



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
28 November 2016  
English  
Original: Spanish

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### Commission on the Status of Women

#### Sixty-first session

13-24 March 2017

**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”**

### **Statement submitted by Dones per la Llibertat i Democràcia, 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.

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\* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## Statement

### **Statement by Dones per la Llibertat i Democràcia on the priority theme for the sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women: Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work**

Dones per la Llibertat i Democràcia is a women's association set up in Barcelona in 2001. Its main activities are inspired by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They are also based on the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. As the association's name suggests, its main objective is to enable women to develop in freedom, in a democratic environment and with equal opportunities.

In terms of the priority theme for the sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women, Dones per la Llibertat i la Democràcia considers that, throughout their working lives, women still experience major difficulties in accessing decent jobs. Improvements have been minimal since the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995. As a result, there remain major gaps that must be filled through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations in 2015.

Even though women have been joining the labour market, there are still great differences between men and women when it comes to real activity levels (in numerical terms and also in terms of the activities and positions held by people of each gender). Differences have also been noted in aspects such as labour conditions, wages, preventive action and the impact on health.

Inequality between men and women persists in global labour markets in terms of opportunities, treatment and outcomes. Over the past two decades, the significant progress made by women in relation to educational achievement has not resulted in a comparable improvement in their employment position. In many world regions, women are more likely than men to remain unemployed or to find employment with limited job security. Progress in overcoming those obstacles remains slow and limited to certain parts of the world. In addition, the unequal distribution of unpaid domestic duties and care work between men and women is a determining factor behind gender inequalities in the current labour market. It tends to be mainly women who take on domestic work and support the family unit. This makes them more vulnerable to all the changes under way in today's world.

Dones per la Llibertat i Democràcia notes that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has reaffirmed the universal consensus on the vital importance of gender equality and its contribution to achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The creation of more and better jobs for women, universal social protection and the adoption of measures to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid domestic and care work are essential if we are to achieve the new and transformative Agenda for Sustainable Development, whose Goals include Goal 1 to reduce poverty, Goal 10 to reduce inequalities, Goal 5 to achieve gender equality

and Goal 8 to promote steady, inclusive and sustainable growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

**For this reason, Dones per la Llibertat i la Democràcia:**

- Reaffirms the commitment to guarantee that girls and women can fully enjoy human rights as an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.
  - Requests assurances that, in all law enforcement proceedings, sufficient resources will be available to deal effectively with acts of violence against women and girls, respond to them swiftly, with understanding and respect, and ensure that such acts are prosecutable.
  - Proposes that training programmes on gender equality should be encouraged as a basic means of creating the climate of respect leading to real equality of opportunity.
  - Calls for a change in the labour sector to increase flexibility for a better work-life balance and shared responsibilities between men and women.
  - Promotes the empowerment of women in the three areas on which sustainable development is based: social, economic and environmental.
  - Urges consolidation of the progress achieved under the Millennium Development Goals and decisive movement towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.
  - Emphasizes that violation of the rights of girls and women is a major obstacle to the achievement of freedom, democracy, peace and the right to exercise civic rights, in addition to the injustice and cruelty which it represents.
  - Calls for legislation that guarantees a balance between family and employment roles.
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