



**STATEMENT**

**TO THE**

**52<sup>nd</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON  
THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

**"FINANCING FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN"**

**BY**

**THE HONORABLE MEMBERS**

## **1. Introduction**

The Saint Vincent and the Grenadines delegation is pleased to, once

again participate in this important exercise, the 50th Session of the

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, the mandate of  
which includes the monitoring of the global advancement of women

women. Cabinet holds that education and poverty elimination are our top two developmental priorities.

#### **4. Financing For Gender-Equality and Women's Empowerment**

**(i) Education:** In 2005, history was created in SVG when, for the first time, universal access to secondary education was established. The educational budget has received annual sizeable increases, which include support for lower-income families. Student loans for university education as well as scholarships have been substantially

disadvantaged students under which our government provides loans to students lacking the family-resources for securing those loans. About 75% of our university-students are women. Our administration finances the return of teenage-mothers to school through the payment of fees, purchase of books, provision of transportation, and the provision of day-care services for babies.

#### **(ii) Poverty Elimination:**

**Business-Financing and Economic Empowerment:** Financing for business enterprises are available from a variety of sources. Of note, is the Micro and Small Enterprise Loan Programme, under which loans of \$15,000.00 are allowed without security. Women comprise 56% of recipients

Development Aid. This forum must address this issue. We acknowledge those European countries that have lived-up to their commitments and, in some cases, gone beyond that commitment.

colonial exploitation denied that any so-called development is linked to