

Statement submitted by the Asia Pacific Caucus
3 March 2009

I am pleased to take the floor at the 53rd session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, on behalf of the Asia Pacific Caucus which represents 60% of the world's population.

The priority theme addressing the unequal sharing of responsibilities between women and men in both the public and private spheres is one that is very much a reflection of our own concerns. In the context of the Asia-Pacific region, the issues of HIV/AIDS continues to be a major concern, not only because of the

National Human Rights Institutions have a role to play in supporting women and girls, through independent monitoring and reporting at the United Nations level.

The Asia Pacific Caucus urges States to:

~~Address the broader issues of discrimination and violence against women and as a first~~

step in this direction, affirm their commitment to the full realization of women's human rights by lifting reservations on CEDAW.

2. Integrate the equal sharing of responsibilities between men and women in the public and private sphere into all programmes and policies.
3. Ensure that care-giving is well positioned in all policy and funding frameworks, include caregivers as decision-makers, monitors and evaluators of resources and programmes and, that such policies recognize, affirm and support community and family caregivers.

~~and create programmes and activities that include and affirm male involvement in care-giving~~