



*Présidence française de l'Union Européenne  
French Presidency of the European Union*



## **63<sup>ème</sup> ASSEMBLEE GENERALE**

**Troisième Commission  
Point 56 – Promotion des femmes**

**New York, le 13 octobre 2008  
(Vérifier au prononcé)**

**Déclaration prononcée au nom de l'Union européenne**

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## **63<sup>RD</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**Third Commission  
Item 56 – Advancement of Women**

**New York, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
(Check upon delivery)**

**Statement on behalf of the European union**

- unofficial translation -

Mr President,

I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the European Union.

Sixty years have passed since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was proclaimed in Paris on 10 December 1948. This founding text clearly affirms that "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights" and that "Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as (...) sex".

Yet women all over the world unfortunately too often still face wide ranging discrimination

Insecure World”, promoted by European Commissioner for External Relations last March. Following this initiative, more than 40 prominent international women leaders wrote to the UN Secretary-General, inviting him to convene in 2010 a ministerial conference on the implementation of resolution 1325.

For many years now, the European Union has been supporting the advancement of women and promoting women’s rights.

The full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action is at the core of our commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women. The European Union is currently working towards the adoption of Council Conclusions on indicators on “Women in Armed Conflict” - one of the priority areas of the Beijing Platform for Action - and is preparing a report in this area of concern. This set of indicators follows a series of others, already adopted, such as on women and decision-making, violence against women, women and health, education and training of women, sexual harassment, and women and poverty.

The European Union attaches great importance to the universalization and the full implementation of the Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and its Optional Protocol. The European Union continues to call upon States Parties to fulfil their obligations

The EU affirms our strong support for and commitment to the full implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994, as well as the key actions for the further implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action agreed at ICPD+5 and the Copenhagen Declaration and Action Programme; and also emphasises that gender equality can not be achieved without guaranteeing women's sexual and reproductive health and rights, and reaffirm that expanding access to sexual and reproductive health information and health services are essential for achieving the Beijing Platform for Action, the Cairo Programme of Action and the Millennium Development Goals.

We call on the international community to intensify its action in support of women's rights and prohibit sex-based discrimination. We would like to demonstrate our appreciation and recognition of the work, role and value of the Commission of the Status of Women as a unique forum of dialogue and exchange in our common efforts to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment.