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**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF CANADA
TO
THE 53rd SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

NEW YORK, 5 MARCH 2009

**DÉCLARATION DE
LA DÉLÉGATION CANADIENNE
À L'OCCASION DE LA
53^{ième} SESSION DE LA COMMISSION DES NATIONS UNIES
SUR LA CONDITION DE LA FEMME**

NEW YORK, LE 5 MARS 2009

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates

As Minister of State (Status of Women), I am pleased to address the 53rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women on behalf of Canada. I look forward to productive discussions on the priority theme for this session and the particularly timely consideration of the issue of gender and the current financial crisis. I would also like to commend the Secretary-General for his report and appreciate that he has recognized the multiple dimensions of the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, both in the home and outside of it.

Mr. Chair,
Canada, like many countries, is currently experiencing the effects of the global economic downturn. The impact of this downturn on women is an important issue that we will need to assess on an ongoing basis.

Women are an essential part of the economy and when women prosper, everyone prospers. At the same time, financial and economic crises can have disproportionate effects on women around the world. With this in mind, the Government of Canada is reaching out and forming alliances with other levels of government and the private and non-profit sectors to ensure that women not only continue to contribute to economic growth, but also benefit from economic

~~to the workforce, encouraging their participation in non-traditional careers, ensuring their equal~~

To address caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS, the Government of Canada has launched the Federal Initiative to Address HIV/AIDS, which supports collaboration with provincial and territorial governments, civil society and health care professionals to improve the quality of life of women and men living with HIV/AIDS, including providing support to those in caregiving roles.

Mr. Chair,

This year's priority theme shares an important connection with the earlier theme of "support"

participation in decision-making at all levels. To achieve equal sharing of responsibilities

Mr. Chair,

In the year since this Commission last met, there have been continued efforts to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations to deliver gender equality results. Canada commends the work

~~undertaken thus far by the Co-Chairs of the High Level Panel of Experts. With a view to~~

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Monsieur le Président, distingués membres de la délégation,

En tant que secrétaire parlementaire (Condition féminine),

En tant que le ministre d'État (Condition féminine), je suis heureuse de prendre la parole au
nom du Canada à l'occasion de la 50^e session de la Conférence internationale sur la condition féminine.

L'augmentation de la participation des femmes au marché du travail rémunéré est une des tendances les plus importantes observées au Canada au cours des dernières décennies. En 2006, le taux de participation des femmes canadiennes à la population active était l'un des plus élevés des pays de l'OCDE et le plus élevé des pays du

domaines, il lui reste encore du chemin à faire pour assurer un partage égal des responsabilités entre les femmes et les hommes.

À l'instar d'autres pays, le Canada continue de faire face à des défis dans le domaine du travail non rémunéré. En effet, les femmes dispensent la plus grande partie des soins aux enfants

Monsieur le Président,

Outre les mesures que je viens de mentionner, le Canada aborde la promotion des femmes

sous un angle plus large. Lors de la dernière session de la Commission sur la condition de la

féminisme, le Canada a tenu un séminaire sur les femmes et les affaires étrangères.

