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**Agenda item 62: Advancement of women
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In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

In July 1997, the ECOSOC defined the concept of *gender mainstreaming* as follows: " Mainstreaming a gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in any area and at all levels. It is a strategy for making the concerns and experiences of women as well as of men an integral part of the design, implementation,

monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres, so that women and men benefit equally, and inequality is not perpetuated."

In 2005 too, the Commission on the Status of Women conducted a review of the commitments undertaken by governments at the fourth world conference on women in Beijing. It concluded that "legislative and regulatory gaps, as well as lack of implementation and enforcement of legislation and regulations, perpetuate de jure as well as de facto inequality and discrimination." Simply this means that women did not enjoy human rights on that basis with men. The Beijing +5 review established 2005 as a target date for the revocation of laws that discriminate against women, but this deadline has come and gone and that call remains unheeded. Many of these laws are still in force and continue to be applied to the detriment of women and girls. It is high time to repeal iniquitous legislation. This would be a long overdue remedy to women's plight and a response to the plea of advocates all over the world. It indicates that there is a wide gulf between international legal obligations and their implementation.

Mr. Chairperson,

As each and everybody here is well aware further to what was mentioned despite local national, regional and international achievements, there is a great rift between words and action. What today's world is in dire need concerning women's issue could be a very strong action plan to fulfill the ultimate goal of mainstreaming i.e. "gender justice ". It could be cited, however, that mentoring programmes could be extremely helpful in getting the Plan of Action on the right track.

In the light of the said notion, it deems necessary to identify and respond to specific needs of women and girls in real world situation. Gender perspective approach should be taken into account in relation to the impacts of the crisis on both a long and short-term basis including in relation to socio-political status of women.

The challenge in this regard is to find the right balance, the right work- life balance. It is not only a challenge for women, it is also a challenge for men because as we are witnessing " families " are split and it could be as traumatic for a wife in the family as for a husband. Therefore, advancing skills of team- building, of working harmoniously and

cooperatively rather hierarchically and antagonistically in a working environment could be proposed as a remedy for the said case.

There are other important unresolved issues as well; the impact of climate change as it is directly linked with poverty eradication could be cited as well. i.e. the most important measures for mitigating climate change will be increasing the use of "renewable energy", and reforestation, as well as halting the rate of deforestation. Adapting to climate change will affect agriculture, food security and water management in rural areas. Regenerative ecological agriculture can provide a good mitigation tool. Most of these livelihoods are traditionally "women's tasks" in developing countries and that is the rationale behind paramount importance adhered to this notion.

Another area is trafficking of people for prostitution and forced labor which is one of the fastest-growing areas of international criminal activity which is of increasing concern to the international community. Women smuggled by traffickers may be led to believe that they will work in legitimate occupations but find themselves trapped into forced prostitution, marriage, domestic work, and types of exploitations that constitute a contemporary form of slavery. Preventive activities must include education about the dangers of trafficking, in combination with the provision of economic opportunities at home and legal channels of migration for women who might otherwise resort to utilizing smugglers and traffickers.

In this regard, a political economy approach could be proposed in order to avoid the compartmentalization and selective and isolated treatment of violence against women which provides a framework for states and other actors to more fully realize their obligations to promote protect and fulfill women's rights.

Global phenomena such as armed conflicts, natural disasters and other crises, as well as reconstruction efforts have created new vulnerabilities for women, thus increasing the risks of violence and exploitation. Post- conflict and post humanitarian crisis processes, often full of promise, rarely address the prevailing gender, class, and ethnic imbalances. As a result, they have tended to deepen existing disparities or created new ones, particularly for poor and marginalized women-thus perpetuating the conditions that breed violence against them. Linkages between violence against women and women's access to particular economic and social rights should be considered , such as the right to

housing, land and property, food, water, health, education, and the right to decent work and social security. Accordingly, all states together could demonstrate that economic and social security is crucial for enhancing women's capabilities and their empowerment for preventing violence against them.

However, it is noteworthy mentioning that formulating the universal law on preventing and combating domestic violence in the world is the most promising legal measure. The laws on ensuring optimal opportunities for women and men shall contribute towards improved prevention, protection and prosecution of incidents of violence against women. The challenge ahead is to bridge the gap between the normative framework and practice.

Violence against women has gained visibility world wide and has become a major agenda item within the work of the United Nations, regional entities and individual countries. The Secretary General's promising UNITED campaign aims to eliminate violence against women by 2015.

Given these developments and the increased commitment to the gender Agenda, the proposal for the creation of a post at the under – Secretary General level to oversee the system wide initiatives for gender justice can be noticed as well. This proposal can be considered to ensure that all the invaluable, but often fragmented, initiatives are consolidated and coordinated.

Mr. Chairperson,

We do hold the very idea that accepting women as an integral part in the development process of any society is a pivotal concept. Technically speaking, in the transplantation process, it has been commonly practiced and witnessed that a heart of a woman is donated to a man and vice versa a kidney of a man is donated to a woman, the epistemology of their entity infuses the idea that men and women have complimentary statures which should be honored and in this regard "family" is the very catalyst for cementing this sublime status.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,