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Statement submitted by International Network of Liberal Women, 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

“Women’s empowerment challenged by change of world of work by Climate Change and its effects. Gender responsiveness and gender mainstreaming should be engaged in the answers to be given to Climate Change”

The International Network of Women state that “Women’s empowerment is challenged by the change of world of work by Climate Change and its effects. Therefore, gender responsiveness and gender mainstreaming should be engaged in the answers to be given to Climate Change.”

The priority theme of the 61st Commission on the Status of Women is “Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work”. The changing world of work is being changed by many factors, but one important factor is Climate Change around the world. This Climate Change and also measures to be taken against Climate Change have an impact on the (future) empowerment of women around the world.

From November 7 till November 18, 2016 the Conference of the Parties 22 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is to be held in Marrakesh, Morocco. International Network of Liberal Women is to convene in Marrakech on November 11-12 of 2016 at the Executive Committee of Liberal International, where a resolution is to be tabled by International Network of Liberal Women on “Engaging gender responsiveness and gender mainstreaming in the answers to be given to climate change and its effects: to be discussed at Conference of Parties 22 and onwards”. We think that, when speaking of Climate change and of answers to this global challenge, that special attention must be given to the impact this will have on the world of work of women in all different parts of the world and for all different fields of work where climate change plays a role.

The factor Gender was first mentioned in the original United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Gender decision (36/CP.7) which was agreed in Marrakesh at the Conference of the Parties 7 in 2001. The Government of Morocco On Gender Day December 8th 2015 at the Conference of the Parties 21, hosted events under the title: “Women: Active and Engaged in the Fight against Climate Change” The events aimed to send a forward-looking message to the Conference of the Parties 22, discussing the promotion of women entrepreneurs to accelerate sustainable energy access, women’s empowerment through climate-resilient agriculture, and women’s engagement in the climate-change negotiations. Fifteen years after the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Gender decision (36/CP.7), it is fitting at COP 22 in Marrakesh, to try to agree on a new decision enhancing efforts towards Gender balance and Gender responsive climate policy.

Gender equality in education needed.

To achieve this goal of Gender balance and Gender responsive climate policy the inequality in education, which still cripples the lives of millions of girls and women and which hinders economic and social development in the Least Developed Countries, must be solved. The greatest gender disparity in education in the Least Developed Countries exists at the secondary and tertiary levels. Only 58 girls are enrolled for every 100 boys. Gender equality in education, particularly secondary

education, has not only an enormous impact on maternal health and child mortality but also on science, technology and innovation, which are vital for promoting sustainable development and for building green economies.

Effects on vulnerability of women by Climate Change.

Empowerment of women is impaired by the relatively greater vulnerability of women to the effects of climate change.

International Network of Liberal Women states that linking gender responsiveness to climate action is long overdue, given the overwhelming evidence that women do form the majority in several important areas making them more vulnerable to the effects of climate change than men. Women also form the majority of the world's poor; Women account for 45-80% of all food production in developing countries and 90% in many African countries; They form the majority of those securing livelihoods based on natural resources which are threatened by climate change.

Climate Change effects possibilities of women.

It is women who are the majority of those using fuel to warm their houses or cook their food and they are the majority of those making long walks to fetch water. These are all tasks influenced by Climate Change and the consequences of fighting Climate Change. Other aspects that have influence on the empowerment of women and their possibilities to work is the fact that it is women who are in majority those who are taking care of their offspring and elderly family members. Furthermore, women face social, economic and political barriers that limit their coping capacity.

Gender Sensitive responses and measures needed.

One can conclude that Gender Sensitive responses and measures are needed to cope with and solve Climate Change. Women not only need to be equally involved, but development practitioners and policymakers need to understand how the gender constructions of their societies are perpetuating the inequalities that make women so vulnerable to climate change in the first place.

Gender must be effectively mainstreamed into every aspect of climate action — from adaptation, to mitigation and to negotiations. No true solution to climate change will come until women are made full partners in climate action.

International Network of Liberal Women are convinced that to empower women, while considering the changing of work and the conditions of work through Climate Change, as well as the consequences of measures taken against Climate Change, several steps must be taken:

Gender equality at all levels of education must be accomplished. Gender perspectives must be incorporated in climate change responses and women should be involved as agents of change in climate Change responses. To bring this about the gender equilibrium must be created within the bodies erected by the Paris Agreement of Conference of Parties 21 in 2015.

Not to be underestimated is that financing mechanisms must be flexible enough to reflect women's priorities and needs. It is critical that women participate actively in the development of funding criteria and the allocation of resources for climate change initiatives, particularly at local levels.

Gender analysis of all budget lines and financial instruments for climate change is needed to ensure investments in programs for adaptation, mitigation, technology transfer and capacity building are gender sensitive.

When emphasizing new technological developments related to climate change, special account should be taken of women's specific priorities, needs and roles. And full use should be made of their knowledge and expertise, including indigenous knowledge and traditional practices. To ensure that women can participate fully in climate change initiatives they must have equal access to training, credit and skills-development programs.

Gender perspectives must be incorporated into national policies, action plans and other measures on sustainable development and climate change, through carrying out systematic gender analysis.
