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entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and
peace for the twenty-first century”

Statement submitted by HYDROAID Water for Development Institute, 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.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

Rapid economic growth versus instability operate as opposite forces in the global scenario. Increased connections and uncertainty of the future work their way through this pattern, enhancing mobility, allowing new relations and triggering migration waves. In today's migration crisis, women and girls represent a vulnerable group but, if adequately empowered and involved, they can also be an important element of stability and constructive rebuilding for the displaced communities now living within different cultural, economic and political environments.

In our line of work, we know that while $\frac{3}{4}$ of all jobs are directly or indirectly dependent on water (2016 World Water Development Report — WWDR), women and girls are especially affected by water shortages and mismanagement, due to the traditional occupations that link them closely to water collection, agriculture and domestic water uses. Starting from access to basic resources and services, to general political frameworks and security issues, women and girls remain deeply affected by the impacts of those issues, including climate change, that threaten the local stability of outgoing and receiving populations alike, even as they gain an expanding range of new positions and rights.

As reminded in the key messages of the 2016 World Water Development Report, investing in the protection of our most essential resource, water, means investing in long term sustainable development, both for those who stay and for those who are temporarily forced to leave, with a special focus on the most vulnerable groups of society. Furthermore, many of the 16 Sustainable Development Goals are unlikely to be achieved without the effective and efficient use of water resources, open and safe for all, onto which further development stages are inevitably based, as reflected in goal 6.

In addition to the emergency trust funds and cooperation programs currently at work to address the roots of the crisis, mechanisms should then be reinforced to facilitate the integration of women and girls in host communities with full dignity and opportunities so that each step forward can be truly sustainable. For this purpose, access to information and training is crucial, but it needs to be flexible too. Technological developments and an established international network provide tools such as e-learning, blended learning, coordination platform and integrated approaches that can be tailored for specific challenges as well as for global priorities whose solutions must be found in common efforts or in the demonstration of local best practices. Assigning women and girls with central roles in this capacity development and economic empowerment will be key to the identification and promotion of such practices. The more they will be involved in designing and building brighter scenarios for their communities, the more effective this cycle will be.
