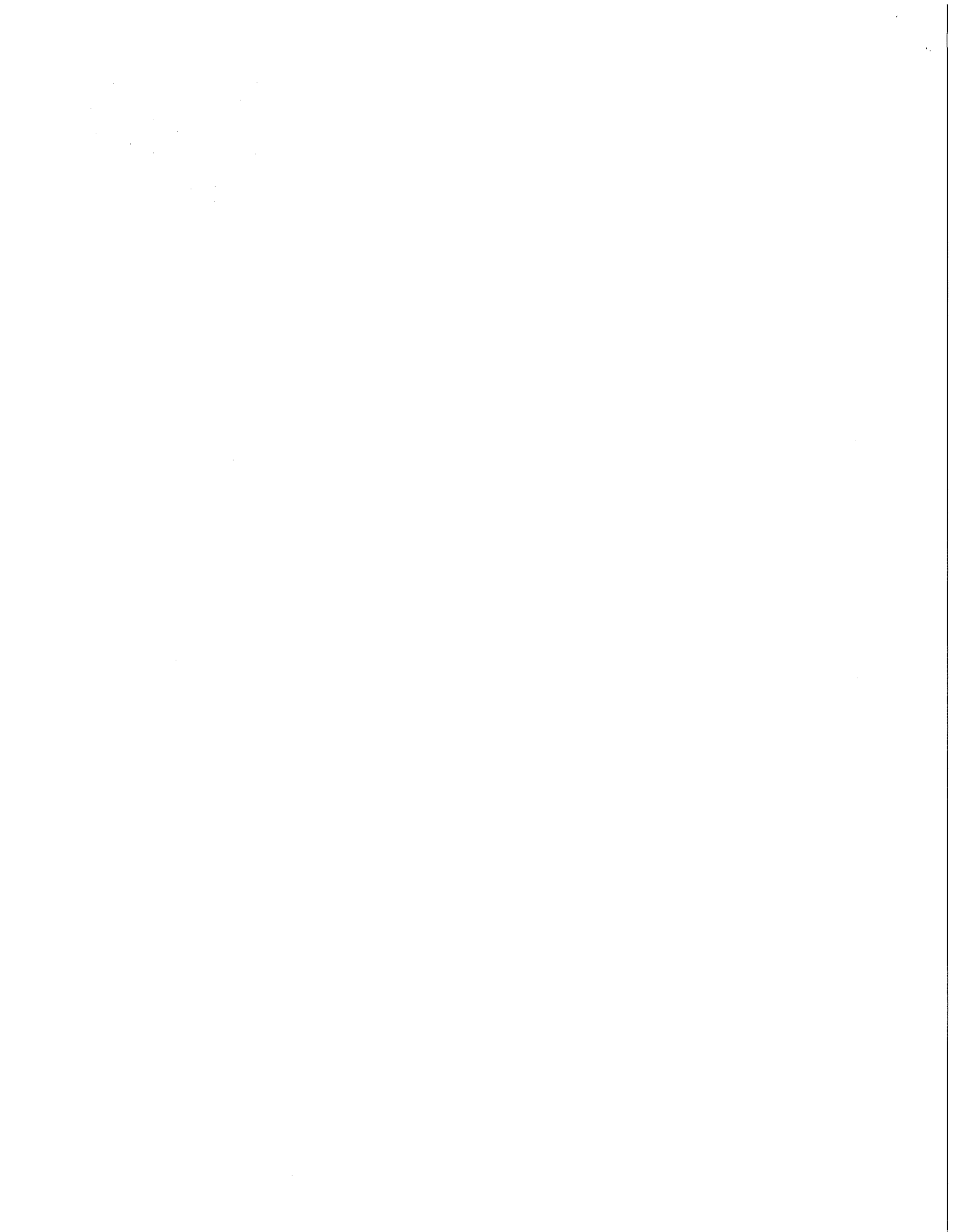




INDIA



Madam Chair,

At the outset, let me state that we look forward to working with you and the Bureau for a successful CSW Session. I also thank the Secretary General for his reports.

Madam Chair,

Violence against women and girls must be unequivocally condemned and

forms, including physical, economic, social and psychological. There is also a

India's five-year development plans have recognized the importance of women both as contributors and agents of change. Gender is a cross-cutting theme in all development plans, particularly in areas of education, health and skills-training.

A number of schemes are already in place for socio-economic empowerment of women. The government has proposed to set-up India's first all Women's Bank to assist women entrepreneurs and has allocated US\$ 200 million as initial capital. Another US\$ 40 million has been recently earmarked for empowerment of vulnerable women.

Madam Chair,

In conclusion, let me reaffirm our full commitment to advancing the goal of gender equality and empowerment of women globally and to eliminating the causes

