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Commission on the Status of Women

Forty-ninth session

28 February-11 March 2005

Agenda item 3 (c)

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”: implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives

Panel discussion entitled “Addressing the linkages between the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration: progress, gaps and challenges”

Summary submitted by the Moderator (Kyung-wha Kang)

1. At its 8th meeting, on 3 March 2005, the Commission on the Status of Women held a panel discussion followed by a dialogue entitled “Addressing the linkages between the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration: Progress, gaps and challenges”. The panellists were: Ms. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa; Mr. Zéphirin Diabré, Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Ms. Naila Kabeer (Bangladesh), fellow, Institute of Development Studies/University of Sussex, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Ms. Caren Grown, Director of Poverty Reduction and Economic Governance, International Centre for Research on Women, Washington, D.C.; and Ms. Susana Chiarotti, Director, Institute for Gender, Rights and Development, Rosario, Argentina. The panel was moderated by Ms. Kyung-wha Kang, Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women.

2. An issues paper prepared by the Division for the Advancement of Women provided the framework for the dialogue, and the report of the Expert Group

Platform for Action. This was especially relevant in regard to women's sexual and

accountability, in addition to adequate resources, were crucial for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. They also called for improved tools for gender mainstreaming and for holistic programmes to tackle the synergies among the various policy documents. Lack of sex-disaggregated data continued to pose challenges for monitoring, requiring improvements in the quality and frequency of data collection.

11. Further efforts were needed to strengthen the gender dimensions of the targets and indicators related to the Millennium Development Goals, and additional targets and indicators should be considered. Participants in the High-level Plenary Meetings should consider adding a new target, namely to provide access to sexual and reproductive health through the primary health-care system.

12. National machinery for the advancement of women had a critical role in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals. Cooperation between Governments and civil society, as well as Parliaments, trade unions and women's networks should be strengthened and greater efforts should be made to ensure the contribution of men and boys towards gender equality.
