



# PAKISTAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement

By

Ms Shazia Marri

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Minister for Information Sindh

on

Agenda Item 3(a)

Equal Sharing of Responsibilities between Women and  
Men, Including

Caregiving in the Context of HIV/AIDS

53rd Session of the

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

March 4, 2009

New York

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**Pakistan's Statement on Agenda Item 3(a)(i)**  
**"the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men,**  
**including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS" at the 53rd Session of the**  
**Commission on the Status of Women**  
**March 4, 2009**

**Chairperson,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen**

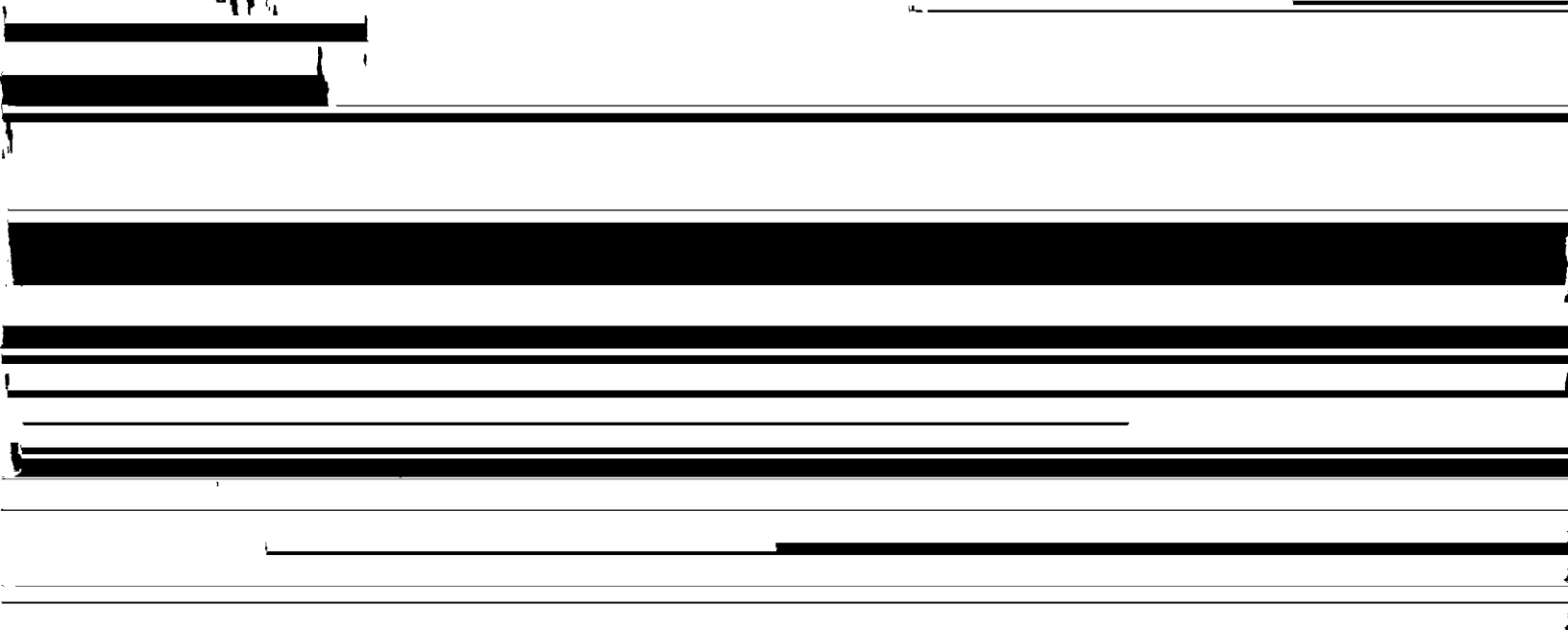
It is indeed a privilege to be part of this august gathering at the United Nations. At the outset, we wish to commend dedication and perseverance of the Chairperson and the entire Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women, for their continued efforts of carrying out the challenging work of the Commission since last year. I assure you full support of the Pakistan delegation.

2. We also thank the Secretary General for his pertinent reports on agenda items put before us during the session.
3. Our delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Sudan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

**Chairperson,**

4. The Commission on the Status of Women is keeping the Beijing Platform for Action alive. It provides opportunities to Member States to share their best practices, achievements and challenges in various critical areas.

5. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action recognized that a more equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men enhances the opportunities of women



Chairperson,

... developments during the past decades has

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15. The National AIDS Control Programme (NACP), launched by the government in 1990, is an umbrella project which lays down the policy guidelines for implementation

programme are: the prevention of HIV transmission, establishment of surveillance,

**Six:** Mindful of the challenges faced by women at the workplace, and committed to minimizing the same, the Government has introduced legislation to provide for protection to women against harassment at the workplace.

**Seven:** In keeping with the spirit of Islam, which provides women both rights and protection, and recognizing the challenges posed by prevailing traditions and archaic customs to the contrary, the Pakistan Penal Code has been amended to ensure adequate penalty to anyone attempting to coerce a woman into marriage or illicit sexual relations.

**Eight:** In an effort to encourage maximum participation of women in the workforce, the initiative Benazir Bhutto Youth development programme has been introduced which provides training to young people, particularly girls in various disciplines, accompanied