



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

**ICW Statement for the UNIDO General Conference 2017
“Partnering for Impact_ Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals”**

The ICW 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 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.

Achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals is vital for the present and future well-being of people and other species on Earth.

These SDGs are vital for the ecosystems on which such living creatures depend: namely the clean air to breathe, the reduction in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, the necessity for both animals and plants for water, and especially clean, safe water for humans, and for healthy soils for food security.

With better access to such basic eco-services, there can be better access to all the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, for example, to end hunger and poverty, to ensure healthy lives, access to clean water, to affordable, sustainable energy, to education and gender equality.

It is well known that women and girls are disproportionately represented among those who are living in poverty and hunger; who are economically disadvantaged; who have to take time to collect water; to have less access to education. Therefore it is important for groups like the International Council of Women and their countries’ National Councils to be active in partnering and promoting the Sustainable Development Goals.

Achieving Goal 5 “to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” obviously will improve the well-being of all, because by not having such equality means disadvantaging over half the population. Increasingly, where women and girls are given opportunities they are good at achieving results, and good at leading their communities.

At the recent Conference of Parties, 23, in Bonn about Climate Change actions, it has been clear that we all need to work “Faster, Further, Together”. The UNFCCC Cop 23 site states: “The common message from all sides at this conference has been that action to get on track towards the objectives of the Paris Climate Change Agreement and to ultimately achieve the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals is urgent, time is really running out and everyone simply must do much better together to drive climate action further and faster ahead now.”

(Ref. <https://cop23.unfccc.int/news/concrete-climate-action-commitments-at-cop23>)

They reported: “the new wave of climate action that has been announced during COP23 from countries, cities, states, regions, business and civil society.”

Therefore partnering with Non Government Organisations like the International Council of Women and their constituent councils, can engage civil society, businesses, regions, states and countries in taking actions to work together, faster and further to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Change Agreement.

After 33 years a resolution “UNIDO, Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women” has been adopted at the UNIDO General Conference 2015. A resolution on Gender Equality (SDG 5) will be on the table also at the present General Conference.

Welcoming UNIDO’s Gender Strategy and the outcome of the World Women Leaders Talk and aware that industrialization is a cornerstone of development, of reducing social inequality and therefore contributing to peace (SDG 16), safety and stability, the ICW will continue to monitor the implementation of the Lima Declaration and to raise awareness among its members for the importance of UNIDO’s work.

Special attention is given by the ICW to the work towards the development of and progress in the research by the pharmaceutical industry as an important pillar for the improvement of health in general and specifically on women’s health in developing countries. Gender Pharmacology is a young sector of research and we hope that partnering with UNIDO would contribute significantly to improve women’s health as mothers and caregivers to children and the elderly and by doing so building a basic precondition for the well-being of society.

And therefore let us join forces in partnering for impact in achieving the SDGs by supporting UNIDO’s work.

Thank you for your attention.

27 November 2017

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