

Written Statement for the 2014 CSW SESSION at the UN-NEW YORK

Submitted by the Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF)

Madame President,

It is a remarkable story about women's progress throughout the United Nations history since 1975 with gender equality receiving international prominence during the Decade for Women and the four major UN Conferences in Mexico, Copenhagen, Nairobi and Beijing.

The empowerment of women and the gains that have been made worldwide are a true achievement for humanity. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 2015 have provided a roadmap under which significant gains have been continually achieved. However, this set of goals is only a small part of what should be done.

The post-2015 development agenda is an opportunity to renew our commitment to eliminate, once and for all, the root causes of gender inequality, i.e.:

- Persistent attitudes, stereotypes, and practices that socially enforce gender roles and relations and confine women to unpaid care work and social reproduction roles
- The use of tradition and culture as an excuse to deny women their fundamental human rights
- A development paradigm that fails to put people, especially women and children, at the center of planning
- A dominant economic model that fosters short term economic profit, greed and exploitation, to the detriment of social justice and the intergenerational wellbeing of people, societies and their environment.

We would like to ask you,

HOW MANY TIMES

Must we claim our rights and gender equality? Will member states continue to adopt scores of Resolutions and Declarations on gender empowerment, without concrete implementation? Given that women make up half of humanity and knowing their contribution to equality, development and peace, and considering the knowledge and statistics the UN continues to give to the world, we must ask the disturbing question.

HOW MANY TIMES

Do we need to repeat that women work and care for all humanity and contribute to the creation of a world that works for all? The reality is linked to the achievements of the MDGs, the empowerment of women, food production, universal education, maternal health, child mortality and environmental protection. All gains are connected to women's full participation.

HOW MANY TIMES

Do we need to stress that there won't be sustainable development without peace and human security and that women must be fully engaged as key partners in peace, mediation, negotiation, and governmental processes.

HOW MANY TIMES

Do we need to remind our governments to take action with regard to gender inequalities?

- 95 % of domestic violence is against women
- 80 % of the world's trafficked persons are women
- 80 % of refugees in the world are women and children
- 70 % of the world's poor are women
- 66 % of all hours worked in the world, paid and unpaid, are performed by women
- 60 % of the world's hungry are women and girls
- Women hold only 20 % of the world's parliament seats
- Women own only 15 % of all property
- Women still have 20 to 30 % lower salaries than men for the same job
- Over 200 million women worldwide do not have access to family planning
- Globally, 123 million youth (aged 15-24) lack basic reading and writing skills. 61 % are young women
- If the current trends continue, 142 million girls will be married before their 18th birthday by 2020.

HOW MANY TIMES

Do we need to repeat that inadequate governance and limited resources are no longer an excuse for changing the numbers. The world has the financial means. It is time to move beyond profit making economic models. The new development framework must not backtrack from current global commitments, particularly the unmet MDGs and other global targets.

The answer, Madame President, is not blown in the wind. We call on member states to focus on an action agenda in support of real change in the status of women. Ambassador Chowdhury below makes it clear this is essential for the future of both men and women. We are committed to achieving the mutually beneficial goals as laid down in the post-2015 development agenda.

“Until women’s equality is established in all spheres of human activity, the human right to peace is not possible. Without peace, development is impossible, and without women, neither peace nor development is possible.”

- *Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, past president of the Security Council speaking at the UN High Level Forum on the Culture of Peace, 6 September 2013*

The women of the world will continue to demand accountability from governments, realizing that social change requires that people stay involved and committed to equality, development and peace for all.

Endorsing organization (with UN consultative status)

1. *Earth Child Institute, ECI*
2. *Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS)*
3. *Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas (FAWCO)*
4. *Global Fund for Women (GFW)*
5. *Inter African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Girls (IAC)*
6. *International Federation of University Women (IFUW)*
7. *International Public Policy Institute (IPPI)*
8. *Medical Care Development International (MCDI)*
9. *Mothers Legacy Project (MLP)*
10. *Mouvement Mondial des Mères / Make Mothers Matter International (MMM)*
11. *Organisation pour la Communication en Afrique et de Promotion de la Coopération Economique Internationale (OCAPROCE)*
12. *Pan Pacific SE Asia Women's Association International (PPSEAWA)*

13. *Pathways to Peace (PtP)*
14. *Solar Cookers International (SCI)*
15. *Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF)*
16. *World Young Women's Christian Association (World YWCA)*
17. *Women's UN Report Network (WUNRN)*