

5 March, 2013, New York

Mr. Chair, Excellencies, distinguished members of delegations and the civil society,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Estonia aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union and would like to offer some additional remarks in our national capacity.

Allow me to say that as a firm supporter of a rights-based approach, Estonia values highly the annual discussions at the Commission on the Status of Women. Women's rights continue to be one of Estonia's human rights priorities. Evidence shows that focussed attention on gender equality in the world during the past 60 years, both at the national and international levels, really has highlighted the shamefulness of violence against women. And yet, in 2013, gender inequality continues to be a phenomenon that cuts across boundaries of wealth, race, and culture. Estonia remains committed to the principle of equality between women and men as a f3(women h)9(en)ypn1ls8na dasdas8asB

agenda for women's empowerment, and the Cairo Programme of Action on population and development, are a solid basis for promoting gender equality, women's rights and family planning. Estonia firmly stands for the principles enshrined therein. Also, it is more than 12 years since we adopted the Security Council resolution 1325 on

“Women, Peace and Security” to acknowledge the disproportionate effect of war and conflicts on women and children. It is time to analyze our achievements.

Mr. Chair,

Allow me to illustrate with a few words where Estonia stands in this context. More can be done in all countries, even in those that have been comparatively successful, like

