



CZECH REPUBLIC
MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement by

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Minister for human rights, ethnic minorities and gender equality
President of the Government Council on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men
of the Government of the Czech Republic

at the 52nd session
of the Commission on the Status of Women
Agenda item 3

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of
the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the
twenty-first century”

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(Check against delivery)

Madam / Mr. Chairperson, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to speak on behalf of the Czech Republic at this session of the Commission. The Czech Republic, a member of the European Union, has fully aligned itself with the statement delivered by the Presidency of the European Union.

The government of the Czech Republic has resolved to regard human rights issues and gender equality as its high-priority commitments.

In 1998, the Czech Government approved the National Action Plan in Promotion of Gender Equality based on the Beijing Platform for Action. The implementation, evaluation and updating of measures is conducted on an annual basis.

In 1998, the Gender Equality Unit was established as a foundation of the institutional mechanism. In May 2001, to enforce the promotion of gender mainstreaming, the Government instructed all ministries to prepare their specific Gender Equality Action Plans and to set up professional gender focal points at all of the ministries.

In October 2001, to strengthen the promotion of gender equality, a Government Council for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men was established. This Council has an advisory role to the Government and is a platform for designing conceptual gender equality policy. The Council consists of high-level decision makers (deputy ministers), social partners, non-governmental organizations and experts. I would like to underline an important role in the promotion of equal opportunities for men and women that belongs to social partners and non-governmental organizations.

In January 2007, the government established a new ministerial position - minister for human rights, ethnic minorities and gender equality, and I have the honour to be this minister.

Let me address gender budgeting with a few remarks. In agreement with CEDAW and the Beijing Platform, the government has developed an informatory methodology of gender budgeting. The methodology was written up in June 2004. It is of an informative non-binding nature, and its main goal was to encourage and persuade people to accept gender budgeting. The manual "Gender Budgeting" is intended for all authorities, especially on the local and regional levels, which decide how to use public finances. The manual guides them through possible methods of fair distribution of public money between men and women. A large information and education campaign on gender budgeting was held in 2004 and 2005.

In 2007, the Czech Republic improved, in collaboration with Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary and Italy, the common knowledge of gender budgeting in a frame of the project of the European Union. The activities of the project were focused on circulating knowledge on methods of gender budgeting. The main tools were seminars, conferences, manuals and media campaign.

We are convinced that gender budgeting is an essential tool in the policy of promoting equal opportunities. We want gender budgeting to become a regular tool in compiling budgets at all levels.

Madam / Mr. Chairperson, ladies and gentlemen,

It was an honour for me to attend this meeting. I look forward to exchanging experiences with you for the sake of our common future success in promotion of gender equality worldwide.

Thank you for your attention.