

SWEDEN



STATEMENT

by

H.E. Ms. Signe Burgstaller
Chargé d'Affaires

at the

66th Session of the General Assembly
under agenda item 28
Advancement of Women
of the Third Committee

United Nations
New York

12 October 2011

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

SWEDEN



STATEMENT

by

H.E. Mr. Åke Bergström
Chairman of the

of the

the 47th Session of the General Assembly
under agenda item 23
Advancement of Women
of the Third Committee

United Nations
New York

13 October 1991

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Chair,

The topic before us, advancement of women, will address it clearly. We have a history of statements by distinguished colleagues that it is clear that the United Nations covers a wide range of issues. But at the core of them all lies one matter that all women are entitled to fulfil – equality. And indeed, looking back on the progress that has been achieved during these three decades, we can all agree that progress has been extraordinary.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. And indeed, looking back on the progress that has been achieved during these three decades, we can all agree that progress has been extraordinary.

However, it is also easy to identify areas where we, the international community, are lagging behind, and embarrassingly so, women's right to equality before the law, including access to justice and legal remedies; women's participation in political and public life, including participation in decision-making at all levels; women's economic and social rights, including the right to own property; the right to work, including the right to work in safe and healthy conditions; the right to health, including access to maternal services; the right of women to control their own bodies and sexuality, including their effective access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

In his address to the Commission on Human Rights, the Secretary-General stressed that the unmet human rights obligations of the 25 billion women and girls in the world are the most important human rights failure of all.

Gender equality is not only politically and morally, but also economically right. No society that ignores the rights of half of its population can be called democratic. No society that oppresses and discriminates against women can be called just. And no society that squanders half of its talent can be called smart, or interested in development.

Chair,

Achieving gender equality will require a concerted effort by all. Women's participation and empowerment is key. And so is the concomitant battle of liberation from gender stereotypes – which exist in all societies and corners of the world.

Gender stereotypes are representations and identities that entrap persons in roles they have not designed themselves, sometimes evoking harmful behaviour. Therefore, perceptions of women's capabilities must be challenged, and into question. We must change mindsets, not on the basis of "because she is a woman" or "because he is a boy", but on the basis of "because she is a human" or "because he is a human".

Chair,

One of the most fundamental human rights is the right to control one's body and sexuality. It comprises a right to be free from violence, threat and abuse. But it also rests on the foundation of choice.

Still in the year 2021, it is urgent that we continue to make a determined call – and underscore our unbreakable commitment – for the equal enjoyment of human rights and opportunities for everyone, irrespective of race, ethnicity, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or any other status.

During my tenure, it is discriminatory. My delegation therefore welcomes that the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination of Women has adopted an expansive and state-of-the-art general recommendation on anti-discrimination, as understood in the core paragraph 2 of the CEDAW.

Chair,

Advancement of women is the advancement of all. It is a duty and possibility for all, and a benefit to all.

The reform of the international community cannot rest in its efforts to achieve gender equality. We need to be a catalytic force, making the UN system as a whole work towards that goal.

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Thank you.