



Mr. Chairperson

Distinguished Delegates

On behalf of the Greek Government, I would like to congratulate the Commission on the Status of Women for its initiative to organize this general discussion on a very crucial topic during the 53d Session.

We fully adhere to the

Distinguished Delegates,

Unequal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care giving in the context of HIV/AIDS, is one of the main causes of gender inequality and discrimination.

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This phenomenon, mostly connected to gender stereotypes, needs essential evaluation of women's domestic work and care giving. Nevertheless men's role and involvement has to be enhanced.

In this framework the elimination of gender stereotypes through educational procedures is one of our priority targets. Awareness-raising campaigns promote women's and girls self-protection and encourage men and boys to assume their responsibilities.

To face current challenges, especially in the context of care giving, investment in affordable and high-quality public services is considered of great importance. At the same time, gender budgeting is a major challenge for European policies. Close cooperation with Social Partners and NGO's is strongly needed.

Mr. Chairperson,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the context of global economic crisis, climate change and poverty, we must identify and respond to specific needs of women and girls, subject to multiple discriminations.

Gender-sensitive policies in all sectors, including health, education and employment, are imperative to support female potential as a valuable resource for economic and social development.

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