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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 International Network of Liberal Women, 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

Human rights should be an integral part of universal primary education

International Network of Liberal Women is a network of women worldwide whose main objective is to advance the empowerment of all women and to develop women's awareness of their rights and political, economic, social and cultural responsibilities. The network, which reinforces relationships and exchanges among women all over the world, believes there is a rich opportunity for women on all levels, especially through liberalism, to come together and share expertise for mutual benefit and empowerment of all women and girls.

The network is aware of the persistent gender inequality in many parts of the world, as well as the continuous violation of girls' and women's rights.

To remedy this situation, the network advocates urgently to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals (specifically goal 2, on achieving universal primary education; and goal 3, on promoting gender equality and empowerment of women), by including human rights as an integral part of the curriculum of all primary education. The subject of human rights should be made available to children. In this way, young people shall be able to grow up perceiving human rights as a way of life.

The network refers to past United Nations declarations, such as the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which led to the United Nations Decade of Human Rights Education, 1995-2004. In 2005, the General Assembly launched the World Programme for Human Rights Education to advance the implementation of human rights education programmes in all sectors.

A decade later, International Network of Liberal Women stresses that human rights should be integrated into schooling at a very early age in order to be effective.

International Network of Liberal Women calls upon all Governments of States to include human rights in the curriculum of primary education, while assuring full access to primary education for all girls and women.

International Network of Liberal Women calls upon:

- All Governments of States to develop national legislation accordingly;
- The United Nations to ensure that international law is developed accordingly, so as to ensure all national Governments are obliged under international law to include human rights integrally into their primary education.