



**WRITTEN STATEMENT** for ECOSOC Geneva 4-7 July 2011 (*accepted*)

**Submitted by the Women's World Summit Foundation WWSF**

**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 16 years ago in 1995. The Platform for Action adopted on this occasion needs a renewed push for implementation as realizations of gender equality, development and peace are still lacking.

**Recommendation**

The undersigned recommend to the 54 ECOSOC Member Governments to decide on convening a **UN 5th World Conference on Women**, preferably in 2015. Such a UN Conference would be the first in the 21st century and would not re-negotiate the Beijing decisions but deal primarily with new and emerging issues, i.e. food, water, financial and fuel crisis and nuclear challenges, as well as information technologies and social networks, that can bring issues and solutions into expanded global awareness, increase education, generate empowerment and unprecedented participation. While there has been progress in women's education, there is still need for equity in employment, politics and social relations. Of the world's nearly one billion illiterate adults, two-thirds are women.

**UN Women** headed by Under Secretary-General Michelle Bachelet and a UN NGO 5WCW will generate renewed global 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 emerging by 2015, to reach every woman, man and youth throughout the world, catalyzing a societal transformation by confronting our common challenges and creating a new future.

**Another positive result**

will be **the empowerment of the next generation** of women leaders who will get to know one another during a 5WCW, share experiences, programs, and stay connected. With the **MDGs** coming up for review in 2015, which touch essential aspects of women's well-being and the need for women's empowerment for full realization, increased mobilization of women has proven 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.

**A 5WCW will also raise concern about the world's children and youth** and

for the creation of a culture of prevention of abuse and violence. Two-thirds of the 130 million children worldwide who are not in school are girls. Gender equality furthers the cause of child survival and development for all of society.

**Women want a UN 5WCW**

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

Indicators: An online petition has over 11'500 signatures standing behind a 5th WCW.

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

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(19 organisations endorsed the WWSF written statement before 21 June 2011).