

**Statement by Ms. Aisa Kacyira, Assistant Secretary General and Deputy
Executive Director, UN-Habitat**

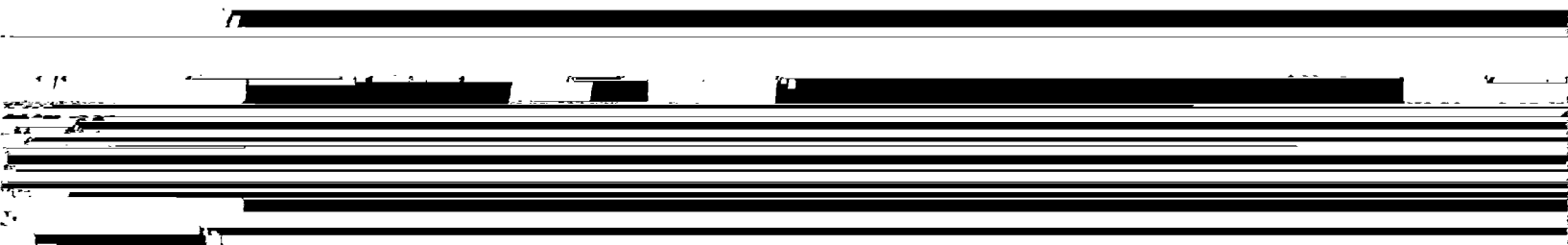
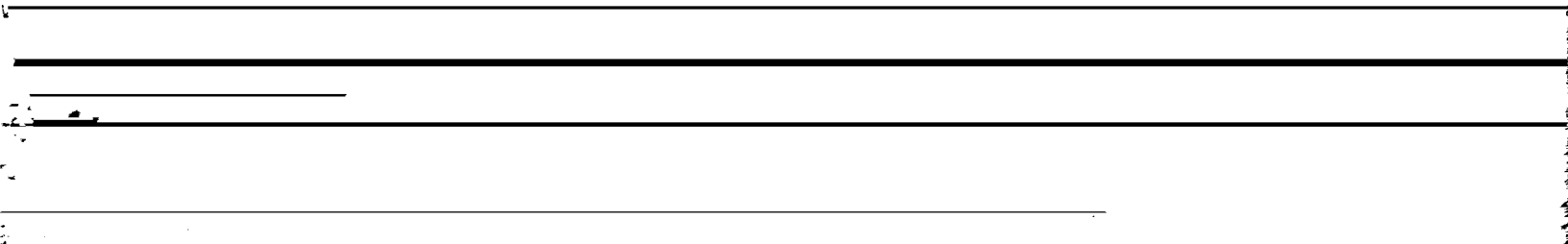
at the 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

New York, 4th to 15th March 2013

*Ms. Chairperson, Honourable Ministers, distinguished delegates and colleagues, Ladies and
Gentlemen*

UN-HABITAT is grateful to the Commission for its focus this year on the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls. As the lead UN Agency for promoting socially and environmentally sustainable cities and towns with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all, and the focal point for monitoring progress in the attainment of the Habitat Agenda. We believe that to achieve this goal we need to provide a platform for contributing to more equitable, socially sustainable and economically just urban development for

Whereas domestic violence is now widely recognized, violence against women in public spaces remains a largely neglected issue, with few laws or policies in place to address it. Women not only perceive and experience cities differently than men, but they also use public spaces in



Ms. Chairperson,

On the whole, governments and policy makers are still responding inadequately to different