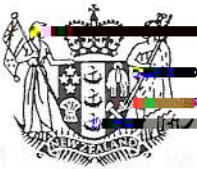


New Zealand Permanent Mission to the United Nations



Te Māngai o Aotearoa

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The New Zealand government's approach to development is based on a belief that
of gender equality is central to sustainable development, with particular emphasis
placed on the links between poverty reduction, environmental protection and the
promotion of gender equality.

56th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

will focus on issues related to the High Level General Debate
and to reduce the gap between theory and practice by mainstreaming
the analysis of gender politics in the UN Commission on the Status of Women
Statement
by

Deb Moran
Policy Director.

Ministry of Women's Affairs

NEW ZEALAND
is pleased to present its statement to the 56th session of the Commission on the Status of Women.
The statement highlights the significant progress made in gender equality in New Zealand over the past
decade and outlines areas where further work is needed to achieve gender equality in all areas of life.
The statement also emphasizes the importance of gender equality in achieving sustainable development
and poverty reduction, and calls for increased international cooperation to address gender inequality
globally.

"Check against Delivery"

Te reiahi kourotutira e hākōtū mā te ariki pā kotonou katoa

Chair,

I bring warm greetings from New Zealand's Minister of Women's Affairs, the Honorable Paula Bennett. I also thank the Honorable Minister of Samoa on behalf of the Pacific Island Forum.

New Zealand has been a strong and unwavering support for the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. New Zealand continues to be an active State party to CEDAW and will be presenting its seventh periodic report to the CEDAW Committee in July this year. We have made progress, however, and while we all have seen significant progress, much more remains to be done.

New Zealand commences the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women Executive Board in 2012. We are looking forward to a year of cooperation, advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women.

We must continue to demand fast change for women. We must lift our expectations of ourselves and each other and work together to find more effective ways forward.

We have seen a significant change in the role of many rural women over the last few years. In communities where women are now often farm owners, farmers and managers in their own right, rural women's contributions continue to be crucial for New Zealand's considerable success in this sector as markets expand and prices are high.

More rural women are becoming self employed and are also diversifying rural enterprises, and young rural business owners, from domestic to export markets. A range of professionals in rural areas, including teachers, veterinarians and health professionals, provide vital services to their communities.

Rural women also do more unpaid work than their urban counterparts. Rural women are often the backbone of rural communities and make invaluable contributions to keeping communities together.

Rural women run effective organisations which may provide leadership and advocacy on women's issues, and on issues affecting rural communities including access to economic and environmental sustainability. Women's work is raising awareness of the challenges facing rural communities, and rural women in particular, in our society.

While, many rural women do well with educational qualifications and skills that match their urban counterparts and rural men, there are some women, including Maori women, working in low paid jobs,

The Treaty of Waitangi settlement process is progressing and making a significant contribution to the assertive feminism, over a quarter of which is concentrated in the primary sector. There is also a new approach by government to providing services, which is inclusive and community- or family-driven, called own business models. It is hoped that all rural Maori women will be more able to reach their full potential.

As with other women around the globe, access to services is an issue for New Zealand rural women. We are excited by the roll out of ultrafast broadband in rural schools and communities by 2016. This is supposed to revolutionise rural women's access to health, education and welfare services and to enable them

Women experience multiple forms of violence and discrimination on many fronts.

Rural women in New Zealand as elsewhere, like their urban sisters, suffer as much from violence against women as their urban sisters but may face additional issues due to their geographical isolation, such as getting help, and accessing justice in rural areas. In addition, confidentiality for women subjected to violence may also be compromised in small rural communities.

So the challenge continues....

Chair, we are excited, Chair, we are excited about sharing experiences and gaining new insights into how we can advance towards the goal of women's equality for all rural women.

Inu teira, teira kouitukatoa.

Terrific work done by the group members from across the country. Please continue to do what you do best. I look forward to our continued growth in the future.

A problem for gender equality is creating something positive in a world and culture where there is a lot of badness out of conduct that has shaped us as a society. We have to start looking at our culture and its behaviour to determine how aviation is doing gender equality in its behaviour. I think the first aspect of gender equality is that we have to believe in our girls. I think the second aspect of gender equality is that we have to believe in our boys. I think the third aspect of gender equality is that we have to believe in our men. I think the fourth aspect of gender equality is that we have to believe in our women. I think the fifth aspect of gender equality is that we have to believe in our families. I think the sixth aspect of gender equality is that we have to believe in our communities. I think the seventh aspect of gender equality is that we have to believe in our countries. I think the eighth aspect of gender equality is that we have to believe in our world.

We will not succeed in achieving gender equality unless we break the mould of the traditional leadership to build a new culture. This new culture requires focus, resilience, and determination of both men and women. It requires a continuous commitment of both genders to move forward together, without fear of failure, and without losing sight of the goal.