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Statement submitted by Federación internacional de empresarias BPW Spain 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.

The Covid-19 pandemic was an asymmetric shock, reinforced by existing vulnerabilities linked to uneven progress on the SDGs. This could lead to further widening the gaps between countries. However with digitalization, including digital finance, we would be able to tansform societies and economies in a equitable way. Renewed regional cooperation with a focus on people and planet can create the foundation for inclusive, resilient and sustainable development, and ensure no country is left behind

We have to design economic recovery packages to "build back better". This means doing more than getting economies and livelihoods quickly back on their feet. After COVID-19 we need recovery policies to trigger investment and behavioural changes that will reduce the likelihood of future shocks and increase society's resilience to them when they do occur. Central to this approach is a focus on well-being and inclusiveness. We have to align with long-term emission reduction goals, factoring in resilience to climate impacts, slowing biodiversity loss and increasing circularity of supply chains. In practice, well-designed recovery policies can cover several of these dimensions at once, such as catalysing the shift towards accessibility-based mobility systems, and investing in low-carbon and decentralised electricity systems.

We want to propose the implementation of a new sustainable development goal, SDG18 SKY QUALITY AND ACCESS TO STARLIGHT, to promote the protection of the sky and access to starlight. The advance of light pollution is erasing the stars from our skies, causing the deterioration of a legacy with profound cultural, scientific, environmental and aesthetic repercussions.

Overlighting has become a global phenomenon that affects our cities. The inefficiency in lighting causes an unjustified excess of energy consumption and increases the level

of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. It is important to promote technological innovation to have intelligent lighting, without wasting energy, compatible with our sense of security, avoid radioelectric pollution and regulate the use of outdoor space, making available to society all the resources and knowledge that heaven offers us. https://ods18.org/en/

We have to be more aware that resources are finite and that circular economy must be implemented in our lives and companies. There is a unyielding need to conserve our planet's resources by adopting a zero tolerance attitude towards waste. We have to change our mentality

^{*}The present statements are issued without formal editing.

Statement

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