



**53<sup>rd</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE  
STATUS OF WOMEN**

**S T A T E M E N T**

Mr. Chairman,

Representatives of Sudan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and Mexico on behalf of the Rio Group and is pleased to make some brief remarks of its own in respect of agenda item 3 and this year's priority theme in particular.

The Commission has aptly chosen the theme, "the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of

HIV/AIDS" for there can be little doubt that the distribution of responsibilities between men and women has an important bearing on the attainment of the twin objectives of gender equality and the empowerment of women. Societal norms which rigidly define roles for women and men could pose a particular challenge for the sharing of responsibilities at different levels. It is in recognition of this challenge that a National Policy on Women in Guyana was approved in 2006, which has among its objectives

and service provision for those affected. Sensitization sessions have been held with sports groups, youths and religious and faith based organizations, which are crucial partners in this effort. As further step, Sexual Offences legislation is currently before Parliament with the intent to reform the law, strengthen protection and improve