



M V A N I M A D

Please check against delivery

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to join the previous speakers in expressing my delegation's
support for the recommendations made by the support of my delegation

My delegation would like to associate itself with the statement made by the
distinguish Minister of Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

I wish also to commend the Commission for the decision to focus on financing
for gender equality and development of women as the priority theme for the 52nd

implemented. According to the 2007 Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, gender inequality costs \$80 billion a year to the region. The region loses up to \$ 47 billion per year because of restrictions on women's access to employment, and up to \$30 billion because of gender gap in education. Dedicated action is necessary both at the national and international level to bridge the gap between policy and practice in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

Mr. Chairman,

Credit, especially micro-credit, has a positive impact on women's empowerment. In 2004, it is estimated that 3,164 micro-credit institutions reached 92 million clients of which 83.5 per cent of the poorest clients were women. However, it must be stressed that the credit programmes should be carefully

focusing on areas of economy, transportation, health, education and safe water supply had been laid down.

Youth Development Training Centers, Vocational Training Schools, and Primary Health Care Training Schools are specially designed for women and girl child. Moreover, the Community Development for Remote Townshin Priect implemented

as a joint project of the Development of progress of Border Areas and National Races and the UNDP, is designed to give financial support to the women in the rural areas

through self-help income generating programme. This programme implemented

since 2004, is geared towards poverty reduction through promotion of self-reliant

