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Statement submitted by Irene Menakaya School Onitsha, 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

Children's Education a Challenge for opportunities in the Empowerment of Rural Women

We are pleased to express our gratitude to all those who are committed to the concerns of women especially the empowerment of the rural women. We appreciate States that have adopted policies and enacted actions to protect and empower women. It is however, discouraging to observe the situations of children of rural women in communal settings especially with respect to education of those children.

Since the Beijing Platform for Action in 1995, pertinent issues had been placed as the needs and priorities of world women, more importantly on the rural women. Since the establishment of the UN Agency for Gender Equality, the UN-Women, more significant emphasis had focused on the empowerment of women from rural communities.

The UN-Women since 2005 had made positive moves in stepping up action on women empowerment through education, health and safety, advocacy, global awareness on policies affecting women in positions and entrepreneurship. In spite of all these efforts, neglect is however given to basic challenges in the empowerment of women. The present concerns on rural women lies on empowerment strategies and models to address economic, end hunger and poverty but education of children of the rural women are not taken into cognizance.

The children of the rural women are not provided with safe schools and basic education infrastructure. Schools are however far and learning materials are out of the reach of these children. The rural woman basic needs towards hunger and ending poverty are however not fully met as her efforts are emotionally, psychologically and economically geared toward providing education for her children to be like their fellow children across the world. The education therefore is extremely expensive for rural women to contend with.

The Sustainable Development Goal-4 has emphasized on quality, inclusive education and lifelong learning and its targets points to the need that no one should be left behind not even the children of women in rural communities. Globally and even people in rural communities value education yet the primary challenge children of rural women face is a lack of preparation and provision for school; availability of adequate resources for learning and quality education.

We are thereby calling on Member States to recognize the importance of education, specifically in the empowerment of rural women and the education of children of rural women in the context of eradicating poverty, addressing quality and inclusive education and achieving sustainable development goals. To ensure that children of rural women have access to quality education and achieve positive outcome in the overall empowerment of rural women, the Commission on Status of Women⁶² Session and the United Nations Member States must ensure safe learning environments and conducive schools; Improve access to quality education, provide necessary education support services and access to schools, feeding and school lunch, teaching and learning materials, free education, qualified teachers and strengthen sound education policies in favor of children of rural women.

The Irene Menakaya School Onitsha agree with the UN-Women Global Strategic Plan (2011-2013) that prioritizes consideration for women's political participation and violence against women in electoral and decision-making but hope that through the global Strategic Plan on Women, pertinent concerns by rural women on education of their children in rural communities should be reflected adequately.

Irene Menakaya School having existed in rural city of East of the Niger, Nigeria, urge the Commission on the Status of Women⁶² Session Bureau and other United Nations Member States to continue their leadership role in further implementation of gender based policies that encourage and support women's empowerment and their link to sustainable development but step up action to address the education needs of children of rural women in rural communities. Let the call to empowerment of rural women be made inclusive to include the needs of the children of the rural women.
