



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR,
DECENTRALIZATION
AND E-GOVERNMENT
GENERAL SECRETARIAT
FOR GENDER EQUALITY

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**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

55th session

Statement by
Maria Stratigaki
Secretary General for Gender Equality

Ministry of Interior, Decentralisation & e-Government

NEW YORK
Thursday, February 24, 2011

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Mr. Chair

Distinguished Delegates,

1. It is an honour for me to address the 55th session of the Commission on the Status of Women on behalf of the Greek Government and especially of its first secretary, the deputy secretary of UN Women, the United Nations entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women.

2. The Greek Government and Prime Minister Mr. George Papandreu extend their warmest congratulations and support to Ms. Michèle Bachler and to the work of UN Women for the advancement of women and for the benefit of humanity.

3. There is strong momentum towards the achievement of our objectives with regard to the global level, such as the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action and its outcome documents, the Millennium Conferences, Commissions and meetings; the annual reports on the state of the information communication technology, the dimension of ICT, Democracy and Human Rights.

4. I would like to highlight the role of Information Communication Technology (ICT), worldwide, such as google, e-mail, facebook, youtube, myspace, twitter, mobile phone, etc. in the promotion of democracy and human rights, and the role of women and especially young women in the struggle for democracy, participation and women's human rights.

5. In this era of economic crisis the Greek government encounters tremendous difficulties, struggling to overcome the economic crisis. Our national mechanism, the General Secretariat of Gender Equality, has launched a Programme for Substantive Gender Equality for the period 2010-2013 which has been drafted with the strategic goals in mind:

- Protection of all women's rights through the promotion of gender equality and the orientation of interventions towards groups of women facing multiple discrimination.

Prevention and combating of all forms and types of violence against women.

- Support of women's employment and their financial independence.
- Utilization of cultural creation in order to highlight the goal of gender equality.

The Ministry of Gender Equality is working intensively on the following agenda:

• **Substantive Gender Equality Bill** expected to be completed in 2011. The purpose of the Bill is to consolidate all gender equality laws, to fill gender equality legislative gaps, to become a comprehensive law of gender equality.

• **International Women's Day**, providing consultation and first aid to women victims of violence.

• **Funding programme for NGOs** to promote action plans in the critical areas of: preventing women multiple discrimination, civic movement and innovation, women and life media.

• **Women's access to ICT**, we are in the process of providing 20.000 personal computers, access to internet and training of basic internet skills for 20.000 women aged from 40 to 65 who are unemployed or economically inactive.

7. Multiple discrimination is an area of responsibility of the Government. An area difficult to tackle because of the consequences of the economic crisis on vulnerable groups (aged working women belonging to non-migrant communities, Roma, etc), but not only due to the economic crisis. Amongst these groups migrants and refugees are of particular urgency. However, climate change, environmental destruction, are not the main causes for immigration of thousands of people, women and men leaving their countries in order to better future. A country like Greece, a receiving country in the middle of a huge economic crisis, needs the full support of all EU countries and cooperation of all EU countries to address increasing migration.