



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
30 November 2012

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women

Fifty-seventh session

4-15 March 2013

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”: implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives

Statement submitted by Horizon Foundation, 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.



Statement

New direction to stop serious abuse on young and adult women

Introduction

Horizon Foundation, a non-profit organization based in Freetown, has engaged in ensuring that the Millennium Development Goals are achieved by 2015. However, having critically observed the present situation, the organization has noted that the millennium agenda will not be achieved by 2015 owing to factors that elude governance of programmes to achieve the goals.

One of these factors is the situation of girls and women, which requires as a matter of urgency that the right steps towards ensuring that vices and violations against girls and women are removed from every society.

The research undertaken by the organization has revealed that specific groups of girls and women, sex workers and women with disabilities, have been affected and violated in a major way. Evidence has shown that about 65 per cent of girls practice commercial sex due to the high rates of poverty that has devoured our community.

Observation

The organization has noticed why poverty cannot be totally eliminated from our society. The United Nations should consider where and how funds are released to national Governments to execute programmes and appoint a non-governmental organization to carry out such programmes, because sincerely most of the funds do not end where they should.

The funds that are given out are not properly used to implement the projects that were meant to benefit girls and women. Therefore, we need a new direction to achieve sustainable development. The United Nations should seek another method of disbursement of funds to ensure that projects are effectively carried out as planned.

Solution

First, the United Nations should take a new direction in terms of releasing funds for projects.

Second, the United Nations should guarantee that all girls from the age of 10 should attend a technical or vocational academy, so that they will be able to sustain themselves before growing older.

A member of the judiciary should be placed at every police station to observe the police handling of suspects.

A capacity-building college funded by the United Nations should be established that would thoroughly investigate and carry out research to stop the abuse of girls and women in general.