

**COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN**

THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

Opening statement by

Allow me to update you on developments pertaining to the work of the Division for the Advancement of Women since your last session.

Let me start with the fiftieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which took place from 27 February to 10 March and 16 March 2006. In accordance with its multi-year programme of work for 2002-2006, the Commission considered two thematic issues (1) Enhanced participation of women in development: an enabling environment for achieving gender equality and the advancement of women, taking into

The Commission adopted a resolution, to be approved by ECOSOC, on its future organization and methods of work. A number of important gains were made for the future work of the Commission. The Commission will focus on one priority theme per year, the outcome of which will be in the form of negotiated agreed conclusions. The Commission has invited all gender-specific United Nations entities and other relevant United Nations bodies, including the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, to contribute, where appropriate, to the discussion on the priority theme of the Commission. The Commission also decided that each year it would review progress on the implementation of agreed conclusions on a priority theme from a previous session. The review will result in a Chairperson's summary.

- The Commission agreed on themes for the period 2007 to 2009.
- In 2007, the Commission will consider the priority theme "The elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child" and will evaluate progress on the implementation of the agreed conclusions from the forty-eighth session of the Commission on "The role of men and boys in achieving gender equality".
 - In 2008, the Commission will consider the priority theme "Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women" and will evaluate progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions from the forty-eighth session of the Commission on "Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peacebuilding".
 - In 2009, the Commission will consider the priority theme "The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care giving in the context of HIV/AIDS", and will evaluate progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions from the fiftieth session of the Commission on "The equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels".

In its future sessions, the Commission will continue to give enhanced attention to national level implementation. There will be increased opportunities to exchange experiences, good practices and lessons learned through interactive activities, with the participation of experts.

While the Commission's Bureau has not yet met to start preparations for the next session and the format in which various stakeholders will be invited to contribute, this Committee may wish to begin considering making a contribution. In this regard, the Division stands ready to support you in any way possible.

I am pleased to say that the Division has entered into the final stages of preparations of the Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of violence against women, requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 58/185, and to be submitted to its sixty-first session. The Division organized a multi-stakeholder dialogue on violence against women in conjunction with the fiftieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. It focused on collaboration between Governments and civil society in addressing domestic violence and trafficking in women and girls. Two experts of the Committee

participated in this multi-stakeholder dialogue. The Division is continuing to organize panel discussions and other events on violence against women and the study, including a lunch time panel event in conjunction with the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on the role of the criminal justice system in addressing violence against women. We will also participate in a panel discussion to highlight violence against indigenous women, to be