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STATEMENT BY

THE DELEGATION OF CANADA

TO

**THE 50TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

NEW YORK, 1 MARCH 2006

DÉCLARATION DE

LA DÉLÉGATION CANADIENNE

LORS DE

**LA 50^E SESSION DE LA COMMISSION DES NATIONS UNIES
SUR LA CONDITION DE LA FEMME**

NEW YORK, LE 1 MARS 2006

Madame Chair, distinguished delegates

I am pleased to address the Commission this year as it takes forward the experience of the Beijing +10 review and appraisal in 2005 and embarks on a course for the next few years. Canada, as a member of the last Bureau, extends its congratulations to the new Bureau and I assure you of my delegation's support.

We have reviewed with interest the reports provided by the Secretary General on the matters before us. While they are sobering in terms of the need for improvement that exists, we are encouraged by the many examples of initiatives undertaken by Member States and by many parts of the UN system. In the report on gender mainstreaming at the national level, in particular, we note examples of leadership by many different countries in many areas that can be a source of both practical help and inspiration.

Canada is pleased to note the issue of accountability that runs through many of the Secretary-General's reports, and the importance of having statistics, indicators and other sources of information, including the voices of women themselves, upon which to

from the varied paid and unpaid contributions they make to Canada's social and economic development.

Internationally, Canada is a strong supporter of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We view the third goal, which seeks to "promote gender equality and empower women", both as a goal in and of itself and as fundamental to achieving all of the MDGs. Through our international development agency (CIDA), Canada seeks to achieve results for gender equality in three broad areas: women as decision-makers; the human rights of women and girls; and women's access to and control over resources and benefits of development.

Attention to diversity among women and girls is also important

The full and effective implementation of the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* remains our goal.

We thank the Bureau for its proposals in this regard, especially the additional time devoted to substantive panels. We also particularly support the proposals assess