4. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted continues to be the global blueprint for the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment. This Commission has played a key role in its follow-up. The Commission has regularly reviewed progress in the implementation of the Platform's critical areas of concern,

Mr. Chairperson, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and gentlemen,

10. This session of the Commission will directly contribute to the ECOSOC's Annual Ministerial Review this July. The Council will build and further expand on the work of the Commission. The Council has the opportunity to ensure that the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women is centrally anchored within the