(Signed) Khadija **Moufid**
Principal representative of the Association Al Hidn
at the United Nations