
Commission on the Status of Women

Fifty-fourth session

1-12 March 2010

Item 3 (a) (i) of the provisional agenda*

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”: implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and its contribution to shaping a gender perspective towards the full realization of the Millennium Development Goals

Statement submitted by the International Federation of Women in Legal Careers, 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.

* E/CN.6/2010/1

Statement

The **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** has analysed the priority theme of the 54th C.S.W. Session – “15-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2000)” - and considers that Gender Equality continues to be the main Human Rights issue in today’s world all over the planet.

Empowerment of Women and Gender Equality mainstreaming, the two strong and crucial ideas given by the IV World Conference on Women, remains actual and indispensable.

The **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** reaffirms that in order to attain the Millennium Goals it will require the total eradication of all discrimination towards Women and their total participation in all decision-making process.

Fifteen years after Beijing, the **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** wants to emphasize the importance of the international juridical instruments on Human Rights, namely the two International Covenants, on Civil and Political Rights, and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women – CEDAW.

The **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** judges, as fundamental to implement Women Human Rights, that the CEDAW States parties should be aware of the necessity to harmonise the internal legislations with CEDAW, and other instruments such the Protocol of Maputo, in order to render effective the rights recognized and guaranteed by the said Conventions.

In order to do so the **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** exhorts them equally to direct the competent executive, legislative and judicial authorities to take all necessary means and to allocate adequate budgetary resources to effectively start the promotion and protection of the Rights of Women through these instruments.

The **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** thinks that the need to

empower women should also be highlighted in the two International Covenants on Human Rights, mainstreaming the traditional “roles” of women, showing clearly the universal understanding that social reproduction is a fundamental universal human right and a fundamental universal human responsibility.

The situation of millions of women and men around the world in all countries, compared annually by the human development indicators, reveals that the persistent gender gaps everywhere need a new and equal human rights based approach to women and men, as the two halves of humanity equals in dignity and rights.

Therefore, the **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** considers that the International Community should adopt on a new – a third - Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on prohibition of discrimination on all areas of life on sex grounds and equality of women and men as an autonomous and fundamental rights. And also on the fundamental right to the elimination of the systemic causes of gender based violence, and on the fundamental right to equality of men and women on the exercise of family responsibilities.

The **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** considers furthermore that the International Community should agree on a new, a second, Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the fundamental right to care, and on the fundamental and equal duty of men and women to take care of dependents. As well as on the fundamental right to the recognition by the society and by the state of the imminent social value of unpaid work to support family life equally shared between women and men, and on the fundamental right to paternity protection at work, including balanced participation on domestic and family life tasks.

The **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** believes that Peace is not only the absence of War, it is the establishment of conditions of economic, social and cultural development everywhere in the world, which make possible the exercise and enjoyment of all the Human Rights for Women and Men in Liberty and Equality.

The **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** affirms that the right to

food, the right to access to water, and to a healthy environment are fundamental Human Rights and appeals to all the States, as well as public and private entities to help create the conditions that lead to their exercise and enjoyment.

The **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** recognizes that despite the growing participation of women in decision-making at the political level and their increased presence at the level of the judiciary, they have still little relevance in the making of decisions at the economic and financial level.

The **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** recommends the drafting of an international convention that will establish some new rules regarding financial transactions in order to give security and transparency to the financial markets

Lisbon, 17th November 2009
