



Mr. Chairman

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and gentlemen

It is a great honor to stand before you for the first time and address the Third Committee on behalf of the Rwandan delegation. In doing so, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, as well as the other members of the bureau on your election. My delegation would also like to commend the Secretary- General for his reports on this Agenda Item that is of great importance to the entire international community.

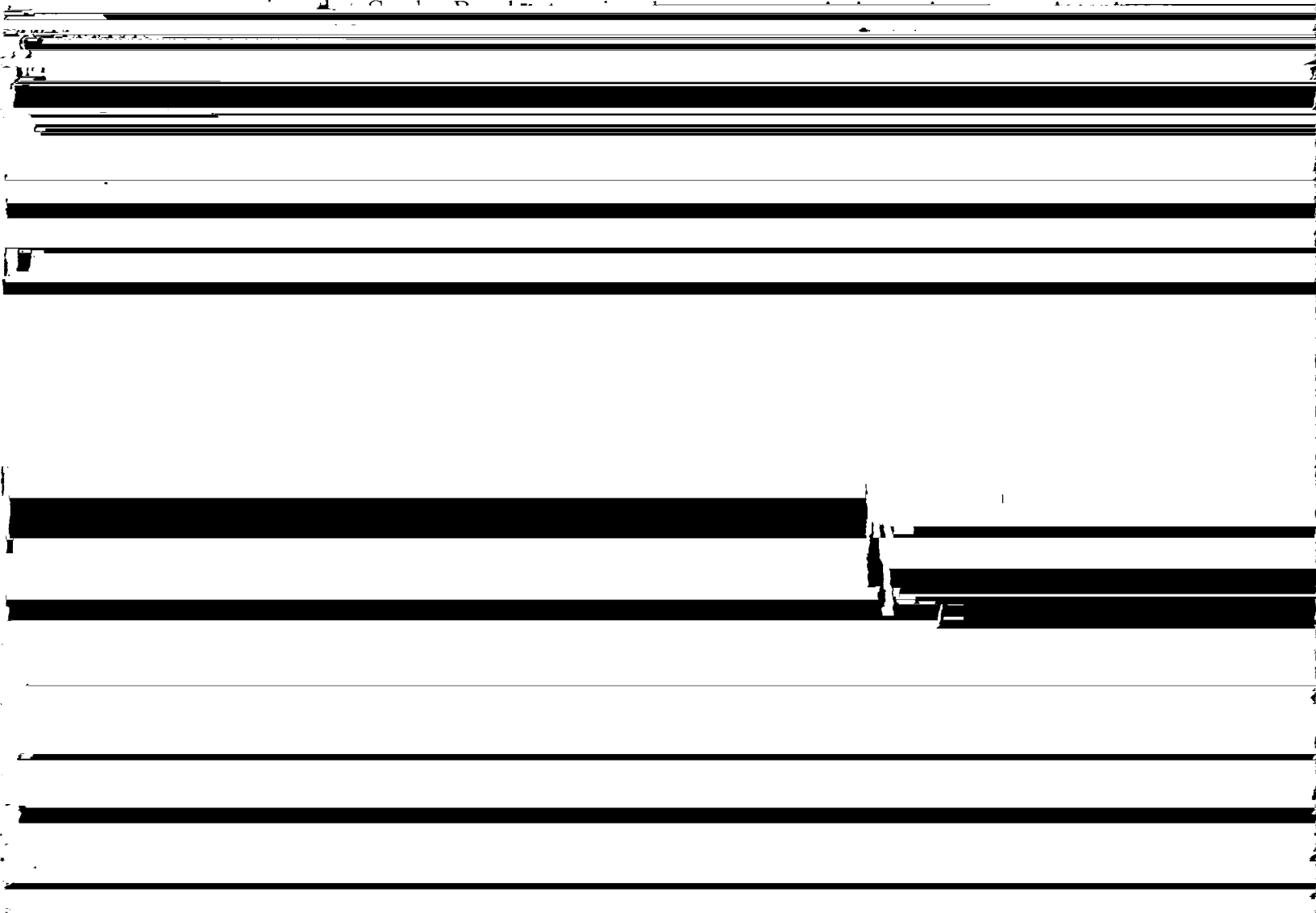
2010 is gearing up to be a landmark year, it marks the anniversaries of global commitments; the 10th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2010 review of the MDGs. The international community must build upon this momentum to comprehensively address the challenges we face, particularly at a time

when our abilities to do so have been greatly hampered by the current economic crisis. To ensure that we collectively achieve the MDGs; we must increase our efforts at all levels, share the stories behind our successes, and learn from each other's failures in hopes of accelerating progress. The widespread social, economic, and cultural benefits of achieving these goals cannot be understated

My delegation warmly welcomes the General Assembly's decision to create a new UN gender entity that will allow for greater coherence at the country and international level, and foster greater efficiency.

Mr. Chairman,

We cannot stress enough the importance that education can and *should* play as we strive to create greater development in our respective communities. The Rwandan government



social well – being; and has therefore made the education of girls a priority. Enormous strides have been made to improve access to education for girls at all levels. Rwanda has achieved gender parity in primary school enrolment, and the rate of enrolment has continued to increase. However, challenges remain – particularly female enrolment between primary and secondary levels. Girls are either unable to remain in school due to financial constraints, or are forced to drop out in order to take care of younger siblings.

Women are under represented in domains such as science and technology, and despite the critical role they play in trade; they remain concentrated in the informal sector. Bridging such gaps will not only empower women, but also consequently improve our ability to achieve sustainable development.

Mr. Chairman,

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, women have played and continue to play a pivotal role in the political, social, and economic transformation of Rwanda. The political will and equal participation of women in all aspects of governance has greatly contributed to this transformation.

We therefore call on the international community to support and augment the efforts of member states, in order to better deliver on our commitments towards the advancement of women. We look forward to the prompt establishment of the gender entity to support and compliment these efforts.

Thank you.