

**STATEMENT
BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF UKRAINE IN THE THIRD COMMITTEE
ON AGENDA ITEM 56 (a) AND (b) "ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN"**

Mr. Chairman,

Ukraine, in the line with the European Union, considers gender equality, gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women not only as important objectives, but also as the means to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and an essential part of the development agenda.

Considering that equality between women and men must be ensured in all spheres of life, gender equality concerns should be taken into account when outlining, implementing and evaluating all policies and programmes, in particular in the UN. In this regard my delegation expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his reports on the advancement of women. We would also like to express our appreciation and recognition of the work and role the CSW as a unique forum of dialogue and exchange in our common efforts to respond to challenges in the achievement of gender equality.

Mr. Chairman,

Ukraine reaffirms its commitments on the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, which constitute an overarching policy framework for action in achieving gender equality, and attaches particular significance to their effective implementation.

In signing relevant international documents, Ukraine reaffirmed its commitment to create institutional mechanisms for gender equality, empower women's participation in economic and social spheres and mainstream gender in their local, national and regional programs. Certain steps and efforts to mainstream gender have been undertaken and are still being undertaken by the national government with the support of international institutions and in partnership with civil society.

Ukraine has ratified and adopted 9 international treaties relating to women's rights. At the same time these international provisions were taken into account in the preparation of fundamental documents on this important issue – The State Law "On Ensuring the Equal Rights and Opportunities of Women and Men", the State Program on Ensuring

Gender Equality in Ukrainian Society for the years 2006-2010 and the State Program on Reproductive Health of the Nation for the years 2006-2015.

Gender mainstreaming, gender budgeting and gender impact assessment are key strategies and tools for ensuring successful results for achieving gender equality. The training of the relevant agents and the exchange of experiences and good practices in these areas are triggers to its wider and more regular use. In this regard we welcome the decision of the European Commission to implement in Ukraine, in collaboration with the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Development Programme, projects "Gender equality in labour sphere" and "Women rights in Ukraine" accordingly in order to help the Government of Ukraine and civil society to promote gender equality and advancement of women.

Mr. Chairman,

The developments of the past decade have clearly demonstrated that fighting against human trafficking is critical to international stability. Ukraine wishes to add her voice to the deep concern about an increasing interconnection between the activities of criminal organizations at the international level, and the close interrelationship of human trafficking and drugs, organized crime and terrorism.

The globalization has created an environment where these challenges can flow easily across borders. Thus, the worldwide proliferation of these phenomena demands continuous improvement of national, regional and international efforts and mechanisms for their effective countering.

I would like to reiterate the Ukraine's strong support for the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, as well as the relevant activities carried out within the framework of the Initiative. We would also like to recall the importance of the international anti-human trafficking legislation and to urge all States to comply with their respective obligations as well as to implement effectively the existing UN strategies and policies. In this connection Ukraine calls upon Governments to take measures aimed to elimination of the demand for trafficked women and girls for all forms of exploitation, including by strengthening existing legislation with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and to punishing perpetrators.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.