

Third Committee of the General Assembly
Sixty-third session
Agenda item 59 (a) and (b) Advancement of Women

Statement by

Ms. Dubravka Šimonović

Chairperson

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

New York, October 2008

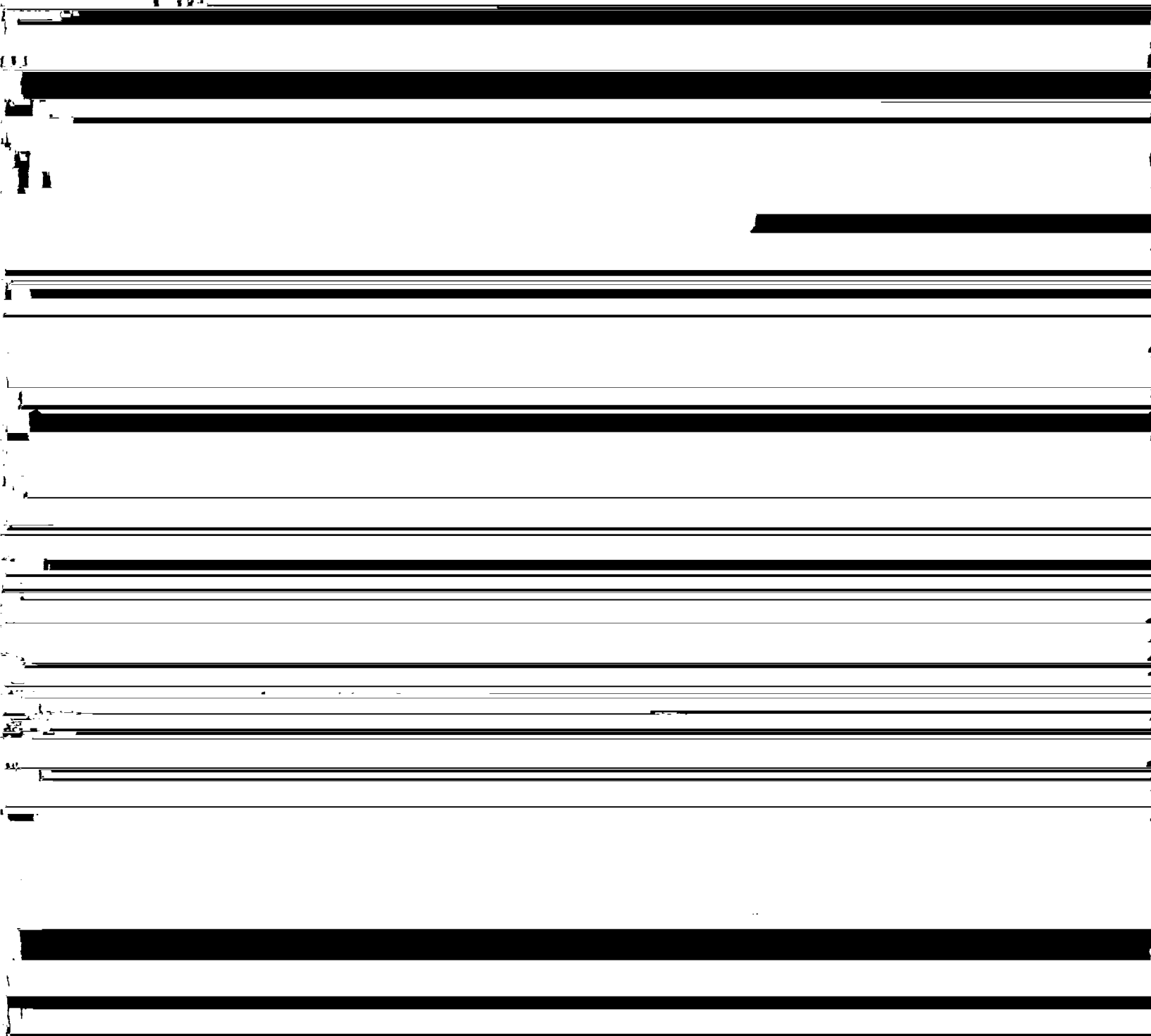
Chairperson,
Distinguished delegates,
Colleagues and friends,

I am honoured to address the Third Committee of the General Assembly in my capacity as the Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women that oversees implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women by its 185 State Parties. The Convention's Optional Protocol, which mandates the Committee to receive and consider petitions and inquire into allegations of grave or systematic violations of the Convention, has been accepted by 92 States parties, most recently by Switzerland and Tunisia during this year's annual treaty event.

Last year in my statement to the Third Committee during the Assembly's sixty-second session, I drew attention to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women's many achievements over the twenty-five years since

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As a result of its extended meeting time, the Committee has been able to take up reports soon after their submission. During its fortieth and forty-first session, the Committee considered the reports of 16 States parties, and a further 13 will be taken up during the forty-second session which will begin on 20 October 2008. The Committee is aware that timely consideration is a significant incentive for States parties to report in accordance with the terms of the Convention, and it is continually examining ways of streamlining its working methods.



bar and civil society. Missions such as these provide an excellent opportunity to raise the visibility of the Convention, its Optional Protocol and the Committee's specific recommendations for States parties. I encourage other States parties to follow this

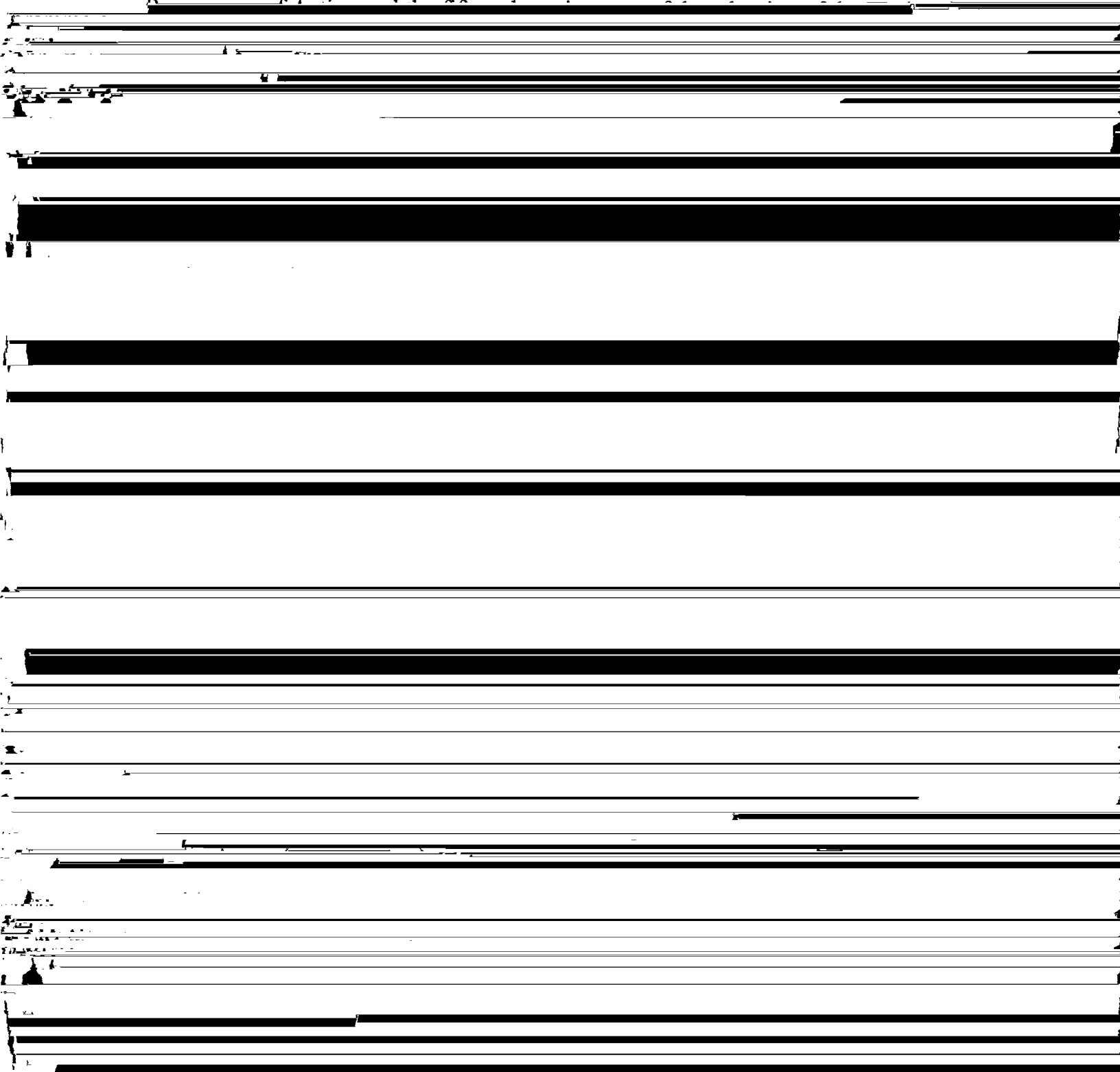
good practice and the example of Luxemburg.

During the past two years the Committee has also focused on non-reporting State parties. The Committee now extends a special invitation to States parties with long-overdue initial and periodic reports to submit these by specific future date, failing which it will take up implementation in the State party concerned in advance of its report. To date, States parties which have been invited to submit their reports have done so, and the Committee's usual procedure of consideration has been applied. The Committee will continue to explore ways and means of encouraging States

parties to comply with their reporting obligations, including through suggesting that they seek technical assistance through the Office of the High Commissioner for

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2008 marks the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and



Optional Protocol to reach their full potential so that it can provide the framework in which all women, men, girls and boys can enjoy their human rights.

Thank you.

