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UNITED NATIONS

Commission on the Status of Women

52nd Session

**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women
and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace
for the twenty-first century"**

Agenda Item 3

Statement by

Ms. Romana Tomc
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on behalf of the European Union

Mr Chair,

It is an honour and privilege to address the opening session of the 52nd Commission on the Status of Women on behalf of the European Union.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, as well as Ukraine and Armenia align themselves with this statement.

Let me at the outset congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on assuming the important duty to guide us wisely through the work ahead. I assure you that the European Union will work in strong partnership with other Member States towards reaching agreed

Elimination of violence against women and girls is a crucial step in achieving the agreed

spearhead a multiannual system-wide campaign to eliminate violence against women and girls through 2015. We all need to ensure adequate funding is available to eliminate discrimination against women, promote gender equality, and prevent and redress all forms and manifestations of violence against women and support and assist victims and survivors and ensure their access to justice.

The European Union considers the increase in female employment rates and the quality of jobs the crucial steps for the empowerment of women, the promotion of gender equality and the achievement of the objectives of development, the fight against poverty and for addressing

Along the same line, in 2006 the Council adopted a set of political conclusions on institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, including a set of indicators to assess the

progress at European Union level

The meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women have proven that without the contribution of women's organisations and other civil society organisations we would not respond proactively to the major concerns of our time, namely poverty, violence against girls and women in all its forms and manifestations, including trafficking and sexual tourism, discrimination against women manifested in gender stereotypes, violations of women's human rights resulting from traditional and cultural attitudes and practices, including in matters related to sexual and reproductive health, the devastating impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic on women, and violations of women's and girls' human rights in armed conflicts and during peace negotiations and of women refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and

The *European Consensus* adopted in 2005 includes midlines for action and outlines

objectives and five common principles of the European Union's institutions and Member States in development cooperation. One of these principles is gender equality. The *Consensus* highlights the importance of gender equality in the context of the new aid modalities.

The joint European Union commitment to gender equality as a core aspect of EU development policy is outlined in the "Communication on Gender Equality in Development Cooperation".

initiatives. We are aware that female social roles, discrimination against women and poverty are some of the many factors which contribute to different although more severe impacts of climate change on their lives and well-being. The financing for gender equality and

we have a unique opportunity to address the promotion of gender equality, empowerment of women and climate change initiatives in a coherent manner.

Before concluding, the European Union wishes to mention an issue, which is not on our agenda, but is nevertheless very relevant for all agenda items we will be dealing with. The strengthening of the United Nations capacity to promote gender equality and women's