



STATEMENT BY

MR. GEORGE TALBOT

CHARGE D'AFFAIRES

OF THE

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF GUYANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT THE

FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION

OF THE

THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

FEBRUARY 28, 2001

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS

Kindly refer to the attached document.

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
801 SECOND AVE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017-0001

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is pleased to participate in the 50th anniversary of the International Convention on the Status of Women. We join others in extending warmest congratulations to you and the other members of the Bureau on your election.

Guyana also aligns itself with the statements made by the duly authorized representatives of Argentina, the Bahamas and Chile on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Rio Group respectively.

Mr. Chairman, Guyana's commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women continues to find expression in various initiatives, including the enhancement of legislative and normative frameworks and the implementation of institutional and practical measures to improve the condition of women in our society. This work in progress is evident in some areas, it is clear that much more needs to be done to realize the objectives we have set ourselves in this important area.

The Commission's focus this year on "access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including and especially women's equal access to full employment and decent work, is timely and could add impetus to efforts to remove existing stereotypes concerning women and their ability to study and be employed in the fields of science and technology. The General Secretary-General's report contained in document E/CN.WD/2011/3 has pointed out the relevance of science and technology to efforts to attain the Millennium Development Goals, the achievement of food security, the fight against diseases, improvement of education and the response to challenges of climate change. We firmly believe that women should not only be unhindered in the pursuit of opportunities in these areas but should be actively encouraged and facilitated in making their contributions as partners in development.

In Guyana, education is the right of every individual and is provided free of charge in public schools from the nursery to the secondary school level. The advancement of science and technology is a priority in Guyana and males and females are being encouraged to study and pursue careers in these fields. Based on the 2008 - 2009 statistics seventh one percent of graduates of the University of Guyana were females ten percent of which focused on studies in the area of science and technology. The encouragement of women to undertake studies in these fields is still a necessity.

In this regard, I wish to express our Government's gratitude to the UN system as well as other multilateral and bilateral sources for their support to programmes implemented by the Government of Guyana and at national, regional and global levels.

and the empowerment of women. We are fully convinced that our consistent collaborative efforts that states will be able to realize the goals set out in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, Guyana is heartened at the establishment of UN Women, an entity which embodies the hopes and aspirations of a better life for women and girls all across the world. We congratulate Ms. Michelle Bachelet on her appointment as Executive Director of this entity and look forward to the unveiling of the first strategic plan of UN Women to its Executive Board in June of this year. Mindful of the necessity for adequate and timely financing of any entity, Guyana has made a modest first contribution to the core budget of UN Women and encourages other States to do likewise given that the earmarking of fund limits flexibility in response to the needs of Member States.

I thank you.