

As delivered.

**Statement**  
**by**  
**Ms. Rachel Mayanja**  
**Special Adviser**  
**on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women**  
**at**  
**NGO CSW Interactive Roundtable Discussion**  
**On**  
**"Equal Participation of Women and Men in Decision-Making Process at all Levels"**  
**New York, 14 February 2006**

Madam Chairperson,  
Representatives of the NGO community,  
Friends and Colleagues,

I am delighted to have the opportunity to speak at this important event on **"Equal Participation of Women and Men in Decision-Making Process at all Levels."** At the outset, I would like to congratulate the NGO Committee on the Status of Women for organizing this roundtable and thank you for giving me the opportunity to reflect on the barriers that exist to women's opportunities to shape a world based on gender equality.

The theme of this roundtable is particularly timely, as the issue of gender equality in decision making has emerged as an international priority. event

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This situation is unacceptable – more women must have a place at the decision-making