



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
10 December 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 Universal Peace Federation, 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

The Universal Peace Federation offers the affirmations set out below.

First, human conflict and violence have their roots in the breakdown of human relationships and the human failure to live up to our highest ideals and aspirations. Violence is a symptom of a moral and spiritual failure. If we are to eliminate violent conflict, we must commit ourselves to a moral and spiritual awakening.

Second, a society of lasting peace and non-violence is secured by the growth of solidarity among the whole human family and recognition that we are all brothers and sisters, men and women, who share a common spiritual and moral heritage. We are one family under God. It is this understanding that gives rise to the collective will to put an end to violent conflict.

Third, the Federation recognizes the equality of men and women. Their absolute value derives from a common origin, God, and all of God's creation manifests complementary masculine and feminine aspects, including men and women. The relationship between men and women expresses the wholeness of human experience. Thus, there should be no gender discrimination, but harmony of the sexes through love.

Fourth, being the basic building block of society, the family serves as the primary school of ethics and should serve as the school where we learn to love, respect and serve others. In the family, both the father and the mother are equally entitled to reverence and honour. Women have the opportunity to take the leading role in cultivating families as the dwelling places of peace and love and in shaping individual character. The path towards establishing global peace begins with the rebuilding of strong families.

Fifth, laws alone cannot change the culture of violence, but must be undergirded by substantial educational programmes aimed at promoting character education, conflict resolution and a culture of service and peace. Men and women who are taught to fulfil their moral obligations and responsibilities towards others will respect and live for the greater good and fulfilment of others.

Sixth, once humanity learns how to resolve conflicts without violence and weapons, massive resources will be reallocated for human development. The Federation emphasizes the centrality of women in addressing issues of peace and development in all sectors, including politics, business, culture and religion. Women must be encouraged and empowered to assume leadership roles in the resolution of conflict, peacebuilding and sustainable development.

The Federation therefore resolves to join the United Nations in supporting the efforts of the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-seventh session in working towards the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against men and women.