

IFBPW statement, 215th Ex Board, NGP Committee, 7 October 2022, MC Machon-Honoré, BPW International-NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee-CCNGO-Ed2030 CG representative.

Excellencies, Mr Chair, Mr Representative of the Director General, Dear NGO Colleagues,

Business Professional Women (BPW) International is registered in Europe, elected on the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee by the last International Conference of NGOs, for the Europe-North America region but represented on 5 continents including the Caribbean, in more than 100 countries, and its Executive Board reflects inclusion and diversity with its 5 regional coordinators and the representative of Young BPW.

With ECOSOC consultative status since 1947, BPW is represented at UN Headquarters and in all its agencies, but also in the Council of Europe, the European Parliament, the European Women's Lobby and advocates for the economic empowerment of women, through education, training and lifelong learning, entrepreneurship, for equal pay and their inclusion in leadership, at the highest level, in all professional fields, including Science, Technology and Innovation.

As Member of the Women for Water Partnership (WfWP), BPW also advocates for the nexus- Women, Environment, Water and Education. We thus organised the webinar on 24 May, on Science, Technology, Innovation & Entrepreneurship in support of SDGs, in an intersectorial and multistakeholder approach with the UNESCO section on Education & Inclusion, the WWAP whose call to accelerate gender equality in the water domain we support and with the OECD and civil society including the CCNGO-Education 2030 coordination group.

Over the years, we have built a vast network of official relations, which is essential for communicating the specific needs of peoples on the ground to the political stakeholders.

It is also a great honor to represent the Liaison Committee as ex-officio member to the CCNGO-Education 2030 in the Coordination Group—it is UNESCO's key mechanism for collective consultation on education. NGO partners represented in the education working group (set up in 2017) have thus been actively engaged in each step of the co-construction of the new Global Cooperation Mechanism for Education and throughout the process of the pre-Transforming Education Summit and the UN NY Summit with our collective contributions submitted by our representatives to the Advisory Committee informing the Action Tracks and the UN SG's Vision Statement. On behalf of the Liaison Committee, I want to express my thanks to my colleagues for their commitment and inputs from the field. Together, we will continue monitoring the Summit outcomes to ensure SDG4 full agenda will be implemented with a rights-based, inclusive, equitable and gender transformative lens.

Alongside UNESCO, BPW international is more than ever committed to girls' and women's rights, gender equality and education in Afghanistan and around the world, and to refugees in Europe, raising funds through our members' projects. IFBPW has sent statements to the European Commission, the European Parliament and to the Council of Human Rights at the United Nations to call for upholding the fundamental right of Afghan girls and women to education and the right to live in dignity. BPW Europe Project, *Charter of the Girl's Rights in Europe and Around the World*, a founding and evolving tool, was awarded with the European Citizen Prize Award by the European Parliament, in 2020.

The challenges to be met in a world in the throes of upheaval are immense, including the threats weighing on girls and women, human rights, and on security and peace ; we are grateful to UNESCO which is more than ever necessary for solidarity, but also for collective actions and cooperation.

Thank you for giving me the floor

