Economic and Social Council

Commission on the Status of Women
Sixty-seventh session
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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 Community Systems Foundation, 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.

Please recycle

Statement

Background

In the 2030 Agenda, "Member States recognized that the dignity of the individual is fundamental and that the Agenda's goals and targets should be met for all nations and people and for all segments of society." This commitment to leaving no one behind has broad implications on planning, monitoring and reporting of progress towards the achievement of national priorities. The realization of the 2030 Agenda requires a departure from a business-as-usual approach to sustainable development and a shift to a data-centered approach to decision making.

Statement

Community Systems Foundation increases opportunity and equity for women and girls through information technology solutions that protect and promote well-being in every community. The mission of Community Systems Foundation is to improve the quality of life of women and girls, and those most in need, by pioneering technological solutions that yield measurable results, and that leave no one behind. Community Systems Foundation develops innovative data-driven solutions for education, gender, child protection, health, nutrition and environment.

The Data For All initiative of Community Systems Foundation:

1. Acknowledges the critical importance of comprehensive data systems to inform policy and planning decisions and to monitor and report progress in the achievement of national priorities.

2. Recognizes that strengthened administrative data systems, such as Gender-Based Violence Management Information Systems and OpenEMIS - a high-quality Education Management Information System designed to collect and report data on schools, students, teachers and staff - provide real, or near-real time data, disaggregated to the individual level, ensuring no one, especially women and girls, are left behind and everyone, especially women and girls, are safe and free from harm.

3. Proposes equity-focused and sector-specific modeling tools such as EQUIST - a data-driven model that identifies equitable strategies to save lives through deprivation analysis that reveals disparities often masked by aggregate figures - to empower planners to make targeted and informed decisions to ensure the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals and national priorities.

4. Advises that results and recommendations from data models could contribute to situational analysis and priority setting, informing targeted plans with equity focus that aim to address all individuals from across society.

5. Recommends linking government agencies and planning and monitoring processes using systems like Data For All Monitoring, which seeks to strengthen collaboration, accountability and transparency in planning and monitoring progress of national strategic development plans and sector-specific development plans, which aim to improve the lives of women and girls.

6. Encourages Member States to approach sustainable development holistically, to rely on international standards, and to leverage sustainable solutions, such as open source software solutions, to strengthen national and local systems.

7. Motivates Development Partners to work with transparency and in close concert to ensure efforts, particularly in the area of strengthened data systems, are aligned and mutually supportive. Joint and concerted efforts such as the United Nations Joint Programme to accelerate the elimination of female genital mutilation

represent positive and constructive examples of the application of open-source technological solutions leveraged to improve efficiency and effectiveness around collaboration, accountability and transparency towards empowerment of all women and girls.

8.   Advocates for the international community to invest in information technology to produce global public goods, which can be deployed as sustainable software solutions owned by Member States.

Issues Addressed

The Data For All data-driven strategy is to promote safe, peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Data For All contributes to the realization of national development priorities, including Sustainable Development Goal 5 and all Sustainable Development Goals, by assisting Member States to focus on evidence-based planning, monitoring and reporting. Data For All promotes the use of decision-making tools which empower the participation of vulnerable groups in the decision-making process, including women and girls, marginalised ethnic groups, and the impoverished. All people are both users and providers of information.

The Data For All strategy is based on the fundamental principles of sustainable development, which provide opportunities for communities and individuals to influence their own lives through meaningful participation in decision-making in response to their collective hopes and concerns. The strategy upholds commitments to ensure equal rights for all, equitable distribution of resources, and transparency in the leadership of all political decision-making.

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