

**Statement by
Ms. Carolyn Hannan
Director, Division for the Advancement of Women
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs**

**52nd Commission on the Status of Women
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Mr. Chairperson.
Distinguished delegates,

It is an honour to address the 52nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women. I extend a warm welcome to the Ministers, Heads of National Machineries, and other high-level representatives, including those from Ministries of Finance or Planning, as well as all other delegates and participants. The large number of high-level participants from capitals, as well as the significant presence of United Nations entities and civil society, once again demonstrates the strong interest in the issues taken up annually by the Commission and their relevance for work at national level.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Chairperson, and the members of the Bureau of the Commission, for their leadership in the preparation of this session.

The Commission continues to play an important catalytic role in advancing the policy agenda on gender equality and the empowerment of women. The Commission's new working methods were successfully initiated at its 51st session in 2007 and have increased the focus on implementation of policy outcomes at national level. The Commission provides an important global forum for enhanced exchange of national experiences, lessons learned and good practices.

It is encouraging to see how the agenda of the work of the Commission influences the work of bodies at global, regional and national levels. Over the past year, a number of organizations, including, among others, the OECD/DAC Gender Equality Network, the UN Interagency Network on Women and Gender st

Under agenda item 3 (c), the Commission has before it a number of reports and conference room papers.

The report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women, contained in document E/CN.6/2008/6, and the report of the Secretary-General on women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts (E/CN.6/2008/7), are before the Commission. The Commission also has before it the report of the Secretary-General on ending female genital mutilation (E/CN.6/2008/3) and the report of the Secretary-General on forced marriage of the girl child (E/CN.6/2008/4).

The joint workplan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is contained in document E/CN.6/2008/8. A note by the Secretary-General on the strategic framework for the biennium 2010-2011: sub-programme 2, Gender issues and advancement of women, is also before you for consideration (E/CN.6/2008/CRP.4).

The report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its thirty-seventh, thirty-eighth, and thirty-ninth sessions, contained in A/62/38, has been made available to the Commission. A note by the Secretariat transmitting the results of the fortieth session of the Committee, contained in E/CN.6/2008/CRP.1, is before the Commission. The Chairperson of the Committee, Ms. Dubravka Šimonovi , will address the work of the Committee in greater detail.

Under agenda item 4

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Over the past year, the Division continued to provide technical assistance to Member States, on request, to enhance the capacity at national level to implement commitments made in the intergovernmental processes, including in the Beijing Platform for Action and its follow-up, as well as obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Allow me to highlight activities in some areas.

The Division continued its programme of support to countries emerging from conflict to implement the Convention, and held workshops in Liberia and Haiti. We are confident that both countries will soon submit their reports under article 18 of the Convention. The Division also supported a national workshop on reporting under the Convention in Antigua and Barbuda.

Collaboration with the Regional Commissions was also continued, including through a workshop organized with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in Amman, Jordan, for judges and parliamentarians from ten countries in the region. In addition to implementation of the Convention, the workshop focused on measures to reduce violence against women. I would like to extend our appreciation to those States which have provided extrabudgetary resources to allow the Division to further expand work in this area.

The Division has put a strong emphasis on follow up to the Secretary-General's study, and General Assembly resolutions 61/143, and 62/133, on intensification of efforts to eliminate violence against women. I am pleased to report that the study is now available in book form in French and Spanish, in addition to English, and copies have been made available to Member States.

The General Assembly, in resolution 62/133, requested the Secretary-General to present an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-second session with information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on recent follow-up activities to implement resolutions 61/143 and 62/133, including on the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women. Out of 35 entities that had contributed to the Inventory, 24 provided updates of action undertaken. These updates are available in the room (file:///E:/C:/P/AMC/ID/53/DC/0203789/issform/Chet/States/TT0400

The Division for the Advancement of Women stands ready to support the Commission in the work of this session. We look forward to strong outcomes that will ensure increased resources to accelerate implementation at national level, strengthened attention to gender