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Statement by Ambassador T. Vance McMahan, United States Representative to the Economic and Social Council, on agenda item 56 (a,b): Advancement of Women, to the Third Committee of the General Assembly, October 13, 2008.

The Secretary-General's report on the world situation for women and children

conflict. The United States is pleased that the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) will be preparing the report on SC Resolution 1820 follow-up. Because of its expertise on conflict situations, DPKO is well-suited to compile the report. We recommend that DPKO draw upon the inter-agency resources of the UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict, so that a wide range of experts and observers in the field can gather the sensitive and sometimes elusive

instrument of conflict.

Women Leaders' Working Group

Mr. Chairman, another accomplishment of which the international community can be proud is the formation in 2006 by several dozen female Foreign Ministers and other high-ranking government officials from around the world, including Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, of the Women Leaders' Working Group. The Group works to ensure that women's political participation, access to justice

More than 700,000 new cases of HIV infections each year in children arise from
mother-to-child HIV transmission (MCTCT). THE NEW YORK TIMES, FEBRUARY 1, 2008

maximize their efficiency and effectiveness. Several of the options recently presented by Deputy Secretary-General Migiro include elements that appear promising, and we stand ready to work with other member states on this exercise.

As this is the Bush Administration's final UN General Assembly, it is fitting to note that the United States has initiated a number of resolutions during the last eight years to support the advancement of women. In addition to the two resolutions already discussed on ending sexual violence in situations of conflict, the U.S. has offered resolutions on affirming basic principles on women's participation and empowerment, reducing demand for victims of commercial sexual exploitation, and creating a strong enabling environment for women entrepreneurs and women in the labor market. And the 2007 Commission on the Status of Women resolution on "Forced Marriage of the Girl Child" encourages