

**Check against delivery**



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Mr. Chairperson,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour for me to address the Third Committee and to present several reports submitted under agenda item 62 (a) entitled 'Advancement of women'. At the outset, allow me to congratulate you, Mr. Chairperson and members of the Bureau, on your election. I would also like to assure of the full support of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in assisting you in your important work.

Mr. Chairperson,

I have the honour to present the report of the Secretary-General on the Status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, (document A/64/342), which has been submitted in accordance with Assembly resolution 62/218.

I would like to draw your attention to section B of the report which contains the evaluation of progress, by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, as requested by Assembly resolution 62/218. In addition to the good progress made in alleviating the backlog of reports under review, the Committee has developed strategies to encourage reporting, resulting in the submission of outstanding reports by a number of States parties. Three communications, one general recommendation (26 on migrant women workers) and four statements on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 60, Gaza, the international financial crisis and its consequences for the human rights of women and girls, and gender and climate change were finalized.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the annual Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (document A/64/38). The report covers the period from October 2008 to February 2009, during which the Committee held two sessions, of which one was in parallel chambers. The Chairperson of the Committee, Ms. Naela Gabr, is before you and will present an oral report on the work of the Committee.

Mr. Chairperson,

This concludes my introduction of the reports submitted under agenda item 62 (a). Thank you.

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