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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 Centre for Public Health, 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

Centre for Public Health supports the sixty fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women for adopting the theme review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, and the outcomes of the twenty third special session of the General Assembly. The review includes an assessment of current challenges that affect the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The theme and sub-theme at this moment are highly commendable. The Centre for Public Health is a national non-government and not-for profit organization registered in Nigeria. It is also registered in New York.

Centre for Public Health still remains at the forefront of raising national and global awareness about non-communicable diseases, including cancer, hypertension, diabetes, mental health; increases the awareness of the preventive methods especially lifestyle modification; and increases and enhances access for people living with non-communicable disease treatment and drugs.

Centre for Public Health supports gender equality and the full rights of women to decide freely about their reproductive health. Currently, we are on community mobilizations of the elders, especially traditional leaders, and youth, to stop all forms of harmful practices against females. These include early marriage and female genital mutilation. We are setting up a phone hotline for victims of sexual and domestic violence to call for support. Gender equality and its importance is included in our school program, which is tailored towards grooming the young males to appreciate and accept gender equality and all its components stipulated in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and Sustainable Development Goal 5. We have achieved tremendous success in this area by raising young male ambassadors for gender equality.

There is a sudden increase in the incidents of violence against women, especially sexual violence. These include sex for grades, sex for roles, sex for employment, sex for promotion, and sex for domestic and ritual purposes. On the foregoing, we are advocating and calling on all the Member States of the United Nations, to adopt unified strategies in supporting the full implementation of all the concerns raised in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, this is also supported by Sustainable Development Goal 5. Centre for Public Health is calling for a penalty against local institutions who are not implementing the principles of gender equality, perpetrators of all harmful practices against women must be made to face severe punishment according to the law. There is a need to create a good social protection system to protect the women especially the vulnerable girl child. Women deserve to be compensated for their unpaid domestic work in the families. Breast and cervical cancer is now a burden to women. Governments should include Human Papilloma Virus vaccinations in the national program on immunization and make cervical screening and mammograms compulsory and free. Gender equality and the elimination of all types of violence against women should be added in the school curriculum.