

STATEMENT BY
H.E. AMBASSADOR SYLVIE LUCAS
PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
AT
THE OPENING OF THE FIFTY-THIRD SESSION
OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

2 MARCH 2009

Mr. Chairperson,
Ms. Deputy Secretary-General,
Distinguished delegates,

It is an honour for me to address the opening of the 53rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women in my capacity as President of the Economic and Social Council. I would like to assure you of the full support of ECOSOC for the efforts of the Commission on the Status of Women to advance the global agenda on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Your Commission will focus at this session on the priority theme of “The Equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS”. In choosing this theme, the Commission has recognized that gender equality and women’s empowerment cannot be fully achieved without the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men.

Inequalities in the sharing of domestic and caregiving responsibilities between women and men persists in all parts of the world, as a result of, among other things, unequal power relations between women and men and persisting stereotypes on the roles of women and men. As a consequence of their disproportionate share of responsibilities in the household, including for caregiving, women and girls face constraints in many areas, including in access to education and paid employment. The unequal sharing also constrains women’s opportunities to play a role in decision-making at all levels, an important theme being reviewed at this session of the Commission.

