

**Oral Statement for 50<sup>th</sup> Session of Commission on Status of Women**

**On**

***“Enhance participation of women in development: an enabling environment for achieving gender equality and advancement of women, taking into account, inter alia, the fields of education, health and work”***

**by**

**Project Five-O: International Federation of Business and Professional Women,  
International Council of Women, International Federation of University Women,  
Soroptimist International and Zonta International**

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Thank you Chairperson for giving the floor, I would like to present this statement on behalf of Project Five-O which is a partnership of five international women organizations with consultative status to UN ECOSOC, namely, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Council of Women, International Federation of University Women, Soroptimist International and Zonta International, with a combined membership of close to one million women. The theme for CSW 50<sup>th</sup> session “Enhance participation of women in development: an enabling environment for achieving gender equality and advancement of women, taking into account, inter alia, the fields of education, health and work” is at the heart of the work of Project Five-O, which focus on offering capacity building for women in developing countries.

In this area of concern, we recognize that every country, to a certain extent, already has projects and activities that promote education, health and work. In fact, many innovative approaches have already been presented. However, despite the fact that these three enabling factors are interdependent, the projects of government and NGO are often addressing each one of them in isolation.

Therefore we would like to propose that governments do the following.

- (a) Identify community where environment in their respective countries do not enable women advancement. Women at all levels should be considered, from grass root up to corporate board levels.
- (b) Identify “gaps” that led to such ineffectiveness, which could be inadequate support in either education, health or work.
- (c) Close the gaps by
  - a. Enhancing collaboration among projects within the same community to extend the impact and to ensure that all three issues are addressed.
  - b. Promoting collaboration with NGO as well as private sector that may have additional resource, be it human resource or financial resource, to help accomplish the tasks.

It is our recommendation that the need for collaborations between government, NGO and private sector especially in education, health and work-related projects deserve the highest priority if we want to successfully create an enabling environment for achieving gender equality and advancement of women.

Thank you.