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**Statement by H.E. Mrs. Byrganym Aitimova,  
the Permanent Representative  
of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the UN  
at the Third Committee general discussion  
on the agenda item 62 «*Advancement of Women*»  
(New York, 13 October 2009)**

**Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished delegates,**

Firstly, my delegation would like to express gratitude to the Secretary-General for the comprehensive reports prepared by his staff for the general discussion on such important issue. The reports contain information about significant intensification of UN efforts as of the leading organization in the achievement of gender equality and advancement of women.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Government of Kazakhstan attaches great importance to the recent GA resolution of 14 September on a more effective and relevant UN entity focused on gender equality and women's empowerment. Kazakhstan was actively engaged in the process of informal consultations on consideration of a new UN arrangement and welcomed the composite entity's establishment.

We strongly believe that the new composite entity with adequate institutional capacity will be capable to become a stronger advocate for gender rights and interests and women's empowerment, promote effective system-wide gender mainstreaming, and be a better fundraiser for this key aspect of development.

Combining experience and efforts of existent UN agencies will allow galvanizing the gender process, inter alia, achieving greater system-wide coherence, and therefore greater efficiency. Kazakhstan supports a request for producing a well-balanced approach in arranging the new entity's organizational structure, avoiding duplication of functions and unclear terms of reference. At the same time we express hope that the best practices of the UN bodies previously engaged in the issues of gender and advancement of women will not be lost, but, on the contrary, used as a foundation on which to build better achievements and attain new objectives.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Kazakhstan has fully endorsed the Secretary-General's campaign «Unite to End Violence against Women», 2008-2015. We already can see fruitful result-oriented implementation of strategies and advocacy activities at all levels within the framework of this initiative. The creation of robust knowledge base is the cornerstone for such latent phenomena as domestic violence. Kazakhstan underscores the importance of all stakeholders' efforts being transferred into practical measures on the site.

Kazakhstan emphasizes a large potential of the UN Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women. The Government of Kazakhstan made its first contribution to the Trust Fund this year in support of the national governments' activities in fight against one of the world's most large-scaled violations of human rights.

Along the lines of global activities, Kazakhstan has implemented provisions of the Administrative Code to punish for illegal behavior in the sphere of domestic relations and domestic violence. Kazakhstan has intensified implementation of laws on gender equality under the frameworks of the Strategy on Gender Equality for 2006–2016. Kazakhstan is committed to adopt the Domestic Violence Law this year, which is to allow the merit-based approach for women through the legislative mechanisms.

**Mr. Chairman,**

In recent years the global community focused its particular attention on strengthening human rights through combating such forms of modern slavery as trafficking in human beings, sexual and labor exploitation, particularly concerning women and girls. Kazakhstan welcomes the number of initiatives in this area: Inter-Agency Cooperation Group against Trafficking in Persons and the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking.

Kazakhstan pays great attention to the modernization of legislative system in timely manner to ensure adequate response measures. At this line, Kazakhstan provides temporal residence for victims of trafficking and sanctions for violations of arrival rules to the territory of Kazakhstan. Along with this process, the Government of Kazakhstan has improved its criminal justice to avoid loopholes setting violators free. Non-governmental stakeholders also have active voice in hosting regular trainings for potential victims of traffic and/or sexual exploitation.

Kazakhstan is deeply concerned that economic and financial crisis and its consequences worsen social as they promote negative tendencies of trafficking in human beings. Improving the social determinants is the integral part that could prevent this disgrace from happening.

**Mr.Chairman,**

Kazakhstan deems it is crucially important to promote women's economical role in the society. Despite modern challenges, Kazakhstan uses a dual approach for providing economic security of vulnerable women. From one side, Kazakhstan retains the same high level of state social liabilities for maternity and child-care, as well as guarantees equal opportunities for women and men as part of its economic development. Those opportunities include capacity-building of women to exercise entrepreneurship, access to microcredit facilities, especially to those in rural areas and women living in poverty.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Kazakhstan expresses confidence that achieving gender equality and advancement of women are not less important than issues of global safety and sustainable development. In this regard, Kazakhstan pledges to fully support the new undertakings of the UN system in this field.

Thank you for attention.