



## Economic and Social Council

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### Commission on the Status of Women

Sixty-fourth session

9–20 March 2020

**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 Project 1948 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.

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\* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## Statement

On behalf of civil society in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Project 1948 Foundation would like to express our deepest gratitude to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) for the opportunity to provide a written statement at the Commission for the Status of Women 2020.

Now in 2020, our global community has marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. A five-year milestone has been marked in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Therefore, 2020 is a pivotal year for the accelerated realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls everywhere.

At Project 1948 Foundation, we use our photo-voice programme to identify, represent, and enhance gender equality and the empowerment of women. We see obstacles framed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where our non-governmental organization conducts a photo-voice-to-policy-change program. Currently, the country in which we work has placed as the very last Member State to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We must commit to investing in gender equality, access to public health services, and the empowerment of women and girls., and we must understand how imperative it is to budget for it. The country in which we work, however, has denied access to funding opportunities within the United Nations System. We have found that it's nearly impossible to be funded by governmental entities without a personal agenda.

Where is the strategy that includes the removal of obstacles to women's active participation in spheres of public and private life through economic, social, cultural, and political decision-making? The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action reaffirms the responsibilities of governments to eliminate discrimination against women and to remove the obstacles for equality among both men and women.

If women's voices amplified the 1995 Dayton Peace Accord negotiations, our discussion today for the allocation of resources in post-conflict reconstruction and gender inclusiveness would be different. Women-led non government organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina continue their best efforts towards sustainable development and peace on shoe-string budgets.

We strongly urge strategic action at the United Nations, to join with government entities, civil society, and the private sector in supporting Bosnia and Herzegovina to achieve the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action – a gender inclusiveness furthering the empowerment of every man, woman, and child in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We thank the United Nations for the support of grassroots organizations and partnerships in the Economic and Social Council with United Nations Volunteers and the United Nations House of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Lastly, we at Project 1948 Foundation reaffirm our commitment to collaboratively meeting the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action with change-makers at all levels of government and with United Nations leaders around the globe. We must work together in joint efforts to ensure the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development without leaving Bosnia and Herzegovina behind.