



BRASIL

**52nd Commission on the Status of Women
General Debate
Statement by Minister Nilcéa Freire
Minister of the Special Secretariat of Policies for Women
(New York, 27 February 2008)**

(check against delivery)

Mr. Chairperson,

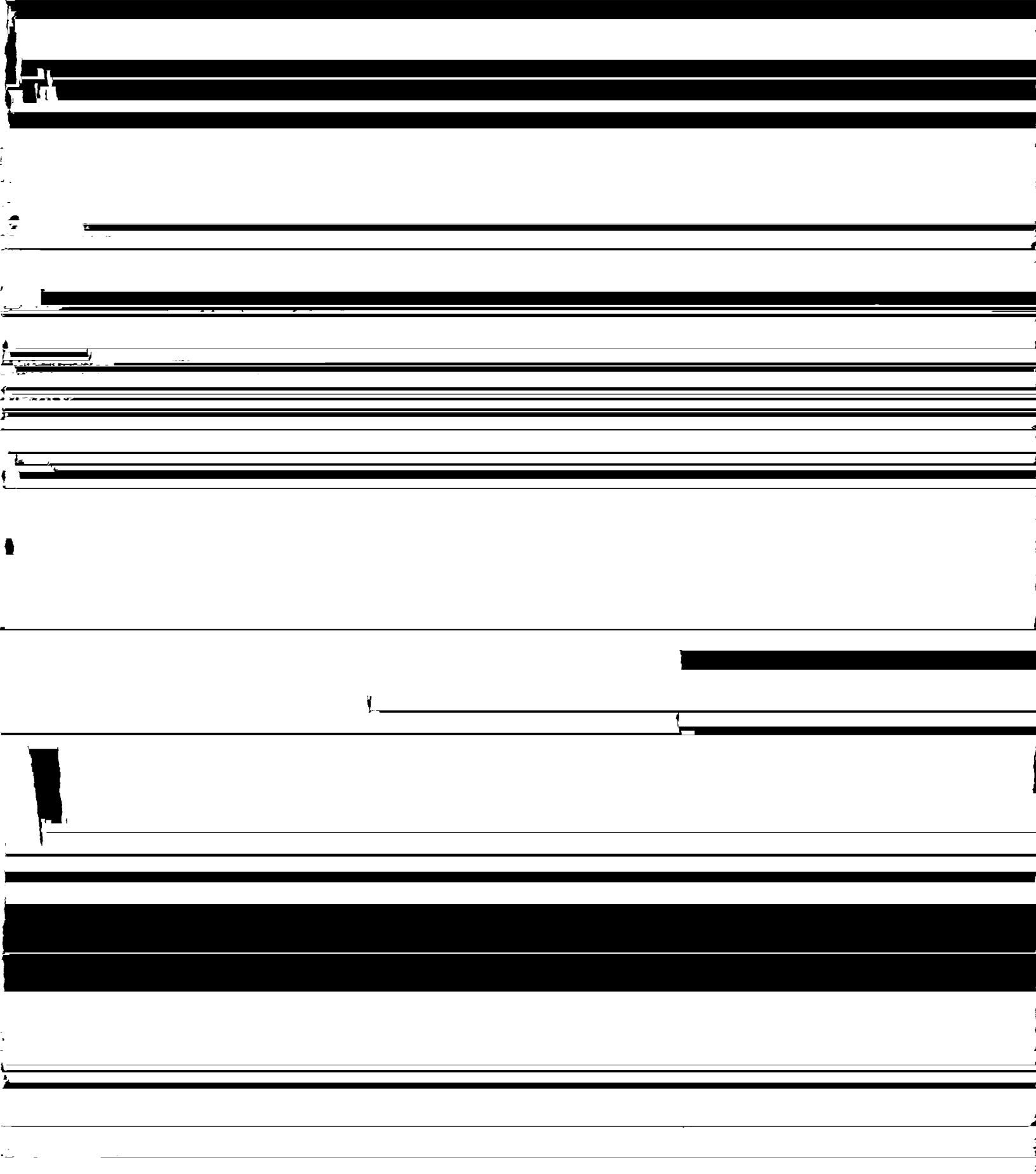
Yet several studies show that in their path towards equality, women still face many obstacles. Institutional deficiencies of the mechanisms for the advancement of women in most countries, insufficient financial contributions for gender equality programs and for

policies targeted to women, as well as planning processes that are gender insensible are among the most important obstacles. Despite some significant formal achievements, fragmented and discontinued political and programmatic initiatives are the common result. The reversal of this situation requires energy and persistence; beyond the reaffirmation of commitments contained in the Beijing Platform for Action and other documents, we should make new commitments in order to reflect the changes that have been processed throughout the world in the last thirteen years, especially in regard to the consequences of an economic model that concentrates wealth and deepens inequalities, with negative impacts on the lives of women. In this connection, I wish to emphasize the Consensus that emerged from the Tenth Conference on Women of Latin America and the Caribbean promoted by ECLAC in Quito, in 2007. In that occasion, the goal of political equity is presented as an unquestionable and essential challenge to the realization of formal changes and advances.

Mr. Chairperson,

I will now try to present three points I deem essential to ensure that women and men are effectively equal in rights and obligations, as determined in the Brazilian Constitution, and which represented progress in the fulfillment of the commitments assumed by Brazil

reduction of social and regional inequalities, the promotion of gender, racial and ethnic equality and the maintenance of prices and sustained fiscal stability."



family violence against women; the promotion of sexual and reproductive rights of _____
