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Commission on the Status of Women

Fifty-third session

2-13 March 2009

Agenda item 3 (a) (ii)

**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”: implementation of strate



resolution 1325 (2000) and other policy documents and human rights instruments were critical to achieving this goal.

3. Some progress had been made in implementing the agreed conclusions. There was an increase in the number of women in decision-making positions in the public and private sector. Currently, women exceeded 30 per cent representation in national assemblies in 24 countries with Rwanda taking the lead with 56 per cent of seats occupied by women. The number of women in national parliaments had increased globally from 11.6 per cent of seats in 1995 to 18.4 per cent in 2008. There was also an upward trend in women's participation in academia, local government, civil service and the military. Participants placed particular emphasis on the number of

7. Efforts to increase the number of women in public office at the local level,

Gaps and challenges in implementation

13. Despite progress achieved, participants expressed concern about the slow pace of change, and the continuing lack of equal participation of women in all areas, especially in senior management and leadership positions in the private and finance sectors.

14. The persistence of gender stereotypes and discriminatory attitudes regarding the roles of women and men was considered to be a significant barrier to achieving equal participation of women in decision-making processes at all levels. Even where women had gained access to decision-making positions in government, these positions, more often than not, dealt with social policies, perceived as “soft” issues, rather than with finance, budget, foreign policy and national security.

15. It was noted that despite the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), there was a continuing underrepresentation of women in peace negotiations