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Statement submitted by Athletes United for Peace, 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

New Economic Possibilities for America's Most Vulnerable Women

Changes in the way we work offer increased economic opportunities to women in America's poor urban areas. Black women of varying economic status have struggled with a unique strain of discrimination predominantly consisting of racism and sexism making economic success difficult. This has played out in the workforce as well as other areas of life. Historically Black women have always supported our families with additional income from whatever skills we could master.

Now, with the expansion of the sharing and gig economies work has shifted from just finding a job or having a career to include successfully completing projects and tasks.

This presents an opportunity to empower individuals with the skills and knowledge to make money without a formal employer but instead using America's infrastructure, existing technology and global market demands. It offers another option to help solve the problem of poverty.

On a national, state and local level, it's essential that the United States ensure labour and tax laws serve to protect all workers, including contractors, part of this new way of working, from discrimination. It is necessary that Health insurance, Family Leave, Paid Caregiver programs and other options be afforded to workers that choose this path.

As mentioned in National Public Radio's "How Gig Economy Workers Make A Living" it [the Gig economy] helps "smooth ... income volatility". Fuelled by technology the change in the way we work offers individuals the opportunity to use their skills, cars, apartments and other assets to generate flexible full or part time income.

Member states can foster the development of programs that allow women to balance the competing demands of their work and life and protect workers from mistreatment and exploitation.
