



**SLOVENIA**

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**STATEMENT  
BY**

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**Ambassador**  
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**under Agenda Item 3**  
**(Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”)**

**of the 53rd Session of the  
Commission on the Status of Women**

**New York, 9 March 2009**



Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me first to express Slovenia's full alignment with the statement delivered by the Czech Republic on behalf of the European Union.

This year, the priority theme of the Commission on the Status of women is focused on »the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care-giving in the context of HIV/AIDS«. Experts and delegations highlighted a variety of related issues

and areas where interventions are required. They also identified actions, strategies and measures that proved to be necessary to effectively respond to persistent unequal distribution of responsibilities.

The Slovenian government is convinced that to address the challenges identified in the Secretary –General's report and those addressed by speakers, all human rights of women must be actively promoted and protected in an integrated and comprehensive manner. They are interdependent and touch upon all aspects of everyday's life and all individuals in their diversity.

Slovenia believes that interrelation between equal sharing of caring responsibilities with sexual and reproductive rights, right to be free from any form and manifestation of violence against women and girls, social and economic rights and right to participate in all spheres of influence and decision-making process, must be adequately addressed.

When women are compelled to have more children as desired, their burden of caring increases and inequalities between women and men exacerbate. In majority of cases, limitations on women's choice in matters of sexuality and reproduction reflect the attitude that women should accept their biological roles as mothers and consequently their responsibility for the rearing of children and caring for family and household work.

The benefits of sexual and reproductive health and rights and services for equal sharing of responsibilities, for improving women's social position, their contribution to economic growth, reducing poverty, preventing discrimination and social stigma of women and girls affected by HIV/AIDS and expanding participation of women in decision-making must therefore be duly taken into account in our endeavors towards narrowing the gender gap in sharing of responsibilities and division of caring work.

Mr. Chairperson,

In Slovenia the women's right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on

Lower economic power and social status of women in the paid care sector, limited right to economic independence of women domestic workers and economic dependence of those who shoulder all the burden of caring work and do not participate in any paid work, are often the cause and consequence of violence against women. Women lacking economic autonomy, face particular difficulties to bring to an end the violent situation.

The Slovenian government believes that better protection of women's

social rights constitute a major tool to eliminate inequalities between women and men in regard to paid employment, division of labour, etc.