

As written

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

FEDERACION INTERNACIONAL DE MUJERES UNIVERSITARIAS

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Statement by **Ati** Chris Blom, International Federation of University Women at the THE HAGUE INTERNATIONAL FORUM.

*Thank you mr Chairperson, for giving me the opportunity to speak on behalf of my organization, the International Federation of University Women.

The **IFUW** is an international non governmental organization of over 180.000 women university graduates from 66 national federations and associations throughout the world. The Federation has consultative status with several of the United Nations organizations.

Its mission is :

- to advocate for the improvement of the status of women and girls;
- to promote lifelong education
- to enable graduate women to use their expertise to effect change.

We were very pleased and impressed by the contributions of chairpersons, panelists and participants at the NGO Forum ICPD + 5.

Already in 1965 the Federation adopted a resolution on population problems and since then has followed the transfer from demographic problems to the issues of sexual- and reproductive- health and -rights.

For example: a resolution of 1995 mentions that the national federations and associations should

1: a: monitor the actions taken by their national governments with regard to the implementation of the recommendations of the Programme of Action of the UN International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo 1994, to make quality reproductive health services, including family planning services, affordable, acceptable and accesible to all who need and want them *, and

b: where the national follow up is disappointing take steps to achieve the human rights of women in respect of reproductive rights;

2: encourage their governments to bring about population trends consistent with the achievement of the empowerment of women in the context of sustainable patterns of economic growth.

*We would like to function as one of the channels along which the message of Cairo with its old and new recommendations can be forwarded, also in cooperation with other women's-organizations.

The IFUW has members with various professions and expertise for instance in the field of women's health and women's rights. If needed we are always prepared to make our expertise available.*

Moreover we would like to point out that we are convinced of the necessity of education and information in this field, as adopted in another resolution, which reads:

The IFUW should urge the national federations and associations to lobby their governments to introduce comprehensive **compulsory health education-**courses at both primary and secondary levels which are appropriate to the growth and developmental needs of children. These courses should include information on the hazards of smoking, drugs, alcohol, sexual risk taking, HIV/AIDS and other STD's (sexual transmitted diseases) .

Thank you for your attention..