



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE KINGDOM OF TONGA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Third Committee of the 63rd session of the UN General Assembly

Agenda item 56: Advancement of Women

Statement
by

HE Mrs Fekitamoeloa 'Utoikamanu

Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Tonga to the United Nations

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Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of my own country, the Kingdom of Tonga.

I would like to also take this opportunity to congratulate you for your appointment as the Chairman of the Third Committee.

The advancement of women is crucial to the achievement of MDGs by 2015. Research demonstrates that progress in the advancement of women in education stimulates a nation's economic growth, poverty reduction, as well as reducing malnutrition and child

mortality. It also shows that although the agenda is unfinished, progress has been made in each of the targets set under MDG 3.

The targeting of the goal to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger is important in this respect since women account for two-thirds of the world's 1.2 billion people who live in extreme poverty. And almost two thirds of the employed women in the developing world work in the informal job sector or work as unpaid care-takers. Women in the developing world have limited access to credit, land ownership and professional skills and vocational training to secure economic opportunities and jobs in the formal sector.

Education is the key to the advancement of women; we must also work hard to overcome the traditional gender-based division of labor in the domestic setting. The work of child-care and care-taking of the elderly often leaves women with limited time to participate in further training or income-generating activities. It is therefore vital that women be given

many young girls may need to sacrifice their education in order to assist their families in the procurement of water.

Mr. Chairman,

Throughout the debate on system-wide coherence this year, we have given special attention to gender equality. We believe the JIN reform process should also incorporate

the gender perspective. In order to support the achievement of MDG2

it is suggested that donor countries should be urged to refrain from taking short term actions which will undermine the achievement of long term benefits.

Thank you.