



KAZAKHSTAN

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STATEMENT
by the Delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan
at the Third Committee
(agenda item 28: Advancement of Women)
New York, 11 October 2010

**Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished Delegates,**

At the outset let me congratulate Ms. Michelle Bachelet for her recent appointment to the position of Under-Secretary-General and as the first Executive Director of UN Women. Considering the fact that Ms. Bachelet was the first female President of Chile, my delegation is confident that UN Women will be a champion of women's empowerment, and act in a dynamic and effective manner under her leadership.

Kazakhstan supported, and continues to support the adoption of the UN GA Resolution on the establishment of the new gender architecture. The creation of UN Women is the crowning accomplishment after almost four years of negotiations and debates regarding the establishment of a new single entity to work exclusively for gender equality and the advancement of women. We are certain that UN Women will give a significant impetus to the promotion of women's interests and their empowerment.

Through further implementation of action plans in the field, the Executive Board of UN Women will also provide timely assistance in overcoming modern challenges to achieving MDG 3; "Promotion of Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women." Kazakhstan is firmly of the opinion that a separate Executive Board will facilitate the timely adoption of measures to more effectively address urgent challenges in the field of gender equality. In light of the important role we know the Executive Board will perform, Kazakhstan decided to seek membership on this body from the Asian Group.

Mr. Chairperson,

Attaining gender equality between men and women is an important prerequisite for ensuring sustainable peace, stable democracy, progressive economic development, and subsequently global security and stability.

To achieve Millennium Development Goal 3 – the Republic of Kazakhstan has set as one of its major priorities the study and implementation of the world's best practices in this vital area of concern. Kazakhstan has adopted legal norms which provide actual equality for all citizens, regardless of their sex, gender, race, ethnicity, or religious affiliation. These norms also protect, without exception, the rights and freedoms of every Kazakh citizen.

The State Gender Equality Strategy is based on two gender-related national laws; "The State Guarantees for Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Men and Women", and "Prevention of Domestic Violence." It is within this framework that Kazakhstan is implementing actions to attain the goal of true gender balance.

A national coordination model between State entities, civil society and international organizations to reach our goals was formed through the National Commission for Women's Affairs and the Family-Demography Policy initiated and instituted by the President of Kazakhstan.

The internal policy and commitment of Kazakhstan in this field is the reason why the issue of promoting gender equality and political participation of women at decision-making levels was included on the Agenda of Kazakhstan's Chairmanship in the Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe.

Our country strives to undertake all necessary measures to ensure women's empowerment in the society. Women's participation in the social and political life has been increasingly noted. For example, as of the date of the Millennium Declaration signing in 2000, the ratio of women involved in the business sector of Kazakhstan was 38%; today it is 52%, and women's representation in the Majilis, the Parliament's Lower Chamber, was 13% and has now risen to 18%.

Today women make up 58% of the work force in State entities - 10.3% of them are at the decision-making level. By 2016 Kazakhstan is set to attain the goal of 30%-representation of women at the decision-making level.

Women make valuable contributions to the social and economic development of the country. For example, in 2009 the input of women into the GDP amounted to 38.8%.

This year the Republic of Kazakhstan has adopted the National Programme for Accelerated Industrial-Innovation Development. The goal of this effort is to found an intellectually advanced nation and turn Kazakhstan into a prosperous and responsible industrially developed state. As the more educated half of our society, women are to play a special role in this process.

In line with UN framework documents Kazakhstan reiterates its commitments to continue developing its State gender policy on the basis of current international norms, the advancement of national laws, and the further democratization of the society.

Thank you.