



to the United Nations

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Statement by



President of National Union of Eritrean Women  
on  
the combined initial, second and third periodic reports of Eritrea  
to  
The thirty-fourth session of the Committee  
on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women of  
the United Nations

Madame Chairperson:

The Eritrean delegation wishes, from the outset, to thank you and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) for having selected Eritrea to present its combined initial, second and third periodic reports on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Our delegation is composed of seven individuals. The members are:

1. Hon. Ms. Luul Gebreab, President of the National Union of Eritrean Women (Head of delegation)

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3. Mr. Tesfa Alem Seyoum, Counsellor/ Deputy Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations
4. Mr. Amanuel Giorgio, First Secretary, Eritrean Mission to the UN
5. Ms. Tesfai Heptemariam, Political Officer, Eritrean Mission to the UN

women. The resolutions that were adopted addressed several important issues, including the need to increase women's participation in political and public life, economic empowerment of women, guaranteeing equal access and ownership of land, and greater access to healthcare and education.

Also in 2005, a woman was appointed for the first time Governor of one of the nation's six regions (Southern Red Sea Region), while another woman was appointed Mayor of the second largest city in the country – the Port City of Massawa. Although a great deal needs to be accomplished in the area of political and public life, we consider these achievements as concrete and significant steps in the right direction.

**Education.** Recognizing that sustainable development and elimination of poverty cannot be attained without full emancipation of women in all aspects of life, the Government issued a National Educational Gender Policy and Strategy in April 2005. The Policy ensures equal rights and opportunities to both sexes, and addresses the current disparities and inequalities between boys and girls, both in terms of access to and performance in education. The Education Gender Policy and Strategy is aligned with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and strives to achieve the following:

steps pertaining to employment creation and income generation for the benefit of women. Key elements included in the measures adopted are, encouraging women who own small scale agricultural and commercial activities; training women in various non-traditional skills , such as construction and transportation; ensuring high participation of women in all

reliance; upgrading and developing marketable skills in handicrafts; strengthening the steps taken to reduce women's load in household chores; and ensuring women's equal rights to land ownership. The Cabinet of Ministers also agreed to convene regular meetings with the NUEW to oversee implementation of its decisions.

### **Constraints**