



**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES FEMMES
(Founded 1888)**

The ICW-CIF is a mainstream NGO and its thrust is mainly informative and educational. It was founded in 1888 in Washington and was the first women's NGO worldwide. Its principal objectives are promotion of equal rights and responsibilities for both women and men, recognition and respect for human rights, support of all efforts to achieve peace through negotiation, arbitration and conciliation, integration of women in development and decision making bodies.

The ICW-CIF enjoys General Consultative Status with ECOSOC and with other organisms of the UN and works to meet the needs of women today through cooperation at all levels.

Having participated in all UNIDO General Conferences and the Vienna Energy Fora we are following closely the women-related agenda items of these conferences.

We congratulate UNIDO to the recently produced "Guide on Gender mainstreaming Business, Investment and Technology Services for Private Sector Development" and "Empowering Women: Fostering Entrepreneurship" and other very valuable and highly appreciated documentations in the field of Women, Girls and Gender Issues.

We welcome UNIDO's strong commitment to gender mainstreaming and to the SDGs and hope that SDG 9 and SDG 5 will be given the needed importance, as we now have a goal for Energy what was not the case in the MDGs.

With regard to the Climate Conference held in Paris in these days and the 17 SDGs adopted two months ago and UNIDO's work program we will communicate their important linkages to our affiliates and translate words into action.

In our days of the asylum/migration crisis it is crucial to fight poverty as one of its root causes in order to prevent people from leaving their homes and to enable them to have decent work, to provide education for girls, to create jobs for women and to promote women entrepreneurship, one of the tools to overcome these challenges of our days.

Domestic violence and violence against women and children often is caused by economic hardships. Encouraging and creating economic freedom of women among others through women entrepreneurship and other UNIDO programs will help to overcome these scourges.

Some countries have kept up to date with micro-credit loan programs aimed especially at women in their area. These have proved to be very successful over a number of years. Ensuring that rural women have access to marketing facilities, appropriate technology and enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and awareness of growing extra crops is a vital element of the work of many of our ICW affiliates.

In working towards achieving the 2030 agenda the ICW will continue advocating for the rights of the girl child, all girls, that they may fulfil their potential as future leaders. They are the vision for 2030.

UNIDO is contributing a lot towards the chances of girls and women by providing education and job programs. At the same time girls are enabled to overcome modern forms of slavery such as trafficking in women and girls, early forced marriages and related health risks.

Much has been done in ICW since I reported at the GC in 2011 on the Plan of Action on **“Women in Agriculture – Building a Sustainable Future”**.

The ICW is to urge each country to realize the urgency of the need to commit to reduce emissions substantially (30-40% post Paris), and adopt practices that sequester carbon. That if insufficient actions are taken, then future generations will suffer more, and changes will be much more costly. There is a moral imperative to take responsibility for making the needed changes. That is about ecological or environmental sustainability, for if we, as humans, do not learn to live more sustainably, in the long term our way of life is just not sustainable.

We see with great joy the giving of special importance to industry related targets which are so important for women’s lives in LDCs and Developed countries, stressing especially the forward looking strategies.

Last but not least we want to thank all women who continue to lighten the burden of financial difficulties in their grass root communities and urge them to continue the vital work while seeking support from existing tools produced by the UNIDO.

In conclusion: let us join forces in supporting and promoting UNIDO's work towards a world in gender equality and in dignity. All of us will profit from an equal participation of women in creating a learning society and at the same time strengthening therefore social and economic wellbeing.

Thank you for your attention.

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