



**Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Swaziland
to the United Nations**

**STATEMENT BY
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AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**DURING THE
53RD SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

**NEW YORK
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Please Check Against Delivery

Chairperson,

At the outset allow me to extend my warmest felicitations to you and the Bureau on your election. My delegation pledges its full support for a successful outcome of the deliberations of the Commission.

My delegations aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Sudan on behalf of the Group
[REDACTED] on behalf of the Southern African

[REDACTED]

necessary changes to laws, cultures and practices to create an enabling environment for women to exercise their human rights on an equal basis with men.

c. The National Constitution

The Constitution of the Kingdom of Swaziland which entrenches provisions pertaining to equality, non-discrimination and the rights and freedoms of women can be viewed as being part of the implementation of measures aimed at domesticating CEDAW and a further confirmation of Swaziland's commitment to the principles of equality and non-discrimination espoused and promoted by CEDAW.

d. National legislation

In recognition of the need to update and align existing legislation to the national

Swaziland is presently engaged in a process of law

reform of key pieces of legislation that impact on the rights of women. These include the Marriage Act of 1964, the Administration of Deceased's Estates Act of 1902 and the

family members. This is caused by among other factors, the fact that within families more power and rights is given to males than to females. However like many other countries, our Government acknowledges that women carry a disproportionate burden of care and support

... [redacted] ... caused by the impact of HIV and AIDS

... [redacted] ... women provide 99% of all care and support for people with AIDS related

In 2002 a community based study supported by UNICEF revealed that care giving has engaged young girls and children, which is culturally termed as an abnormal situation which has

Swaziland but in other countries impacted by this HIV pandemic. The use of girls and children in caring for the sick is reversing the gains made by Swaziland in equalizing the school enrolment rate for boys and girls. They are also exposed to psychosocial stresses which traditionally

