



STATEMENT

by the Representative of Ukraine

at the Third Committee on the agenda item 28 “Advancement of women”

October 11, 2011, New York

Mr. Chairman,

Ukraine welcomes activities of the United Nations aimed at improving situation of women and ensuring gender equality throughout the world.

The strong and unanimous support of the establishment of the UN Women demonstrated significant credibility and great expectations of Member States for accelerating progress of empowerment of women and meeting their needs worldwide.

It is a great responsibility for my country to be represented in the UN Women Executive Board. Ukraine’s activity in this entity together with other Member States is focused on implementing policies and practices seeking to reduce gender inequality in all its manifestations in every sphere of life – in decision-making and leadership, elimination of violence against women and girls, trafficking in women and girls.

Mr. Chairman,

The Beijing Conference as well as the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly reinforced implementation of the gender policy in Ukraine, which became an integral part of internal program. My country has made a substantial progress in this direction, though there are still challenges to deal with.

Within the legal framework we have completed all the tasks that included provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. After the adoption in 2005 of the Law of Ukraine “On ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men” its provisions are incorporated in national action plans adopted every five years. This led to the development of the institutional mechanism on gender equality, gender-oriented system of education, science, statistics, civil society activities and state human resources policy. The Representative on protecting children’s rights, equality and non-discrimination started her work in the office of the Ombudsman of Ukraine last year. A draft concept document of the Government of Ukraine, which shall form the basis of the State social program of ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men for the period until 2016, was prepared, inter alia. Gender equality in the society is one of the main components of social and economic reforms under way in Ukraine.

Mr. Chairman,

Ukraine welcomes active involvement of all UN bodies in the process of improvement of ways and modalities of empowerment of women. In this regard, I would like to emphasize the importance of the Project "Equal Opportunities and Women's Rights in Ukraine Programme" being implemented with the support of the United Nations Development Programme, Delegation of the European Commission to Ukraine, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency SIDA.

We can not but mention the important role of the event "Every woman, every child" hosted by the Secretary - General on the 20th of September 2011 aimed at evaluating progress toward the MDGs dealing with maternal and child health and intensifying global action in implementing innovative projects to save the lives of 16 million women and children by 2015.

We condemn all forms of violence against women, and trafficking in women and girls in particular. My country fully supports all initiatives aimed at eliminating this shameful practice. In this respect we welcome the establishment, in accordance with the Human Rights Council resolution 15/23, of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice as well as fulfilling of its mandate starting from May 2011.

There is an urgent need to strengthen rights of women in rural areas whose priorities remain insufficiently addressed in legal frameworks, national and local development policies at all levels and who continue to face serious challenges in carrying out their multiple productive and reproductive roles within their families and communities as well as the rights of women migrant workers who face not only general problems typical of the migration processes, but also specific gender problems such as gender discrimination, gender violence, difficulties concerning the reunion of families, lower salaries in comparison to men etc.

Ukraine is committed to fighting human trafficking. In 2010 Ukraine ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. The correspondent national law was adopted in order to adjust national legislation to the norms of the Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

In the recent ten years, Ukraine has adopted a number of sectoral and intersectoral programs, in particular those aimed at implementing the Millennium Development Goals.

Ukraine considers ensuring gender equality, gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women not only as an important objective or the means to achieving the Millennium Development Goals but also an essential part of the development agenda.

Gender mainstreaming is an inherent part of Ukraine's Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in May-November 2011. That is why the international conference "Current Trends of Development of National Gender Mechanisms in European Countries" is to be held in Kyiv on the 25th -26th October 2011 within the Ukrainian Chairmanship.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, my Delegation would like to reaffirm the strong commitment of Ukraine to apply all its effort in order to ensure for women as well as their families and children healthy and worthy conditions for their steady advancement in all spheres of life.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.