

STATEMENT BY H.E. MRS. SELMA ARIYE KAVAF

STATE MINISTER FOR WOMEN AND FAMILY ISSUES, GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
AT THE 54TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
1 MARCH 2010

Honorable Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honor for me, Turkish Minister of State for Women and Family Affairs, to join you today to participate in the 54th session of the Commission on the Status of Women. I am pleased that this Session will review the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the 20th special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the theme of "Women and Gender Equality in the Realization of the Millennium Development Goals."

Empowerment of women and gender equality will be the priority themes of the UN's agenda throughout the year, during which we will direct our focus on these important issues, availing of the opportunity given by the 50th anniversary of the Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and Security in September.

and the implementation of the goals we set for ourselves in Beijing, as well as at the Millennium Summit.

As Turkey, we are ready to spare no effort to this end and we are committed to continue our contribution both at the national level and the global context to these processes in the most effective manner.

I wish to emphasize that on the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Committee has managed to be towards the target of gender equality. We take due account of these institutional errors, documents and Conventions in our national activities in Turkey on gender equality. Since the strengthened the equality between women and men in its legislation and intensified its efforts to put the equality provided by its legislation into practice. A National Action Plan on Gender Equity, covering ten crucial areas set forth in Beijing Declaration, has been prepared to eliminate those cases of gender inequality which may occur despite the equality provided by

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... especially in girls' education. The schooling rate among girls has risen to 96 percent, and among boys to 97 percent and the schooling gap between girls and boys is to achieve a 100 percent schooling rate both among girls and boys by 2013.

In order to ensure greater access to the labor market for women, whose number has decreased due to the economic crisis and migration from rural to urban areas, measures have been taken towards raising women's educational levels and work skills through active labor policies. An Employment Package was announced in 2009 for enhancing the employment prospects of women and the youth. As part of the package, the government pays for social security premiums on behalf of employers recruiting women and the youth for a term of five years.

Furthermore, targeted training is provided to raise awareness among public personnel in decision-making mechanisms in rural areas, in view of the critical role of public servants in gender mainstreaming.

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The prevention of violence against women, which is a global problem, is a state policy. The Turkish Government has prominently demonstrated its determination to combat violence against women, as an indication of this determination. This is of great importance for the responsibilities to all relevant institutions on the subject and monitoring their activities in this respect at certain intervals.

The "Stop violence against women" campaign, which started in 2004 to raise awareness and consciousness among the public, is still in operation. A National Action Plan on Combating Violence against Women, which was adopted in 2007 and 2010, has initiated specific work in such areas as legislation, awareness rising, and empowerment of women, protective services, treatment, rehabilitation and inter-institutional cooperation. A research project on "Domestic Violence against Women in Turkey" has been conducted countrywide in order to develop preventive and combative strategies on violence against women.

Moreover, training has been provided to raise awareness among law enforcement officers, health personnel and legal officers, who constitute the main pillar in the assistance process in cases of violence against women. So far, 40,000 police officers, 20,000 health personnel, 750 judges and public prosecutors have benefited from specific training on methods of approach to victims of domestic violence. Preparations are almost complete for launching similar training programmes for religious officers.

~~All Forms of Discrimination against Women~~ and the Turkish Government is confident that her
and Chair of the Committee in the past and the Turkish Government is confident that her
continued membership of the Committee will further contribute to efforts with regard to
empowerment of women and gender equality in the international arena.

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~~In celebration of the 54th session of the ILO Commission on the Status of Women will~~
contribute to our activities in promoting gender equality.

Thank you for your kind attention.