



PAKISTAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement

By

**Ambassador Farukh Amil
Acting Permanent Representative
of Pakistan**

on agenda item 56:

**Advancement of Women and Implementation of the
outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women
and of the twenty-third special session of the**

General Assembly

**at the Third Committee of the 63rd session
of the United Nations General Assembly**

**New York
13 October 2008**

**Statement of Pakistan on Agenda Item 56; Advancement of Women and
Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women
and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly**

October 13, 2008

**Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished Delegates,**

I thank Secretary General for his comprehensive reports on advancement of women. Secretary General's current reports draw attention of the international community, national governments and the UN system to focus and implement Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and to intensify their efforts for gender mainstreaming, eliminating rape and violence against women and to prevent trafficking in women.

2. My delegation associates itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Group of 77 and China

Mr. Chairman,

3. Dignity and the status of women as equal citizens is a moral imperative and a guiding principle of an egalitarian and a progressive society. Women continue to suffer discrimination and exclusion in all societies and in all sectors. A number of constraints such as ignorance about the potential of women populations, stereotypical mindsets as well as prejudices continue to hamper achieving goals of gender equality

of women in the social, economic and political life of societies are prerequisites for successful and sustainable development. These are crucial milestones in our efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals

6. The linkage of poverty with underdevelopment cannot be overemphasized here. It is well known that poverty breeds inequality and violence. The plight of women in rural areas, in conflict situations, in territories under foreign occupation and migrant and trafficked women as well as women affected by unilateral coercive measures are areas that need immediate attention.

Mr. Chairman,

7. Women comprise 49 per cent of Pakistan's total population. The present democratic government gives top priority to the empowerment of women and to bring a positive change in their lives. Our Constitution guarantees equal rights for all its citizens without any discrimination including in the Preamble and the Chapter on Fundamental Rights. It further ensures full participation of women in all spheres of national life.

8. The government has adopted special measure to realize these objectives including institutional, financial and legislative support. The National Plan of

Mr. Chairperson,

11. In the most important area of violence against women the Government is endeavouring to create an environment of zero tolerance. SAARC Convention on Trafficking in Women has been ratified and Prevention of Anti Women Practices Criminal Law Bill is under review. The National Policy for Development and Empowerment of Women specifically contains a section on violence against women (VAW). Some of institutional and administrative measures taken by the government in past few years are given below:

One: A Gender Crime Cell has been created by the Ministry of Interior in the National Police Bureau to monitor and address crimes against women.

office and have a direct impact on the decision-making processes at the highest level. They are backed by a formidable presence of women in the Establishment ranging from Ambassadors (at present 10 women diplomats are serving as