

# PORTUGAL

Statement by

H.E. Ambassador João Salgueiro



First of all let me congratulate you Mr. President and the other members of the Bureau on the occasion of your election to preside over the 52<sup>nd</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Portugal aligns itself with the Statement delivered by the State Secretary and Deputy Minister for Labour, Family and Social Affairs of Slovenia on behalf of the European Union.

The Portuguese Government is very committed to the promotion of gender equality as stated in our Programme and guided by all the international commitments. Hence I will start by expressing

our appreciation for the choice of this session's priority theme as financing is crucial for the implementation of all measures to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Following a recent reform of the Public Administration, the national gender equality mechanism,

1. the promotion of women's employability and entrepreneurship, namely by encouraging female entrepreneurship as a factor for innovation and competitiveness through vocational training and re-skilling, financial incentives, micro-credit, creation of organisational networks, meetings and sharing of good practices;

2. ~~factorizing the implementation of Equality Plans in public and private systems to ensure~~

and rights; programmes to empower local women through social networks, particularly women's organisations and political women's groups, and programmes related to the financial sector to facilitate the development of strategies to reinforce the role of women in the economy, notably entrepreneurship.

In this context another important guideline for our development cooperation policy is the

strengthening of the relations with the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries in the areas mentioned above. We look forward to a more active and coordinated approach within this group towards Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women

Portugal will continue to strive to implement our commitments in the pursuing of a world where

