





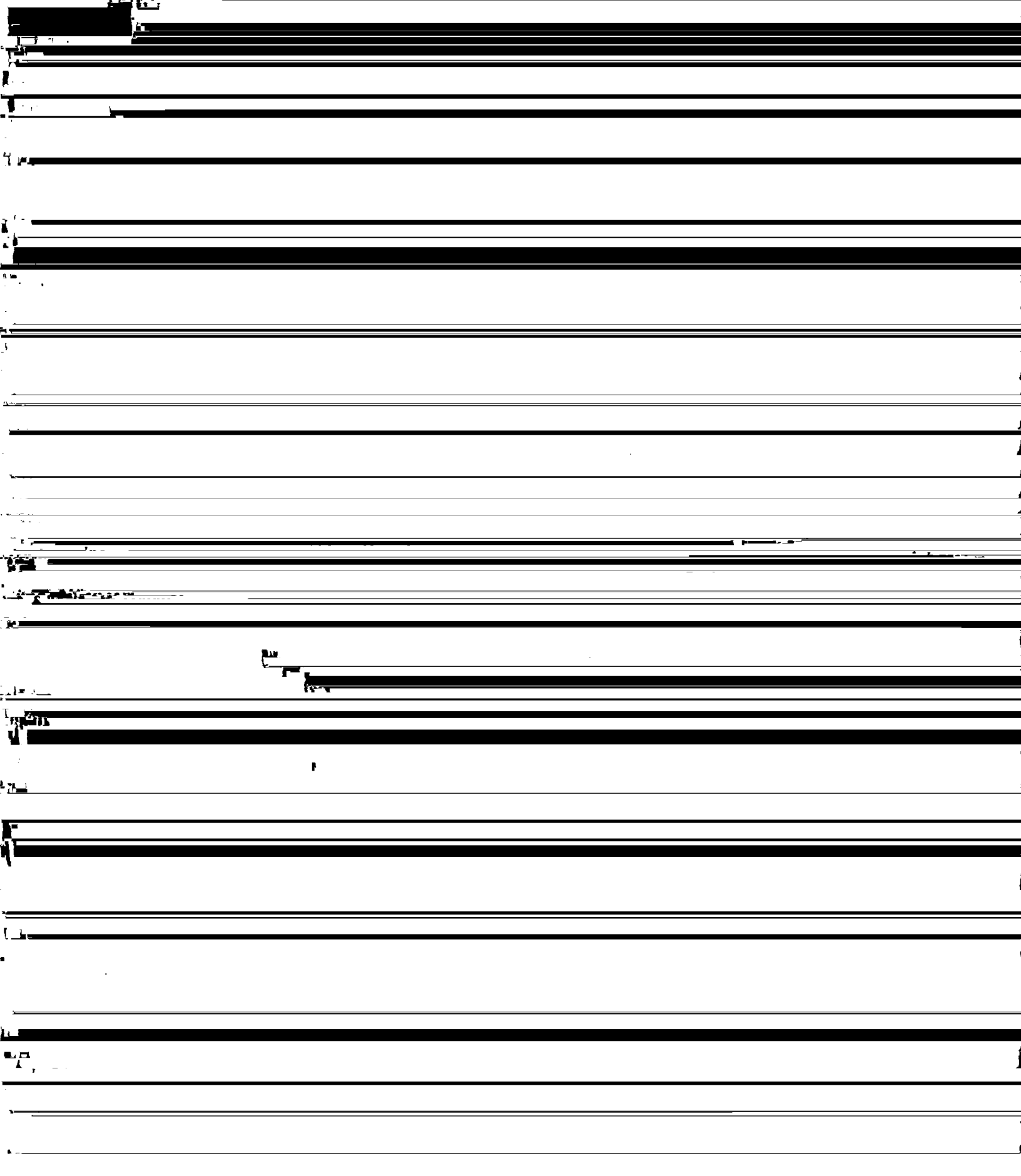
**Madam Chairperson  
Excellencies**

**I bring you the best regards and wishes from the President of the Republic of The Gambia and the Government and people, especially the women and children.**

**I wish to join my colleagues in congratulating the Bureau of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, 2000. May I also take this opportunity to commend H.E. Mr. Ban**

**W. \_\_\_\_\_**

Assembly and Secretary General and Head of Civil Service are women; the position of the Vice  
President is held by a woman. Of recent U.E. the President of the Republic of The



reduction of the burden of women regarding household work, farming and other related economic

Also, we must step up efforts in the formal and non-formal education of the girl child and women, as education is a very effective tool against those gender based norms and behaviours that maintain the

