

transport, energy. The overall result is that the average salary for women is 13.2% lower than that for men. Therefore, the objectives set out in the PoA of the ICPD "to enable women to realize their full potential, involve [them] fully ...in all aspects of economic life" remain as important as ever. Promoting women to highlevel management positions and ensuring their participation in economic decisionmaking is an essential ingredient of such efforts. My government is committed to the goal of women's economic empowerment and sees it as central to the achievement of the MDGs and the eradication of poverty.

My second point is about women's political participation. As we know, one of

