

УКРАЇНА



UKRAINE

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STATEMENT
by the representative of Ukraine
at the Third Committee on the agenda item 28 "Advancement of Women"

(16 October 2012, New York)

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to begin by commending the strengthened United Nations architecture dedicated to women's rights and gender equality.

Being a member of the UN Women Executive Board, Ukraine will continue working for the implementation of policies and practices that seek to reduce gender inequality and promote women's rights in political, economic, civil, social and educational fields.

While Ukraine aligns itself with the statement by the Delegation of the European Union, I will make few brief comments in my national capacity.

Our delegation takes particular note of the Secretary-General's reports on this agenda item and the Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences.

Ukraine considers ensuring women's right to equality before the law, to health, to decent job and own property, to participation in decision-making at all levels not only as an important objective to achieve the Millennium Development Goals but also as an essential prerequisite for the progress of society as a whole.

The outcomes of the Beijing Conference as well as the Twenty-third Special session of the General Assembly have led to reinforced implementation of the gender policy in Ukraine, which became an integral part of internal programme. Gender equality is firmly anchored in Ukraine's legislation. The Law of Ukraine "On ensuring equal rights and opportunities of women and men", adopted in 2005, provided the policy framework for mainstreaming gender equality into national action plans approved every five years. This led to the establishment of the institutional mechanism on gender equality, gender-oriented system of education, science and statistics. The Representative on protecting children's rights, gender equality and non-discrimination started her work in the office of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights in 2010. Within the legal framework Ukraine has completed all the tasks that included provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite visible achievements, a lot still remains to be done particularly when it comes to the role of women in political and economic decision-making, in particular by balancing gender representation in high legislative and executive positions. To this end, the draft Law of Ukraine has been submitted for parliamentary consideration. We consider it as an important step forward towards reaching gender balance that for the second time in a row a woman took up office of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights.

We would like to thank once again the United Nations Development Programme and the European Union, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency for supporting through a number of projects Ukraine's efforts for further achieving gender-related goals. At present we cooperate closely with our international partners in the framework of the UNDP Strengthening National Gender Machinery Project which advocates for sustainable operation of National Gender Machinery and provides technical and expert support to the Ministry of Social Policy with particular attention to adoption and implementation of the State Programme for Ensuring Gender Equality in Ukraine for 2012-2016.

Mr. Chairman,

Ukraine condemns all forms of inequality and discrimination related to violence against women, its causes and consequences. My country fully supports all initiatives aimed at exercising due diligence to eliminate such shameful practices as trafficking in women and girls, violence against women and girls with disabilities etc. We stress the importance of implementing effective coordinated actions at national, regional and international levels in order to overcome these phenomena. In this regard we welcome the activities of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice, established in accordance with the Human Rights Council resolution 15/23. Extension till 2014 of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children is of great importance.

When it comes to Ukraine, I would like to accentuate that in 2010 our country ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and the appropriate Law was adopted with the view to bring national legislation in conformity with the norms of this Convention. In 2011 Ukraine signed the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. Ukraine's accession to this important international legal instrument will promote implementation of measures necessary to create an integrated approach to eliminating violence against women and domestic violence through the ratification of the Convention and application of its norms at the national level.

As it was reiterated by the Commission on the Status of Women at its 56th session, 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.

We also emphasize the necessity to protect the rights of women migrant workers who face not only general problems typical for the migration processes, but also specific

gender problems such as gender discrimination, gender-based violence, difficulties in the reunion of families, lower salaries in comparison to men etc.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Ukraine's strong commitment to the Beijing Platform for Action as well as to the outcome document of the Twenty-third Special session of the General Assembly as indispensable instruments for promoting gender equality and advancement of women.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

