

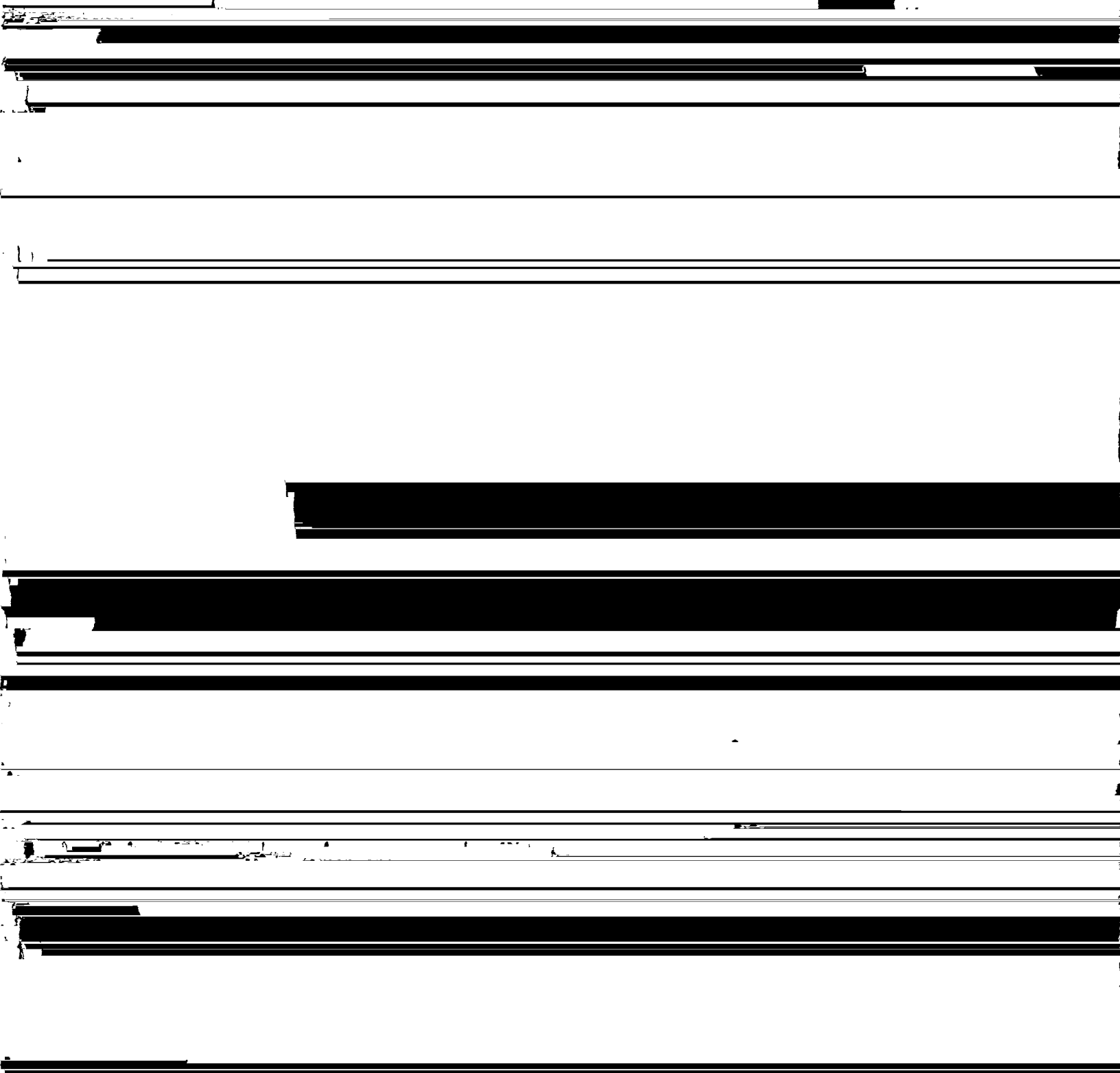


**PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by reaffirming Thailand's continued and active commitment to the advancement of women. Our position is based on the belief that full social and economic development can only take place in a society where women and men enjoy equal rights, and are empowered to make the most of their natural abilities. Successive governments have thus done their best to ensure equal access to opportunities and resources for both women and men.

Our beliefs are matched by our actions. Thailand is committed to its



women's equality of status. These include, among others, the right of women to choose to maintain their own surnames and titles even if they are married. Moreover, cultural barriers which have prevented women from stepping outside prescribed roles are being addressed, so that women have the opportunity to develop their abilities and interests as they freely choose, rather than those dictated by custom. Gender Chief Executive Officers are being put in place to ensure that public and private institutions are aware of the importance of gender equality and to promote women's participation

As a result, more and more women are participating in public administration at least