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Commission on the Status of Women

Fifty-fifth session

2 February-4 March 2011

Agenda item 3 (a)

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”: implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives

Key policy initiatives and capacity-building on gender mainstreaming: focus on science and technology

Moderator’s summary

1. On 23 February 2011, the Commission on the Status of Women convened an interactive expert panel on the theme “Key policy initiatives and capacity-building on gender mainstreaming: focus on science and technology”. This interactive panel was part of the Commission’s consideration of the priority theme “Access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women’s equal access to full employment and decent work”.
2. Ms. María Luz Melon, Vice-Chair of the Commission, moderated the session. The panellists were: Ms. Sesae Mpuchane, Professor, University of Botswana; Ms. Hagit Messer, President, Open University, Israel; Ms. Londa Schiebinger, Professor, Stanford University, United States of America; Mr. Bunker Roy, Founder and Director, Barefoot College, India; and Ms. Anne Miroux, Director, Technology and Trade Logistics Division, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.
3. Science and technology is an important tool to accelerate the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium

some countries face. Opportunities to strengthen partnerships among countries should be further explored, including South-South and triangular cooperation.

12. Technology plays a key role in empowering women. Devices such as multifunctional platforms — a diesel engine that powers tools and provides electricity — have helped women to reduce the time and labour spent on productive