

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

> Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture

Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация Объединенных Наций по вопросам образования, науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة للتربية والعلم والثقافة

> 联合国教育、 <u>科学及立化组织</u>

UNESCO

Statement to the 52nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women 25 February - 7 March 2008 United Nations, New York

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Ωη the occasion of this 52nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

I would like to begin by noting that UNESCO has recently decided to strengthen its commitment to promote women's empowerment and gender equality by designating gender equality as one of only two global priorities for the Organization in its new Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013.

UNESCO's firm commitment in this direction is based on a broad-based request by its Member States and on the Organization's conviction that gender equality is a basic human right and a precondition for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

UNESCO's strategic commitment to gender equality is translated into action through the "Priority Gender Equality Action Plan for 2008-2013", currently being drafted through a consultative and participators process involving all Constants

continue its work to promote women in science and technology through the L'Oréal-UNESCO "For Women in Science" partnership.

The Sprigland Human Sciences Sector bes been notablishing a alcoring house

on gender policies of relevance to UNESCO's fields of competence, and will continue to give support to the Palestinian Women's Research Centre and for the consolidation of the Great Lakes Women's Research and Documentation Centre.

The Culture Sector will continue to mainstream gender equality considerations into tangible and intangible world heritage policies and programmes. As part of UNESCO's programmes on Culture, HIV & AIDS, the Sector will also work to enable and inform the development of culturally appropriate and gender-responsive HIV & AIDS policies and programmes.

Finally, the Communication and Information Sector will continue its work to empower women in the domain of Information and Communication Technology (ICTs) in particular through the creation of community multimedia centres and

open learning communities, which seek to empower women through ICTs and to promote their active role in the management of these centres.

This reflects only not of LINECOO's programming in support of warman's

Expert Group Meeting on "Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women" points out, while most other sources of funding for women's rights and gender equality have been dwindling in recent years,

which includes smaller private foundations, family foundations, individual philanthropists and corporate funding."

UNESCO has experienced this first-hand through its recent partnership with the Sony Ericsson Women's Tennis Association Tour. Through this partnership, UNESCO will be able to provide funding for gender equality and works leadership projects around the world starting with projects in