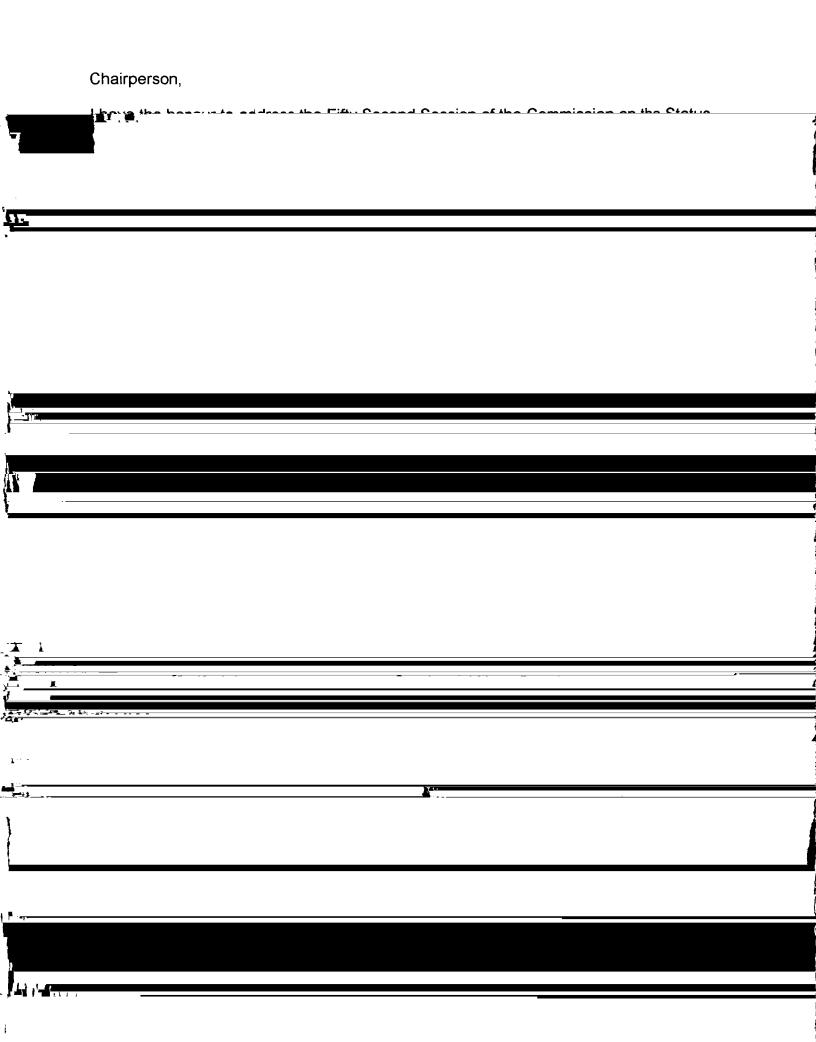


REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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Chairperson,

SADC is in the process of developing a regional gender policy, which will be a guiding tool to operationalise the SADC Plan of Action and improve on synergies between national and regional structures and mechanisms. Furthermore, the Policy will provide a framework for mainstreaming gender in the SADC sector specific policies, programmes and activities.

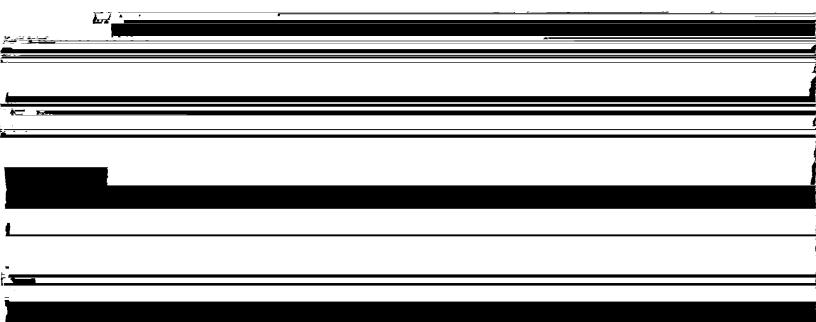
In addition, SADC has continued consulting on the SADC draft Gender Protocol and it is expected that the Draft Protocol will be adopted by the Heads of State and Government Summit which is scheduled to be held at the end of this year. The Protocol, when adopted will accelerate the implementation of the gender programmes in the Region.

Chairperson,

You will recall that in our report to the 51st session of the CSW we reported that the

region had the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence in Africa. One year down the line, the status quo remains the same although the infection rate has slowed down. I wish at this juncture to commend the UN for giving this matter attention at the highest level by ensuring that the Office of the UN Special Envoy of the Secretary General for HIV and AIDS in Africa is held by an African woman.

Chairperson,



change particularly among women is required to ensure that they effectively participate and contribute to decision making on climate change. While we call for sufficient funding for adaptation and mitigation under climate change, those finds must be in addition to the committed 0.7 necest of the Oroce National Product of the industrialised countries as Official Development Assistance (ODA). We, therefore, urge the international community to step up the efforts in addressing the problem of climate change as the poor countries who have not contributed much to the