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Agenda item 5

ECOSOC High-level Segment

Statements submitted by organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council *

The Secretary-General has received the following statements, which are being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

Theme: Building Back Better from the Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19) while Advancing the Full Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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* The present statements are issued without formal editing.

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3. Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC)

Role of Science & Technology in Building Back Better

Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) has a unique role to play in strengthening the health and educational systems, in rich and poor countries alike. Technology and innovation in learning are creating exciting new opportunities to accelerate progress towards health-for-all in every country. We are in the midst of a digital proliferation around the globe which is allowing us to be more connected and with greater access to data than ever before. As a result, mobile health – the use of mobile and wireless communication and devices for providing healthcare services or achieving health outcomes – is at a significant tipping point.

Imagine students in developing and developed countries simultaneously reviewing the same medical education and learning from each other. That is e-learning at its best in an Internet Classroom, and with this goal WHEC and the Department of Public information of the United Nations (UN) had launched <http://www.WomensHealthSection.com> on 24 October 2002. All over the world we all provide care to a multicultural society.

Government commitment is necessary – long-term government commitment based on a strategic plan is a pre-requisite for the successful implementation, of Internet Classrooms in Health and Education, in every country – rich and poor alike. This commitment may be in form of:

1. A long-term plan that is binding on all parties at all times;
2. Sustainable finance;
3. Support for pilot projects/programs and their conversion to regular programs as soon as they prove successful;
4. Involvement of health authorities at national, state and district levels.

WHEC's strategy on e-Health and e-Government focuses on strengthening health and education system in countries; fostering public-private partnerships in information and communication technologies, research, and development for health and education. With special attention to health and status of women, maternal mortality and morbidity, projects like **LINK** (Learning, Innovating, Networking for Knowledge) encourage national health and educational systems.

WHEC has been a member of PMNCH (Partnership for Maternal, Newborn, Child Health), WHO, Geneva (Switzerland) since 2011 and WHO and the WHO Academy participated in our side event at CSocD (Commission for Social Development) in 2021. We aim to reach millions of people worldwide, offering high-tech learning environments, providing learning opportunities for leaders, educators, researchers, health workers, and the broader public, and will deliver high quality, multilingual learning, both online and in-person, alongside a cutting-edge simulation center for health emergencies.

WHEC also has support of UNDESA DISD and UNESCO for its initiatives to advance Sustainable Development Goals 3, 4, 5, and achieve 2030 United Nations Agenda.

WHEC supports capacity building for e-Health and e-Governments applications worldwide and look forward to development and the use of norms and standards. Proceeding in this way, strengthens capacity, preserves cultural integrity and increases the access to such technologies, for those who need it most – must remain the goal. We believe, on this path efforts never go to waste, and there is no failure.