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Closing remarks

By
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Thirty-third session of the
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

New York, 22 July 2005

Madam Chairperson
Distinguished members of the Committee
Representatives of the United Nations system
Colleagues
Ladies and Gentlemen

May I take this opportunity to congratulate you Madam Chairperson and all the members of the Committee on the successful completion of the work of the thirty-third session which comes to an end today? Your expertise and experience have indeed resulted in a most productive session with many thoughtful discussions.

Madam Chairperson,

Among the achievements of this session is the successful consideration of the reports of a diverse group of eight States parties, namely: Benin, Burkina Faso, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Gambia, Guyana, Ireland, Israel and Lebanon. While conditions in those States differ greatly, there were a number of common concerns that the Committee identified in many or all of them. For example, the prevalence of violence against women, sexual exploitation, trafficking in women and girls, low levels of women's participation in public life, limited resources for national machineries, lack of data disaggregated by sex, persistence of stereotypical attitudes and behaviour and women's disadvantages in the labour market. Women's and girls education was a common concern, as was poverty which continues to affect women disproportionately. However, each State has its own obstacles and concerns, which require serious measures for their eliminations.

Distinguished members of the Committee,

I am aware of the amount of work this has been for all of you, digesting hundreds of pages of reports, responses to lists of issues questions and background material submitted by United Nations entities and non-governmental organizations. I believe that the vibrant and constructive dialogue that has developed between the me

Madam Chairperson,

It has been a pleasure for me to work closely with the Committee during this session. Let me thank you very warmly, Mme. Chairperson, for the leadership you provided and the excellent manner in which you have chaired the proceedings of this Committee. I extend my appreciation to all the experts for their hard work and dedication. I will also