

JOINT STATEMENT BY THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY  
WOMEN AND THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN AT THE 3RD SESSION  
OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL, ITEM ON AN EXPERT ADVISORY MECHAISM  
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Delivered by Conchita Poncini  
International Federation of University Women

Mr. President

We are very pleased that many government interventions proposed a gender balance representation of the expert advisory body. As we have persistently been calling for mainstreaming a gender equality perspective and equitable participation of women and men in policy and decision-making organs, we believe that expert advice should indeed be gender balanced in its composition. In this regard, we see the following advantages towards ensuring quality and effective functioning of the Council's mechanisms:

1. The even mix of women and men specialists would guarantee not only cross fertilisation of ideas but also would provide a symmetrical treatment of issues. A clear evidence of this is the presence of women experts in the former Sub-Commission. They have served to counter balance the analysis and treatment of issues, particularly from the point of view of discrimination based on the intersection of sex, race, ethnicity and cultural heritage.
2. Men, while having the theoretical expertise and sympathetic attitude for the reproductive rights of women, do not utilise the same criteria, perspectives and sensitivity as women do to victims of violations to these rights and other rights in general because of their inherent biological differences and present positions of power of men,
3. Last but not the least, in order to have good governance in the world, women and men should collaborate in practice in providing their respective expertise institutionally for building a better order of all human rights and human lives.
4. Finally, we want to assure the Council that increasingly women members of the International Federation of University Women and the International Council of Women, are composed of professionally qualified women with multi-disciplinary expertise and we want to offer to the Council our cooperation and collaboration.

Thank you Mr. President