

TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement by
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**THE 52nd SESSION OF
THE COMMISSION
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
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Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen.

It is an honour and a privilege for me to address the 52nd Commission on the Status of Women. The Secretary General's launch of his multi-year campaign to eliminate violence against women is as timely as is the priority theme for this year's session on "Financing for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women".

Focus on the economic empowerment of women is crucial for our joint ambition to achieve the MDGs by 2015.

The MDGs have created a new momentum in the way we approach development. National development strategies, focusing on poverty reduction, based on broad national ownership, and supported by the international community are creating results in many countries. Much still remains to be done, not least in sub-Saharan Africa.

The MDG's have attracted attention on women's social empowerment, on health, nutrition, primary education, child mortality, maternal health and hiv/aids. Women's economic empowerment has been given less focus. We need to rebalance our approach and to deal with the issue of empowerment of women in a more holistic way, where social and economic empowerment is mutually supportive. Gender equality and empowerment of women is not only a central MDG but a means to achieving all the MDGs.

We see women consistently lagging behind men with regard to participation in the formal labour force, earning equal pay for equal work. We see women being consistently discriminated when it comes to access to credits, to inheritance and to ownership of land. And we see societies suffering from not utilizing the human capital of women to anything near the extent possible, largely due to culture and tradition.

... effort to change this situation. We will

and the empowerment of women, stressing the importance of economic empowerment as a crucial part in the global fight against poverty.

To do so, we will launch a **global MDG3 campaign** - to intensify global action to achieve MDG3 and especially action on economic empowerment.

Denmark will establish an international MDG3 network and host an international conference in Copenhagen in April.

We will work for the conference to point at the necessity of establishing a **Global MDG3 Coalition** - of governments, decision makers at all levels, including the private sector, international organisations and civil society actors – and thus hopefully contribute to deliver tangible commitments at the High Level Event on the MDGs, planned for 25th September this year here in New York.

We will ask of the coalition-members to commit themselves to do something extra – to go that extra mile to advance the objectives of MDG3.

Donor governments might consider to allocate more development assistance to gender equality and women's empowerment.

Business leaders and companies might also consider to allocate more resources to gender equality and women's empowerment.

inspiration at home. At national level, we mainstream gender equality and we target use of public resources.

In Denmark, gender and gender equality perspectives must be incorporated into all aspects of state and local policy-making, planning and administration.

We have developed tools for gender assessments of new legislation, campaign activities, resource allocation and gender segmented data and statistics, shared experiences and best

They will have one thing in common: Their belief in the importance of taking action to empower women and achieve MDG3.

We have a tremendous task in front of us. Action to increase women's access to formal employment, to business opportunities, to land and to resources, to credit, to technology and to essential infrastructure such as transport, water and energy is needed, and it needs something extra from all of us.

It is our first