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Commission on the Status of Women

Fiftieth session

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Agenda item 3 (c) (i)

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”: implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: enhanced participation of women in development: an enabling environment for achieving gender equality and the advancement of women, taking into account, inter alia, the fields of education, health and work

Panel discussion on enhanced participation of women in development: an enabling environment for gender equality and the advancement of women, taking into account, inter alia, the fields of education, health and work

Summary submitted by the moderator Dicky Komar (Indonesia)

1. At its fourth meeting, on 28 February 2006, the Commission held a panel discussion followed by a dialogue on the theme “Enhanced participation of women in development: an enabling environment for gender equality and the advancement of women, taking into account, inter alia, the fields of education, health and work”. The panellists were: Torild Skard, researcher at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs; Ana Elisa Osorio, member of the Executive Board of the National Institute for Women of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; Bernadette Lahai, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture and Food Security of Sierra Leone; Evy Messell, Director of the Bureau for Gender Equality of the International Labour Organization (ILO); and Akanksha A. Marphatia, senior education policy analyst of ActionAid and member of the expert group convened by the Division on the Advancement of Women in Bangkok from 8 to 11 November 2005. The panel was moderated by Dicky Komar, Vice-Chairperson of the Commission.

well as in trade policies and aid modalities. Consultation processes with stakeholders should ensure meaningful representation of women's organizations.

10. Participants stressed that the full participation of women at all levels of decision-making was essential for the creation of an enabling environment. The use of quotas and other positive measures by political parties and public bodies was well established; more recent innovations included quotas in decision-making bodies of private companies. The involvement of men and boys in the creation of an enabling environment should be further strengthened.

11. Participants noted the need to enhance monitoring frameworks, including through the collection, analysis and use of sex-disaggregated data and statistics, and the further development of indicators. A recent report by the United Nations Statistics Division highlighted progress and continuing gaps in that regard.
