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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 Association Nationale Al Hidn — A.H.N, 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 Association Nationale Al Hidn welcomes the priority theme of the sixty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women: “Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls”, and also 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”.

The Association appreciates the selection of these themes as the basis for the formulation of recommendations that will guide the government programmes of Member States and promote the work of civil society, which plays a central role in submitting proposals and exerting pressure to accelerate progress in this area.

On the basis of its accumulated field work, the Association is able to see that rural women face major challenges in their lives that require redoubled efforts to ensure that they have the full capacity and the means to engage in and benefit from development. These challenges include the following:

- Poor infrastructure for continuous and good quality education and for health services
- Unregulated migration to the cities
- Climate change, desertification and water scarcity
- Lack of access to new information and communications technologies or of the capacity to acquire such resources
- Vulnerability and lack of social security.

In view of the critical role played by rural women in ensuring both food security and social security, they represent the largest source of untapped potential at the local, regional and global levels for efforts to eradicate poverty and promote social prosperity. We therefore appeal to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to invest in women in general and in rural women by:

- Ensuring equal opportunities for rural women to gain access to productive resources and to adopt climate change adaptation techniques and strategies to ensure sustained productivity and market access
- Servicing the rural areas in such a way as to ensure stability in the villages and to further their development
- Giving value to the work performed by rural women as a prerequisite for enabling them to develop a sustainable and inclusive economy through the use of dedicated funds to support the rural areas
- To remedy the inequalities and deprivation which they face and to ensure their better economic and social integration
- To support women’s economic activities by promoting teleworking through investment in modern technologies.