

PREAMBLE

ince the adoption of the Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979) and the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (1985), numerous national and international declarations affirm the importance of women's education for political, social and economic life. The World Conference on Education for All (1990) launched an appeal to heads of state and decision-makers for high-level commitment to education and especially for girls and women. The Rio de Janeiro Conference on Environment and Development (1992) stressed women's roles in the protection of the environment. The Cairo Conference on Population and Development in 1994 showed the correlation between women's education, reproductive rights and control of population growth. The United Nations Decade on Education for Human Rights, which began on 1 January 1995, gives priority to gender equality. The Social Summit of Copenhagen (1995) puts educational opportunities for women and girls once more to the forefront. It is in this context that the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and UNESCO reaffirm their belief in the universal value of education for a gender-inclusive culture worldwide.