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## **Commission on the Status of Women**

### **Fifty-fifth session**

22 February-4 March 2011

Agenda item 3 (a)

**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”: implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives**

## **Key policy initiatives and capacity-building on gender mainstreaming: focus on education and training**

### **Moderator’s summary**

1. On 23 February 2011, the Commission on the Status of Women convened an interactive expert panel meeting entitled “Key policy initiatives and capacity-building on gender mainstreaming: focus on education and training”. The panel meeting was part of the Commission’s consideration of its priority theme, “Access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women’s equal access to full employment and decent work”.
2. The discussion was moderated by Mr. Tetsuya Kimura, Vice-Chair of the Commission. The panellists were: Ms. Diana Serafini, Vice-Minister for Educational Management, Ministry of Education and Culture, Paraguay; Ms. Subhangi Herath, Senior Lecturer in sociology, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka; Ms. Ilze Trapenciene, researcher at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, University of Latvia; and Ms. S. Gülser Corat, Director, Division for Gender Equality, Office of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
3. Participants highlighted a variety of institutional mechanisms, constitutional and legislative provisions, plans, policies and programmes established to address the challenges faced by women and girls within education systems and during their transition to decent work and employment. Countries have in place and are implementing long-term national universal education and literacy plans that include





made to accredit and certify such skills. To prepare women and girls for new employment opportunities, for example in the green economy, efforts are needed to encourage women and girls to pursue education and training in science and technology.

13. Other effective measures taken by countries to increase women's transition from education to decent work opportunities include: affirmative action and quotas in public sector employment; infrastructure improvements for increased use of ICT in rural areas; online resources and career counselling for job seekers; summer schools; internships; and mentoring programmes for women and girls. Training has also been provided to build women's business skills for micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises and to enhance their access to and use of ICT in business and entrepreneurship, notably e-commerce and e-marketing.