



NORWAY

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STATEMENT

By

H.E. Ms. Anniken Huitfeldt
Minister of Children and Equality

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Mr. Chair person,

Let me thank you, the secretariat, Ms Mayanya and all other stakeholders for an excellent preparations of the meeting. I think it is truly inspirational to be here together with so many dedicated leaders from all over the world. I come from a part of the world where, - although we face obstacles and challenges, - gender equality and more equal participation of men and women have moved out of infancy to more mature stages. I am happy to report on this during our meetings here. Often, however, I hear colleagues from other and less fortunate countries say that is it easy for us. We have the resources to pay for our policies.

Mr Chair person

Gender equality policies such as equal rights legislation, parental leave or day

care center policies, are not expenses that only rich countries can afford. They

I believe it is the world's first government White Paper on the Role of Men. It is based on broad research and hearings on equality, with focus on men's participation in care, family life and work. It has given us valuable knowledge about changes in attitude and behavior in recent years.

For example:

~~-The time fathers spend caring for children and sharing household duties has~~

increased considerably during the last 20 years.

~~- 90 % of fathers entitled to 10 weeks paid Parental Leave, actually spend 10~~

weeks together with their children as the masters of the house.

We also have evidence to show that more equality between men and women at home reduces the chances of divorce.

What we still struggle with, are attitudes of some employers regarding men's