



Permanent Mission of Eritrea
to the United Nations

Statement by Ms. Elsa Haile
Director of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
On Agenda item 62(a): Advancement of Women
At the Third Committee of the Sixty-Fourth Session of the General Assembly
13 October 2009, New York

Mr. Chairman,

Let me from the outset express my delegation's appreciation to you and the members of the Bureau for the excellent manner in which you are conducting the work of the Committee.

My delegation welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on measures taken to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly on Women.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the Sudan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

As we are making the necessary preparations at the United Nations to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 2010, Eritrea is marking the 30th Anniversary of the National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW). It was founded in 1979 during Eritrea's armed struggle for independence with the clear objective of achieving equality between women and men by promoting the creation of better political, economic, social and cultural opportunities for women as well as by advocating for fundamental change in the way women were treated and perceived in a deeply traditional Eritrean society.

The National Union of Eritrean Women, which enjoys the full support and cooperation of the Government of Eritrea, has been holding recently several workshops and discussions in several parts of the country to assess how wide and deep the changes it has been seeking are and what extra measures and tools it requires to help realize the

enough to outlaw discriminatory laws and practices. It requires concerted efforts directed at addressing and correcting the root causes that give rise to gender imbalances.

With this in mind, the advancement of women is viewed as key component of my country's major policy issue. No legal or constitutional barrier stands on the way of women from using their full potential in any endeavour of their choosing. Women's equality with men is constitutionally guaranteed without any limitation to their full participation in all spheres of life. The commitments made in international fora, such as, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have all become part of the Eritrean

national strategy that promote the needs and interests of women in different fields. The national strategies on gender, education, poverty reduction, health and food security, all respond to the needs of Eritrean women and girls in order to address the underlying conditions that have put

