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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 Earth Child Institute, International Public Policy Institute and Pathways to Peace, non-governmental organizations 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

Women will transform the world. We are gathering around kitchen tables, in community centres and gardens, markets and cooperatives, places of worship and government meetings. We are marching for equality, praying for peace and dancing for a better world. Many of us remember the opening of the Fourth World Conference on Women, where 50,000 of us sang that we were going to keep on moving forward and never turn back.

We embrace people of all ages and all countries in love. We know that we are enough and that we have enough to change the hearts and minds of people and inspire them to join us in bringing peace and justice for all. We felt this hope at the Fourth World Conference on Women and the dream is growing. We are dreamers who will work with the Commission on the Status of Women to make dreams reality.

The rise of feminine power is a mighty force for change, the change that will meet the Millennium Development Goals and give wings to the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women. We come to heal divisions and form partnerships. We come as lovers and caretakers of our planet and co-creators of a better future for our children and grandchildren. We bring the gift of a circle with a sacred centre where every voice is heard and the human potential to find solutions is empowered.

We have a dream that the regional meetings of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women will attract twice the number of people and amount of resources expected. We have a dream that the ever-growing numbers of people will lead to a global women's conference at which women, men and young people will gather in person and online and form partnerships to take gender equality action that will put an end to poverty and violence.

We will not rest until all women and their families have food, shelter, health care, education, peace and a healthy planet. We will keep on moving forward and never turn back.

We will march for women's freedom and never turn back.

We will pray that peace surrounds us and never turn back.
