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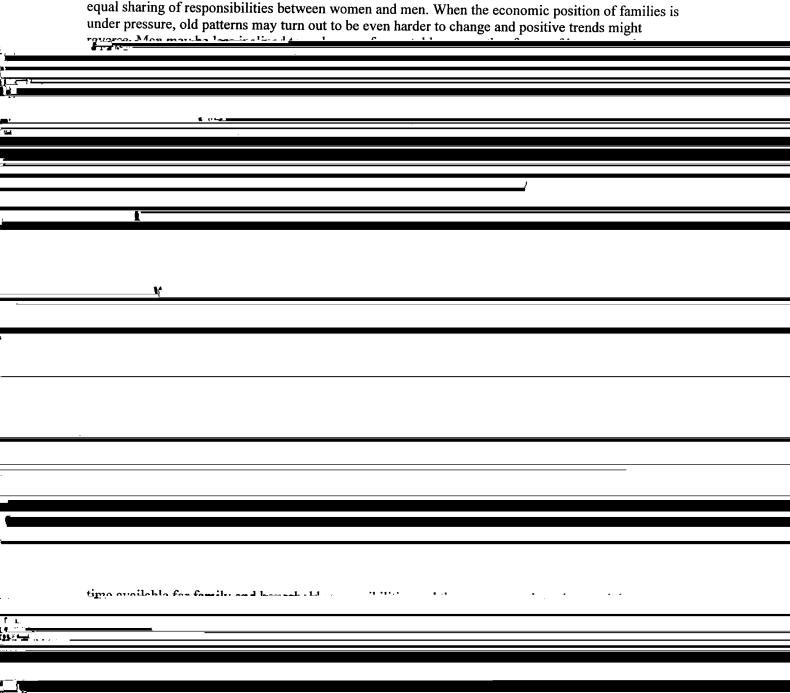
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

Let me first align myself with the statement presented by the Czech Republic on behalf of the European Union.

Mr Chairperson,

The discussion on the topic of this years' CSW comes at a very timely moment. Equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men is on top of the agenda of many women's organisations and it is intensely debated in The Netherlands.

The economic crisis underlines once again that stakeholders around the world need to invest in an equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men. When the economic position of families is under pressure, old patterns may turn out to be even harder to change and positive trends might



feminisation of the HIV/AIDS pandemic as women are less able than men to exercise control over their own bodies and lives. In addition, women are the ones who hear the heaviest burden in food production and care giving. The