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Statement by the UK Government

5<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

Mr. Chairperson,

The UK aligns itself with the statement made earlier this week by Slovenia on behalf of the European Union. We would like to make some additional comments focussing on our national priorities.

But first of all, the UK Government would like to welcome this

All of these areas need to be resourced, so that commitments on gender equality made at UN and national levels are finally turned

~~into reality for women on the ground. That is why this year's CSW~~

theme of Financing Gender Equality is so relevant to us all.

Women in the UK have made remarkable progress in the last century. One hundred years ago women in the UK could not vote, could not receive a university degree and had very limited legal rights. ~~Despite radical improvements in women's status, however~~

Gender responsive budgeting is however only one part of the package. Tackling gender inequality also needs a range of complementary measures to set standards, monitor progress and enforce compliance with best practice. In the UK, we have put a range of such measures in place including: strategic target setting

for delivery of Government services. *Statutory Gender Data*

More recently, the UK has built on this to develop a Public Service Agreement (PSA) on Equalities. Effective from April 2008, this cross-Government PSA seeks to address the disadvantage that individuals experience because of their gender, race, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief. The Equalities Public Service Agreement has five key priorities including reducing the gender pay gap in the UK, and, increasing participation in public life by women, ethnic minorities, the disabled and young people.

Mr. chair,

The elimination of gender inequality is also a key component of the

UK Government's international development policy. Gender

discrimination is not only unjust but is an impediment to

Millennium Development Goals. Without tackling the poor

We also need to get the international system and its resources working more effectively for gender equality.

Efforts to improve aid effectiveness, including the outcome of the High Level Meeting on Aid Effectiveness in Accra in September, need to reflect the importance of these issues and include incentives, accountability mechanisms and measures of results which track the impact on women's poverty and empowerment

And multilateral institutions like the World Bank and the regional