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**Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:
Priority Theme: Inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 for sustainable livelihoods, well-being, and dignity for all: eradicating poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions to achieve the 2030 Agenda**

Statement submitted by the Women's Federation for World Peace International, 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.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

Today, according to the United Nations, “around 2.37 people are without food or unable to eat a healthy diet on a regular basis; At least 1 in 3 women have been subject to physical or sexual violence; The pandemic is likely to reverse the progress in income inequality due to the financial crisis; the population of refugees have more than doubled since 2010 and rising greenhouse emissions needs stronger global financing to take climate action.” Most of these address the violation of human rights in multiple forms. Covid has made this situation even more difficult to recover from. For a more resilient and inclusive recovery, it is important to take the path of global cooperation. Women’s Federation for World Peace International has worked and continues to have active chapters in around 120 countries where most of our focus has been upliftment of the underprivileged, women’s empowerment and social progress. After having worked for decades in a few of the world’s poorest and disenfranchised communities and representing their concerns at the developments of the Right to Development Working Group, we call for stronger global cooperation to recover from the situation we are in today devastated by the global pandemic.

Securing rights of women, right to access basic needs such as food, right to peace and security, right to land and identity, right to economic and social security and many more are all internationally recognized inalienable rights according to international agreements leaving the states with the obligation to fulfil them. Almost all international human rights treaties such as UDHR, ICESCR, ICCPR, CRC, Vienna declaration and program of action, Millennium Declaration and especially the Declaration on the Right to development (DRtD) mention the obligation of the international community’s development assistance and cooperation to protect the respective human rights, even without a dire situation of a global health emergency. Although states have increased their contribution of development assistance funds and resources to developing and least developed countries to tackle the pandemic, it is not enough to recover from the setbacks caused by the pandemic. Lost livelihoods, unemployment, crash of small scale businesses, rising poverty levels, lack of attention and resources to prevent hunger and ultimately save lives requires more than just a mere improvement in global assistance.

States pledged, creating an international obligation in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Past Millennium Development Goals and current Sustainable Development Goals both focus on elevating the lives of many in deteriorating situations, beginning with the basics of poverty and hunger. The 17 SDGs in the 2030 Agenda have been built around the structure of international cooperation and commitment to achieve these goals. The targets involve a concerted commitment by developed countries. Goal 17 specifically addresses the importance of Partnerships for the Goals, with target 17.2 talking about the commitment of states to the 0.7% GNI to ODA. This is mainly because an egalitarian world is only possible with global and shared commitment, by those with resources to share and those on the receiving end as well. Least developed countries and developing countries lack material resources and stability in some cases to overcome poverty, inequalities, and other struggles to access their basic needs. These struggles therefore lead to mass violation of human rights. At the same time, developing and least developed countries should also priorities upliftment from poverty as a mutual responsibility, promising to take action against struggles such as corruption, violation of human rights, etc. Global cooperation has been addressing development issues such as poverty, gender equality, education, hunger, refugee crisis, war, and climate crisis as its main focus beyond industrial and institutional development. Considering that the states are obliged and committed to reach these goals, their part in contributing to recovering better from the crisis is a crucial factor in their obligations and targets as well. Therefore, making

global cooperation for recovery from an emergency as well as re-thinking the global assistance paradigm is crucial more than ever.

WFWPI would like to raise a few recommendations to strengthen international cooperation as a measure of recovering from COVID-19 for sustainable livelihoods, well-being, and dignity for all:

1. Suspend or halt all forms of debts and financial obligations of least developed and developing countries to that of developed countries and other international organizations for a specific target time period for recovery.
2. Ensure prioritizing human rights mechanisms in all international cooperation initiatives to protect and uplift people from poverty and hunger.
3. Increase financial and other resource-based assistance to least developed and developing countries, where developed states reach their ODA obligation of 0.7% of their GNI.
4. Ensure technological transfer necessary to protect people, especially the needs of the vulnerable communities without obstacles caused because of any international agreements and obligations.
5. Strengthen partnerships with civil society in least developed and developing countries to distribute resource and financial assistance to those suffering from poverty and hunger.
6. Strengthen human rights obligations as the central requirement for international assistance in all its forms.
7. Take special measures for those in conflict zones to protect their rights giving priority to their financial needs and security.
8. Ensure the participation of women in all levels, especially at the decision-making level and prioritize protection of women and girls in all international cooperation initiatives and its targets.
9. Strengthen the legal and practical capacities of organizations such as the World Food Programme and other organizations working with vulnerable people to supply more food, resources, and other basic needs.
10. Prioritize the nutrition of women and children, especially that of women in their pregnancy and childcare through various initiatives.
11. Call upon all UN Bodies and international experts to prioritize the importance of human rights and eradicating poverty in all their projects and activities, including reports and works of special rapporteurs, independent experts, etc.

Global inequality has been the major reason for the extraction of resources from the poor to the rich. Pauperization through several extractive trade orders, policies leading to inequalities, emergencies and climate disaster is a severe form of human rights violation, which needs more commitment and global cooperation. Our call for global cooperation is not merely a statement with recommendation, but our deepest concerns and cries for the justice which needs to be delivered to all those suffering in poverty and hunger.