

New Zealand Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Te Māngai o Aotearoa

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53rd Commission on the Status of Women



Statement by

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**Chief Executive
Ministry of Women's Affairs**

for

New Zealand

Tena koutou katoa
He mihi ki nga tangata o nga hau e wha
Kai te mihi ki a koutou

Greetings to all delegates in the Māori language.

Chair

It is my pleasure to present New Zealand's statement today

On many occasions New Zealand has reaffirmed its support for the standards set out in the Beijing Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. We do so again today with renewed commitment; acknowledging particularly the significance of this year, the 15th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

These agreements remain the blueprint for making real improvements in the lives of women across the world.

New Zealand is committed to women having real choices and being able to use

their strengths to maximize their own and the nation's social and economic

the workforce, across all areas of society, is crucial to helping women achieve their

numbers and efforts are being made to increase their participation in governance. Clearly, the burden upon women will become even heavier, if greater sharing of family and home responsibilities does not occur.

New Zealand takes the issue of women in leadership very seriously. In the state sector, nearly 42 percent of people in governance roles are women, and we are

committed to pushing towards 50 percent. The private sector has much further to go to reach equal participation of women in leadership and the Government is currently looking at ways to work more closely with business to increase the number of women on private sector boards.

As the ICPD Programme of Action acknowledged 15 years ago, involving men is crucial to success. We look forward to hearing new ideas and experiences on efforts to involve men in nurturing the social fabric of societies.