

Opening remarks

**Carolyn Hannan, Director
Division for the Advancement of Women
Panel organized by the Division for the Advancement of Women
Department of Economic and Social Affairs**

**“Women 2000 and beyond. Gender equality
and empowerment of women through ICT”
28 February 2006**

Distinguished delegates
Panelists
Colleagues and friends

It is my pleasure to moderate this afternoon’s panel discussion on *Women 2000 and beyond. Gender equality and empowerment of women through ICT*

Nancy Hafkin, will talk about the gender perspectives on ICT more generally. The

representatives of national machineries shared information on the progress made, and lessons learned, including specific challenges faced, in utilizing ICT to support achievement of their goals, including in relation to integrating gender perspectives into national ICT policies, establishing websites, and developing regional and sub-regional e-networks. They also shared information on activities undertaken by their national machineries as a result of their participation in the workshops organized by the Division for the Advancement of Women. Francesca Pobee-Hayford from Ghana will provide further information from the perspective of the national machineries.

In 2005, the Division for the Advancement of Women prepared a publication "*Women 2000 and Beyond: Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women through ICT*" as a contribution to efforts to bring gender perspectives to the centre of attention in WSIS II. This is the title of our panel today. Ms Hafkins one of the panelists was one of the authors of the publication. (A second author, Chat Garcia Ramilo, was also supposed to be on the panel but at the very last moment was not able to attend the CSW). The publication is also part of the Division's ongoing efforts to promote the full implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. The publication provides an analysis of the linkages between gender equality and ICT and of the achievements and challenges in bringing attention to gender equality in ICT policies and programmes. It is hoped that this publication will be of use in the post-WSIS phase, as we attempt to find ways to ensure women participate in and benefit fully from the information society. Mr Sergei Kambalov will provide an overview of the WSIS outcome and discuss ways in which gender equality advocates can work in the context of this outcome to achieve the goals of greater access and utilization of ICT by women around the world.

I would now like to open the floor up to the panelists. In order to ensure that we have an interactive dialogue, the panelists have been requested to limit their presentation to the most pertinent issues of their selected topic in no more than 7 minutes. Participants will then be invited to speak from the floor after these presentations and to limit their comments and questions to a maximum of 2 minutes in order to allow all those who wish to contribute to the discussion ample opportunity to do so.

Thank you to all of our panelists. Let's now move to interactive discussion. Participants are invited to speak from the floor—and are asked to keep their comments and questions to a maximum of 2 minutes.