



KAZAKHSTAN

Please, check against delivery

STATEMENT
by **H.E. Mrs. Madina Gulbayanova**
Ambassador-at-Large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Kazakhstan
on the General Debate of the 65th Session of the
Commission on the Status of Women

New York, 24 February 2011

Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished delegates,

At the outset let me thank Secretary General for a well-grounded and comprehensive overview of the current global situation on implementation of the Beijing commitments as well as the decisions of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

Kazakhstan welcomes an establishment of a new gender entity UN Women and, being a member of its first Executive Board, expresses its strong hope for the future fruitful collaboration of the Commission on the status of women and UN Women. At the same time my delegation deems important that while implementing each other they should waive efficient amicably.

Acknowledging an existing gap between globally agreed goals and their translation into the reality, we deem it crucial to increase national efforts and enforce national gender mainstreaming.

Kazakhstan is proud that women being the pre-driving force of development play a significant and increasing role in the country. The Beijing Platform of Action triggered the establishment of policies and strategies for gender equality, adherence to relevant international and regional instruments and has increased attention on gender issues. Kazakhstan has set up a threshold of 15% per cent representation of women at the decision-making level to be achieved by 2016. Recognizing the fact that progress is uneven the authorized national body - the National Commission on women issues and family-demographic policy under the President of Kazakhstan conscientiously implements principles of evolutionary empowerment of women. To this end, the republican network uniting 57 branches for negotiation of female political leaders was established. The Commission has created an inter-agency event national and local executive body. The Commission has special cooperation agreements with all political parties on promotion of gender mainstreaming, political advancement of women and gender balance.

Undertaken measures have entailed an increase in women's role in governmental posts in Kazakhstan. At present women sit in 18.5 per cent of the members of the Parliament as compared to 12 per cent in 2005. 28.5 per cent of the Supreme Court judges are women, in the civil service women constitute 48 per cent, though only 10.5 per cent occupy decision-making positions.

Although women's political empowerment remains to be an ongoing concern certain improvement of indicators in this field is envisaged under adoption of this Law "On the State Guarantees of Equal Rights and Equal

Opportunities for Men and Women" in December 2009, as an illustration of accountability of employers and public bodies.

The Government takes necessary measures to provide sustainable economic growth and hence to improve the well-being of every family. Great significance is attached to the economic advancement of women. For this reason, improvement of social and financial conditions of women has become a primary impetus for the economic empowerment of women.

While in Kazakhstan women constitute 47.4 million or 51.5 million economically capable population their contribution to GDP is less than 30 percent. This is also reflected in the existing wage gap, women's salary is 66 per cent of that of men. The National Commission has proposed a series of government policies to increase this indicator up to 80 per cent by 2020.

In 2009 Kazakhstan launched the new programme on Women Entrepreneurship for 2009-2015. Nine million US dollars were allocated to implement its projects. The programme promotes entrepreneurial education and retraining for women. Nearly 200 thousand women have completed income-generating and skills training courses last year. A record of 10,000 permanent job places were created for women.

We strongly believe that micro-credits are effective for women's empowerment. In accordance with the State Programme 5097 micro credits totaling 12 million US dollars were loaned last year to rural citizens, women became recipients of 36 per cent of them.

Mr. Chairperson,

Undoubtedly the non-discriminatory education is a key driver of economic growth and is a vital factor for upward mobility of women and girls through decent job. In the Address to the Nation made on January, 28, 2010 President Nursultan Nazarbayev paid special attention to further modernization of education for timely implementation of the 2020 National Programme of Accelerated Industrial and Innovative Development. The Head of State stressed that quality education should be the basis of industrialization and innovative development of Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan has already reached the millennium development goal of universal access for girls and boys to primary and secondary education. Our Constitution guarantees a free secondary education which is also mandatory to all citizens irrespective of sex. The gender component is incorporated into the overall state standard of quality education.

As mentioned in the Secretary General's report it is highly important not only to ensure wide access to education but also provide its high quality. To reach this goal Kazakhstan has been increasing meaningful investments which has already

grown tenfold in the last seven years. A total number of 750 schools were built during the last decade. Innovative education demands particular focus on the attainment of modern facilities. As for today, computerization of schools has been fully completed, 50 per cent of them have multimedia classrooms and interactive equipment. Special attention is paid to update course curricula, programmes and textbooks. Undertaken measures equally benefit both boys and girls.

There are 7516 schools in Kazakhstan where primary and secondary education is provided to more than 2.5 million pupils, 49.5 per cent of whom are girls. In sphere of high education there are 58.2 per cent of female students. As a result statistics demonstrate a prevailing number for women who university degrees in Kazakhstan.

Despite women's educational gains, some women are less to enter professions constrained by stereotypical perceptions. There is still a general productive identification of some professions as male. The situation is, on one hand, an underrepresentation of women in sphere of science, engineering and, on the other, their overrepresentation in the humanities and social sciences. For example 88.9 per cent of teachers at primary schools and 62 per cent of lectures at high level institutions are women.

To improve the current situation the National Commission is going to address the root causes of horizontal and vertical career and wage segregation to eliminate obstacles to female employment and to ensure a balance of career selection according to gender stereotypes. Thus, the textbooks have been revised to eliminate gender stereotypes in educational process. Besides the Guidelines of gender expenditure of graduates and post-graduate textbooks have been developed and successfully implemented.

Mr. Chairperson,

Resuming my statement, let me express our delegation's strong confidence that close and fruitful collaboration of the relevant stakeholders will allow the international community to translate Beijing commitments into practical measures and long-wished results in gender equality.

Thank you for your kind attention.