

**Interventie voor UNGA Special Session ICPD Beyond 2014**

Mr President, distinguished delegates,

[Opening]

" I remember she told me her story once and it went something like:

the-men-came-and

they-burned-my village

tied-my-girls-

took-my-girls-

whipped-my-husband-

cut-my-breasts-

I-ran-away-

through-the-bush-

found-a-ship-

crossed-the-sand-

then-they-put-me-in-here.

Or some such story like that. I got confused with all the stories in that detention center. All the girls' stories started out: "the-men-came-and-they-

..."

This is the story of Little Bee (from Nigeria), the hero from the book *The Other Hand*. Little Bee's story is about the search for security. About living under the constant threat of danger. Her story is about homesickness that really hurts – about loss that never ends. It's about what you are prepared

to do for each other, for your sister, for your husband, for a child, for a stranger. It's about how two women protect each other. I thought of this story as I prepared for this important session. About the need to look out for those who need our protection and in particular, the next generation of women and girls.

[Voortgang, maar niet genoeg]

- We can be immensely proud of the achievements mapTd [(o)U(2)A(1)C(1)A(1)S(1)]

- Every day, 800 women die from causes related to pregnancy and childbirth – 99% occurring in developing countries. For adolescent girls in many

- The Netherlands is fully committed to make the ICPD ambitions a reality for all – in The Netherlands and worldwide. It is important for individual happiness. But it is also important for prosperous societies. We cannot waste the precious talents and resources of our young.
- But I realize these are not easy issues. They often concern practices and customs that are hard to discuss. But let us have an open dialogue.
- Last year in UN General Assembly week, I co-hosted an event about early and forced marriages. There many leaders opened up about the hopes they had for their daughters. It showed that we share a common humanity and that we all care deeply about the fate of the next generation. Let us talk together and work together on how to renew our promises based on the Cairo agenda to this generation. Let us make a world of rights and opportunity happen for them. Let us live up to the ICPD promise.

Thank you