



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
29 November 2012

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women

Fifty-seventh session

4-15 March 2013

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”: implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives

Statement submitted by Sacro Militare Ordine Costantiniano di San Giorgio, 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.



Statement

The Sacro Militare Ordine Costantiniano di San Giorgio (Sacred Military Constantinian Order of Saint George) has the historic mission of helping the sick, the needy and the most disadvantaged in society. Through the involvement of its 2,800 members organized in national and regional delegations operating in over 40 countries, the Order provides medical and social assistance, disaster relief in the case of armed conflicts and natural catastrophes, emergency services, help for the elderly, the handicapped and children in need and the provision of first aid training, and support for refugees and internally displaced persons, regardless of race, origin or religion.

Gender inequality is an exceptionally complex social phenomenon. It takes many forms, involving both sexual and economic exploitation, such as trafficking in women and children, female infanticide, crimes committed in the name of honour, crimes committed in the name of passion, racially motivated crimes, the abduction and sale of children, dowry-related violence and deaths, acid attacks and harmful traditional or customary practices, such as female genital mutilation and early and forced marriages. Trying to eradicate it is equally complicated.

The Order welcomes the various national and local initiatives, strategies and action plans aimed at advancing the promotion and protection of women's rights and gender equality. The Order emphasizes that there is no one global approach to resolving these issues; rather, governmental initiatives must be balanced and supported by more widespread moral education within national and cultural contexts. These national initiatives should encompass education, health and microfinance, among others, and be set in a supportive legal environment with policies that protect women and girls against violence and promote gender equality. Moreover, national Governments should promote the participation of women's groups in such policy reform.

The Order urges national Governments, the private sector and community sectors to engage in a structured collaboration in identifying and assessing strategies to place gender equality and women's human rights at the centre of their development and to create lasting solutions.

For its part, the Order reaffirms its commitment to promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms within its sphere of influence.
