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Gender Equality and Economic Reform

JOINT STATEMENT ON ITEM 3: Promotion and protection of all human rights; civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including right to development

Statement delivered by Conchita Poncini on behalf of the International Federation of University Women, Zonta International, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, World Movement of Mothers, Worldwide Organisation of Women, Femmes Africa Solidarité, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Women's Federation for World Peace International, International Council of Women, Women's International Zionist Organization, Women's World Summit Foundation;

1. In line with the UN Reform "UN as One" and the report of the Special Rapporteur on Economic Reform and in coherence with the interpretation and implementation of the Human Rights Council Resolution on Gender Integration and Women's Rights within the UN System, adopted at its 6th Session, we call attention to the latest developments in the UN family on the two-pronged approach to gender equality and women's human rights. We urge the Council to take concrete steps in implementing the agreed conclusions and recommendations of the 52nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women on "Financing for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women" notably increasing national investments and budgets for gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in education, health and macro-economic policy decision-making; we agree to the proposal for a new gender architecture in the UN with adequate resources; improving sex and age disaggregated data collection and developing performance indicators; funding women's organizations, notably to ensure adequate financing for women's effective participation at all levels of decision-making in conflict situations per Security Council Resolution 1325. This should be in full complementarity with the Universal Periodic Review and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the International Bill of Rights and their optional protocols, including the right to development, the convention on the rights of the child and ILO's fundamental rights at work.

2. We also call attention to the Consensus text of the 46th Session of the Commission for Social Development on 'Promoting Full Employment and Decent Work for All, *inter alia* "gender-equitable vision to guide economic and social policy choices and "strategies to achieve full employment and decent work should include specific measures to promote gender equality and foster integration for social groups, such as youth, persons with disabilities, and older persons, as well as migrants and indigenous peoples;
3. We strongly endorse the Global Campaign to eliminate Violence Against Women, launched by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon on the opening day of the 52nd Session of the CSW.
4. We welcome the move of CEDAW to Geneva, bringing all the treaty monitoring bodies under the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, hence contributing to the strengthening of the treaty body system and more coherence in identifying specific issues that could be included in the UPR process and could indicate the level of gender equality achieved in practice and to act as an inter-phase between the Commission on the Status of Women and the Council;
5. Finally we await with anticipation the holding in June of 2008 the full-day discussion on Violence Against Women as mandated by the General Assembly and per Council resolution L 32.

11 March 2008