



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE FEDERAL
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA**

Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me the floor.

My delegation associates itself with the statement of the distinguished representative of the Sudan on behalf of the group of 77 and China.

My delegation would also like to thank the Secretariat for its comprehensive and informative report on the Agenda Item.

Mr. Chairman,

It is a well documented fact that women account for 50% of the world population. The exclusion of women from participation in the economic development and political process would not only be unjust but also tantamount to squandering half of the human potential in a society. It is in recognition of this fact that the Government of Ethiopia has committed itself not only to establish

justice as a fundamental right but also to establish gender equality as sine qua non for economic and social development. My delegation would like to highlight the endeavors, achievements and commitments of the Government of Ethiopia for the advancement of women vis-à-vis the fulfillment of the millennium development goals.

Mr. Chairman,

In Ethiopia, despite the multifaceted and significant role of women in the society, their contribution lagged behind that of men due to past political, economic, social and cultural bias against them. In order to rectify this unacceptable state of affairs the Government of Ethiopia demonstrated its commitments with the issuance of specific policies and strategies. The national

legislations have passed in terms of

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In order to realize the economic empowerment of women, the focus of the Government has been on the agricultural sector which constitutes the locomotive of the national economy. In this context the measures taken and the results achieved in the framework of the women's package for change and development are as follows:-:

government has developed and implemented gender oriented health development programs. The Ministry of Health has trained and assigned 30,000 health extension agents (most of whom are young women) at the grassroots level to raise awareness in health, prevention of HIV/AIDS,

In the area of education, specific policies, strategies and plan of action have been issued to increase the enrollment rate of women and to decrease the gender gap. Some of the measures taken are worth mentioning. In this regard,

Mr. Chairman,

In order to promote equal opportunity for women in decision making, a lot of awareness creation, advocacy and lobbying activities have been undertaken across the country. For instance the

was an encouraging step in women's representation in parliament in the 2005 election when