



STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BY
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PERMANENT MISSION OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AGENDA ITEM 56: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN
TO THE THIRD COMMITTEE, 63RD SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

- NEW YORK, 13 OCTOBER 2008 -

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on agenda item 56: Advancement of Women. We would like to thank the Secretary-General for the reports submitted under this important agenda item.

The Group of 77 and China reaffirms its support for and commitment to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third

Special session of the General Assembly as the guiding policy frameworks for gender

The advancement of women. The international community has further

their income on food. In this regard, G77 and China reaffirms that a development-oriented result of the current Doha Round negotiations, food security, agricultural productivity as well as the cancellation of foreign debt, among other factors, are critical to reduce persistent levels of poverty and hunger in developing countries.

In terms of education, while there has been significant progress in achieving

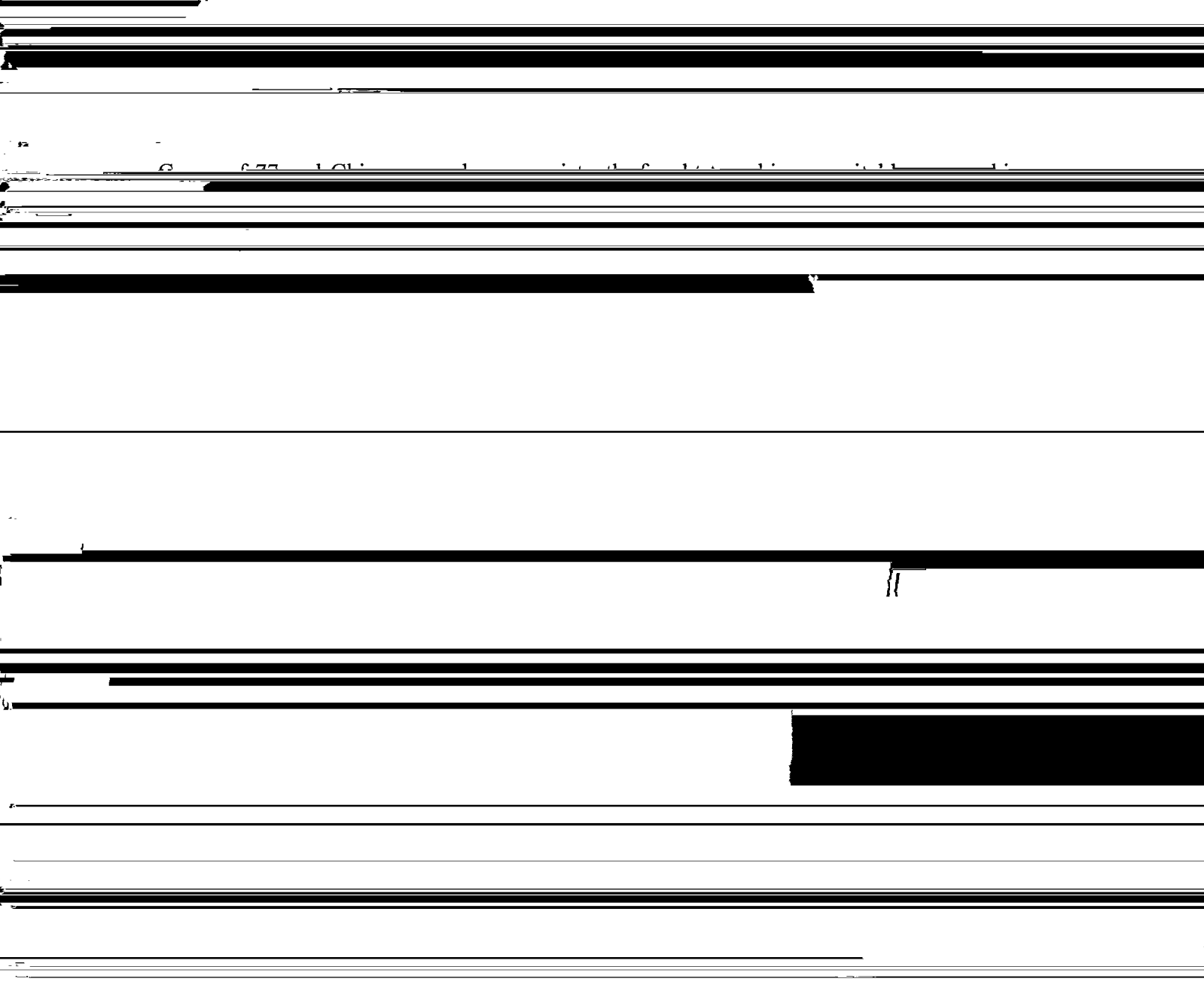
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increase in the percentage of women in the UN System in the professional and higher categories from 37.7 per cent as of 31 December 2006 to 38.4 per cent as of 31 December 2007, with UNITAR and UNFPA being the only two of 31 entities having achieved overall gender balance.

Gender imbalance is also exhibited in intergovernmental bodies. As of January 2008, with the exception of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the CEDAW Committee, women represent only 23 per cent of the members of the seven human rights treaty bodies. This inability to reach gender parity is extremely discouraging to the



representation of women in the UN system. We therefore call on the Secretariat to seriously intensify efforts to achieve gender balance within the UN system, respecting the principle of equitable geographic representation at headquarters and in field offices.

The G77 and China continues to appreciate the work of the International Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and recalls the specific mandate of the Institute as a central focal point for research and training on gender issues within the United Nations system.

Finally, Mr. Chairman

The G77 and China reaffirms that full achievement of the MDGs requires an enhanced level of commitment and an effective global partnership for development. The ongoing global economic, food, energy and climate crises, weak support from international financial institutions, the continuous decline of Official Development Assistance and the lingering effects of structural adjustment measures are some of the obstacles that hinder developing countries from meeting the MDGs.

We therefore encourage the international community to honour its commitments to ODA, as well as promote international cooperation in the field of technology transfer, information and data-sharing and technical assistance. It must also commit to debt relief and the opening up of markets to give opportunities, particularly to women and