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4-15 March 2013

Agenda item 3 (b)

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3. At its sixty-seventh session, the General Assembly reiterated that the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly are essential to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. In this regard, the Assembly called

disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender populations. Participants acknowledged that the denial of women's rights is the most widespread driver of inequality in the world, and that gender inequality and an absence of equal opportunities diminish the potential for development and exacerbate poverty and marginalization.

8. While participants critiqued the narrow scope of Goal 3 of the Millennium Development Goals on promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, the importance of having a stand-alone gender equality goal in the current framework was recognized as having galvanized resources and political will, and having served as an accountability mechanism to monitor progress and the remaining gaps in implementation. In addition to calling for a strong focus on gender equality in the post-2015 agenda, many participants expressed support for a twin-track approach for the incorporation of gender equality in the new framework, which would include both a stand-alone gender equality goal and the mainstreaming of a gender perspective across all other goals.

9. Participants noted the linkages between poverty and gender inequalities, which continue to reinforce each other and create increasing gaps in wealth, power and voice between countries, as well as between women and men. They emphasized that poverty could not be eradicated without long-term transformational changes in women's and men's lives. The post-2015 development framework must address the structural barriers that lead to poverty.

10. Violence against women and girls was one of the priority issues highlighted by participants, who called for the post-2015 framework to focus on concrete actions to address the root causes of violence, and to work towards the prevention and elimination of violence. In addition to violating the rights of women and girls to



