

the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit,¹ strengthening of ECOSOC,²
intensification of efforts to eliminat

Regrettably, according to the Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of violence against women presented to the General Assembly in October 2006, violence against women and girls persists and deepens in most countries of the world. The study seeks to strengthen political commitment and accountability and ensure a more sustained and effective implementation of State obligations to address all forms of violence against women. An inter-agency task force on violence against women, co-convened by DAW and UNFPA, established in February 2006, is coordinating UN system-wide activities to ensure a more systematic response to General Assembly resolution 61/143 on violence against women.

Similar concerns were expressed by the Security Council about the pervasiveness of all forms of violence against women in armed conflict during its open debate in October 2006 on the theme "The roles of women in the consolidation of peace". The Council had before it a report of the Secretary-General⁶, containing a first review of the implementation of the System-wide Action Plan on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) carried out by my Office. The report provided a candid assessment of achievements and shortcomings in the implementation and contains a series of actionable recommendations to make the Plan a more effective tool and enhance accountability. This will be done, in full consultation with participating UN entities, in the context of the on-going updating of the Plan for 2008-2009.

In addition to interagency coordination in this area, we are focusing on national implementation of the resolution. of

familiar with gender and women's empowerment issues, as a former member of the CEDAW Committee and Minister for Community Development, Gender and Children of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Madam Chairperson,

A decade of action since Beijing has produced significant results in gender mainstreaming policies, methodologies, tools and activities within the UN system but the systematic practical application of gender mainstreaming by UN entities remains a challenge.

Reflecting this challenge, ECOSOC resolution 2006/36 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system called on all entities to make gender training mandatory for all staff and personnel at all levels and to ensure the integration of gender perspectives in relevant training courses.

In response, my Office is following-up with the UN entities on their implementation of this resolution. The Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, representing UN entities developed key elements of a system-wide policy and strategy on gender mainstreaming, focusing on strengthening UN system-wide accountability, developing gender mainstreaming capacities and competencies, applying results-based management, e

Second, we are privileged to live in a technologically advanced world. Enhanced access to information communication technology is becoming increasingly the means by which women remain connected locally, nationally and globally, and improve their economic and social status. However, the gender digital divide remains wide. Moreover, in some areas it remains unclear how technology impacts on women's safety and bodily integrity, in particular new reproduction technologies and human genetics. The Commission may wish to review this issue as well.

Distinguished delegates,

Allow me to turn to the issue of gender architecture. As you heard earlier both the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General strongly support the recommendation of the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment,⁸ to strengthen the UN's response in the area of gender equality and empowerment of women by creating a new gender entity. It is my hope that the Assembly will act expeditiously so that UN efforts for gender equality would be better coordinated and given enhanced visibility and resources.

It is critical to maintain and enhance the momentum created by the 2005 World Summit and the High-level Panel so that the United Nations continues to provide leadership in implementing the UN global commitments to gender equality in an effective, sustainable and systematic manner. The informal thematic debate in the General Assembly on the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women (on 6 and 7 March 2007), annual ministerial level substantive reviews by a reformed ECOSOC and other high-level meetings offer new entry points for gender equality and opportunities to do more to mobilize the international community behind the goals of gender equality. The Organization is turning to full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Summit Outcome, including the internationally-agreed goals. But the process is slow and uneven.

As the main body on the empowerment of women, this Commission can influence not only ECOSOC, its functional commissions and other bodies but also the lives of women all over the world. On behalf of my Office, the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, I pledge our full cooperation in support of these efforts.

I thank you.
