



Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you for your able stewardship of this Committee.

Mr. Chairman, this year there will be many events commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. While the international community

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Many nations represented here will identify with Israel's experience, which has been that, in spite of a number of initiatives, the record, so far, has shown mixed results. For example, women earn only 83% of men's salaries. This is an improvement over the past, but we still have far to go. Moreover, the heavy representation of women in the public

Efforts toward equal representation in Government have also achieved uneven success. In the Knesset, for example, only 17 out of 120 members are women – a low rate compared with many other developed countries. In the cabinet, only a small minority of positions are held by women, although some positions they do hold are central ones. My minister, who is currently trying to form a new coalition Government, is one such example. In response to the shortfalls that still exist, the Knesset's Committee on the Status of Women is also tasked with increasing women's representation in Government. Israel is committed to achieving gender equality, socially, economically, and politically.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation must voice its opinion on an issue that will arise many times in the coming

weeks as Member States negotiate resolutions allocated to this Committee. It must be

which we adhere, and that we are still trying to attain: "the equal rights of men and women." There are no grey areas, and the Declaration does not qualify the term "equal." We should not go back in time by trying to impose such limitations or conditions for any reason.

