

## **WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR THE ECOSOC HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT UN GENEVA 4-7 July 2011**

Joint written Statement submitted by the Women's World Summit Foundation - WWSF (*in special UN ECOSOC consultative status*) and endorsed by the following NGOs *in Ecosoc consultative status*  
*(names of organizations to be added here)*

**Title: The need for a 5<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Women**

The last United Nations World Conference on Women took place in Beijing almost 16 years ago in September 1995. The Platform for Action adopted on this occasion needs a renewed push for implementation as the realization of gender equality, sustainable development and peace for the women in the world is still lacking.

### **Recommendation**

The undersigned organizations recommend to the 54 ECOSOC Member Governments to decide on the convening of a **UN 5th World Conference on Women**, preferably in 2015. Such a UN World Conference would be the first in the 21st century and would not renegotiate the Beijing decisions but deal exclusively with the new and emerging issues in the world, i.e. the food, water, financial and fuel crisis and nuclear challenges, as well as the promising information technologies and social networks, available today, that can bring issues and solutions into global awareness, empowerment and unprecedented participation around the world.

**UN Women** headed by Under Secretary-General Michelle Bachelet and a UN NGO 5WCW will generate awareness of both this new super agency and the conference, raise consciousness, media-coverage and funds for both.

### **The proceedings of delegates**

can be transmitted via live-streaming, webcasts, smartphones and other technologies that will emerge by 2015, to reach every woman, man and youth throughout the world, catalyzing a societal transformation, confronting the challenges and creating a new future.

### **Another positive result**

will be the **empowerment of the next generation** of global and local women leaders who will get to know one another during the 5th WCW, share experiences, programs for the future, and stay connected. **With the Millennium Development Goals** coming up for review in 2015, which touch essential aspects of women's well-being and need women's empowerment for their full realization, the mobilization of women has been the most effective and often the only reason for gains made so far. Great solidarity and international cooperation is also needed to achieve the shared objectives of the **International Conference**

**on Population and Development (ICPD)** by 2015. The need to have women involved at every level of decision-making has become a prerequisite for the achievement of the UN objectives.

**A 5WCW will also raise concern about the world's children and youth** and for the need to create of a world fit for children and youth, especially in creating a culture of prevention of abuse and violence.

**Women want a UN 5WCW**

Once the decision to have this conference is made, the news will spread from women to women via geometric progression and the world will be better for it.

Indicators: a grassroots petition has over 11'000 signatures standing behind a 5th WCW.

**<http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/support-a-un-5th-world-conference-on-women.html>**

Thank you for your attention.

Elly Pradervand, WWSF Founder/CEO  
*Women's World Summit Foundation*  
www.woman.ch - wwsf@wwsf.ch

(500 words) 2