



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
18 December 2017
English
Original: French

Commission on the Status of Women

Sixty-second session

12–23 March 2018

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 Forum Azzahrae pour la Femme Marocaine, 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

For more than 15 years, Forum Azzahrae pour la femme marocaine has been fighting for the dignity of Moroccan women, and for those women to be able to fully enjoy their human rights as established in the Constitution of Morocco and the relevant international conventions. It continues to campaign for women's empowerment and the elimination of all discrimination against women, while appreciating the active efforts of all women in that regard and the role of women in improving the management of public affairs and the achievement of sustainable development in all its dimensions.

Forum Azzahrae is convinced that the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development cannot be achieved without the effective involvement of all women, especially those from the poorest and most marginalized areas, in particular rural environments. We are therefore striving to ensure that international efforts improve the economic and social situation of marginalized women, in particular women and girls in rural environments. We wish to use the sixty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women as an opportunity to highlight the importance of the following tasks:

- Increasing efforts to guarantee effective economic, social cultural and political equity and equality for all women and girls, without discrimination, since many countries' efforts to achieve that aim continue to fall short;
- Ensuring that States are rigorously monitored as they implement their obligations to guarantee the right to education for all and adopt policies and programmes to encourage girls in rural areas to attend school and continue their studies;
- Ensuring that States effectively create the conditions necessary for rural women to be able to work on agricultural lands, and to do so in safety;
- Providing all rural women with social protection and with essential health care services, including sexual and reproductive health services, of an adequate standard;
- Adopting strict and effective measures to apply the legal rules concerning inheritance distribution in order to enable women to enjoy their property rights, particularly those relating to real property and land;
- Adopting legislation enshrining the right of Soualalyate women in Morocco to the same share as men of revenue from the exploitation and sale of collective lands. This right is currently governed by a 2010 circular of the Minister of the Interior. While the circular represents an important step forward, its implementation continues to be problematic;
- Encouraging the media to become more involved in defending the just causes of rural women, promoting the situation of those women and helping to ensure gender equality by combating the perpetuation of gender stereotypes.