

**Joint Statement
Of
The five United Nations Regional Commissions**

**Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)**

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

To

**The 53rd Session of the Commission on Status of Women
(New York, 2 - 13 March 2009)**

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Information Officer**

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Distinguished delegates
Representatives of NGOs
Ladies and gentlemen

It is a great honour for me to address the 53rd session of the CSW on behalf of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC),

from 6 to 9 August 2007 at the tenth session of the Regional Conference on Women, have agreed that two themes were of strategic importance for the region: 1) political participation and gender parity in decision-making processes at all levels and 2) the contribution of women to the economy and social protection, especially in relation to unpaid work. Therefore they decided to adopt measures of co-responsibility in family and working life that apply equally to women and men in all spheres to ensure recognition of

sustainable action: **ending violence against women and girls; financing gender equality and women's empowerment and developing reliable data on these issues.**

In this connection, ECA is implementing several activities under its gender and macro-economic programme, namely:

- i) Piloting its African Gender and development index (AGDI) in 25 new African countries (the first round of trials covered 18 countries);
- ii) Building the capacity of member countries to use the Africa- specific Easy Reference Guidebook for integrating household production into national poverty reduction policies and the engendered macro-economic model. This Guidebook is a compendium of methodologies and tools to engender national planning instruments; and
- iii) Developing a methodology for data collection on gender-based violence.

· **ESCWA** has focused on capacity building and substantive assistance to governments, through training, mainstreaming gender into national plans and strategies, and promoting gender budgeting. It is also working on gender statistics. Related to this, ESCWA intends to publish a study on women's access to economic resources, including micro-finance,

· **ESCAP** focuses on improving economic opportunities for women and men, namely in the areas of export industries and migration. It is also endeavouring to improve the access of rural women to markets through information and communications technology.

Other areas of interest include improving women's access to health and education and promoting gender statistics, including the development of additional indicators for MDG3.

· **ECLAC** is using national time use surveys to assess the different contributions of men