

Soroptimist international Intervention on the 150 CPR-30th April 2020

Thank you Chair for giving me the floor.

My Name is **Mary Muia**, representing Soroptimist International (SI).

Our mission is to transform the lives and status of women and girls through education, empowerment and enabling opportunities. We are global Voice for Women and Girls and a member of Women Major Groups.

We thank the secretariat for facilitating our attendance to the virtual 150 CPR meeting. We appreciate UNEP Deputy Executive Director Ms. Joyce Msuya comprehensive Director's report. We wish the UNEP/ED Ms. Inger Andersen a quick recovery.

Soroptimist International note that the report recognizes the current global crisis COVID 19 effects to humanity. Soroptimist International adds her voice to highlight how the pandemic is impacting negatively to vulnerable groups such as women, girls and children. Women are more exposed to the damage caused by crises.

It seems likely that the final death toll of the COVID-19 crisis could be increased by the violent deaths of hundreds or even thousands of women worldwide.

Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General on the 5 April 2020, made a global appeal to UN Member States to recognize that that "[violence is not confined to battlefields](#)", as he called for the protection of women and girls from domestic violence during this confinement period. He reiterated this message in his speech on 9 April while addressing the desperate need to prioritize gender equality in all efforts to combat, and recover from, the effects of COVID-19.

Soroptimist International joins hands with other stakeholders to intervene and prevent domestic violence in the face of COVID19 crisis.

Thank you Chair.