



Chairperson,

Allow me to begin by congratulating you for being elected to chair the 39th Session of the Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). It is indeed a great honor and a privilege to

Commission on Gender and Development. The Government has embarked on the process of strengthening these institutions and mechanisms by, among others, deploying and recruiting additional professional staff and plans to equip the existing ones with the appropriate gender

mainstreaming skills

To this effect, I am pleased to report that a Gender Secretary has been

legal reforms are contained in several bills to be tabled in parliament

Chairperson,

Similarly, deliberate efforts have also been made to increase women representation in the judiciary as well as the diplomatic corps, from 9 to 12 (judges) and from 7 to 11 (ambassadors) from 2003 to 2007 respectively.

At parliamentary level the current number of women members of parliament is 19, which is the highest in the history of Kenya. Of these 2

women head key ministries: Justice and Constitutional Affairs and Ministry of Health while 6 hold the positions of Assistant Minister.

Chairperson,

With respect to gender violence which is noted to be on the increase in Kenya, the government has taken concrete measures to address this problem. These include

- establishment of the first police station that specifically deals with women and children who are victims of violence,
- setting up of gender desks in every police station in the districts through out the country and
- training of law enforcement officers on gender issues and human

members or relatives most of whom are the breadwinners. Many victims are therefore unwilling to have them arrested due to the anticipated negative social and economic implications.

As a result the government has initiated some measures through the provincial administration to ensure the arrest of perpetrators of FGM and early marriage. There are other strategies which include involvement of communities to find their own solutions to curb the practice. An example is the Intergenerational Dialogue Approach being piloted in 5 districts which involves discussions between elders and the youth on the practice of FGM.

There are other efforts from NGOs, community based organizations and faith based organizations who have continued to supplement government's efforts to end FGM. These have produced training programmes, developed educational materials and conducted awareness raising campaigns aimed at different target groups such as practicing community, health professionals, the police and the media. There are other training programmes that target traditional circumcisers to enable them become change agents in their communities and orient them to engage in alternative income generating activities.

As indicated in our periodic report, the Inter-ministerial Committee on FGM that has been set up by government will also ensure that efforts to curb the practice are approached multi-sectorally and systematically. A national situation analysis on FGM has already been undertaken whose findings and recommendations will guide future programming and implementation.

eradicating illiteracy and promoting life long learning among adults and out of school youth. The Kenya National Adult Literacy Survey Report of 2007 indicates that gender disparities exist with 58.9% women compared to 64.1% men with minimum mastery levels. This concern is being pursued through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Education For All (EFA) targets on literacy which aim at increasing literacy levels to 50% by 2015.

been scheduled for October 2007 to deliberate and make recommendations on the issue.

The government of Kenya also appreciates the importance of amending

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Article 20 (i) of CEDAW. I wish to inform you that a Cabinet Memorandum has been prepared recommending the amendment of this article to enable the Committee to meet more frequently and effectively fulfill its duties similarly, the Attorney General has also advised on the same.

Chairperson,

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