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**Statement by Ms. Nadya Rasheed, Counsellor, before the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, Fifty-second Session, 3 March 2008: (Please Check Against Delivery)**

My delegation is honored to address this Commission and would like to begin by congratulating you, Mr. Chair, and the other members of the Bureau on your election; we pledge our full support and cooperation. In the same spirit, my delegation would also like to extend our appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his report concerning the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/CN.6/2006/4) and to express our gratitude to ESCWA and to all the entities of the United Nations system for all of their efforts in providing much needed support and assistance to Palestinian women.

inalienable human rights they continue to fight alongside the women of the world against gender inequality, violence, including domestic violence, and discrimination so that they too can play an active role in their own society. While the advancement of women is an issue of Palestinian concern and the Palestinian Authority has established a Ministry for Women's Affairs to focus on priority issues in this regard, the reality is that the Israeli occupation and its unlawful policies and measures remain the major

Israel's military assaults, violent incursions and raids on civilian areas in the Occupied Palestinian Territory continue to seriously threaten the safety and well-being of Palestinian women and their families and hundreds have suffered death, injury and trauma as a result in 41