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Capacity-building on mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes for the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child.

Written statement*

Submitted by

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* The views expressed in this paper are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations.

the Roma Children, in situations of armed conflict, child labor, street children, sex tourism- and girls within the Juvenile Justice System.

Under “general measures of Implementation”, the Committee groups, legislation, creating a well resourced and properly mandated body to oversee and coordinate the implementation by the various governmental and non governmental bodies- a time bound, national plan of action-Budgetary allocations- A solid data base **on all** children including the most vulnerable groups, disaggregated inter alia according to sex, age and regional disparities – **monitoring mechanisms** to report violations of the rights of children including the girl child, accessible to all children, dissemination of the Convention and **capacity building** of professionals working with and for children: Is an area of priority to the Committee. **In its General Comment Number five on General measures of Implementation, the Committee underscored Capacity building.**

It empowers States to take effective measures to ensure the realization of the rights of the child. States parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that the child is protected from all forms of neglect, abuse, exploitation, hazardous work and child marriage, and is not subjected to any form of discrimination. States parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that the child is protected from all forms of neglect, abuse, exploitation, hazardous work and child marriage, and is not subjected to any form of discrimination. States parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that the child is protected from all forms of neglect, abuse, exploitation, hazardous work and child marriage, and is not subjected to any form of discrimination.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Let me express our appreciation for the comprehensive report prepared by the Secretary General presented to the Commission on the Status of Women contained in document E/CN.6/2007/3 “progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes with a particular focus on the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child”.

The report provides an overview of the joint efforts by various stake holders including governments as well as United Nations’ treaty bodies namely CEDAW & CRC to mainstream girl’s rights into planning, development, implementation and evaluation of such efforts.

The report did not put adequate stress on the issue of capacity building of professionals working with, and for the girl child. The majority of States, in particular developing countries, need guidance on the best, most cost/ effective way to go about mainstreaming. So I need the recommendations of the report to be more specific on this crucial issue.

Moreover, States need models or initiatives that coordinate national efforts with that of the United Nations country team as well as the donor community. Paragraph 55 of the report indicates that girl’s education received the most explicit attention in all reporting mechanism as a cross-cutting theme. Let me remind you here of the United Nations Secretary-General’s initiative on Girls Education launched in Dakar. We in Egypt are considered a flag ship country. We consider girl’s education a critical tool to eliminate discrimination against the girl child. We started in 2000 bottom up approach. Composed of five programs, Community mobilization, data collection& analysis, Construction of girl’s friendly schools, poverty alleviation and monitoring and evaluation, the initiative is comprehensive and multidisciplinary. In less than three years 600 girls’ friendly schools were built. With such initiatives it was easier for countries to leap frog. We need similar initiatives in the area of health and poverty alleviation.

The United Nations’ Secretary-General Study on Violence Against Children:

The United Nations’ Secretary-General in-depth study on Violence against Children is another initiative that promises good progress if implemented. The Study has generated a global movement against violence. It was developed through a participatory process including children themselves. Nine regional consultations insured that each region witnessed its government; NGOs and children, not only identify violence against children, but also highlighted the way forward based on its success stories and failures. The study offered a platform where many States prepare a national plan of action. The Committee on he Rights of the Child, since the inception of the process of regional consultations, has been recommending to State Parties to follow up its recommendation and by preparing a multidisciplinary comprehensive plan of action. This process should insure gender mainstreaming in the planning, development, implementation and monitoring of rights of the child at the national level. The study mainstreamed gender issues. It offers an opportunity to coordinate

national, regional and international efforts to stop violence against the girl child. We still need to agree on a follow up mechanism at the international level that will complement the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. A Secretary-General Special Representative will help ensure the implementation of the recommendations of the study. Such implementation will mark a shift in dealing with the violence against children. Ensuring the implementation and follow up of the recommendations of the study will mark significant Progress in building capacity for integrating the perspective of the girl child into the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In conclusion let me assure you the following:

The Committee on the Rights of the Child is very diligent in assisting State Parties to identify forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child.