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**Statement by the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council
H.E. Mr. Ferit Hoxha, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Albania
57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women**

Monday, 4 March 2013, 10 a.m. (General Assembly Hall)

Mme Chair,

Commission on the Status of Women. It is heartening that so many of you have assembled at UN Headquarters with one common goal: to eliminate discrimination against women and girls and ensure women's empowerment.

Efforts to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women are central to global economic and social development. Indeed, we are all aware of the intrinsic linkages between gender equality and the realization of human and development goals as well as maintenance of peace and security. Our work will remain less effective without a more determined, pro-active and sustained implementation of the commitments we have made to gender equality and the empowerment of women.

The Economic and Social Council fully recognizes the contribution of the Commission on the Status of Women in helping us all to comply with our responsibility. The Commission has a strong track record of important achievements recognized for its successes in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, being a catalyst that creates opportunities across the intergovernmental landscape to address gender issues.

One example of this catalytic role is the Commission's input to the Council's Annual Ministerial Review. This year, the Council will focus on science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. I have no doubt that the action-oriented recommendations of the Commission from 2011 on gender equality issues and technology will greatly enrich our ministerial deliberations and activities in

Starting this year and onwards, ECOSOC will devote special attention to the review and assessment of the provisions of the resolution on the quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of the Operational Activities of the United Nations, including those pertaining to the enhancement of the gender mainstreaming and equality in the United Nations, and

