



KAZAKHSTAN

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STATEMENT
by Madina Jarbussynova,
Ambassador-at-Large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Kazakhstan
at the 54th session of the Commission on the Status of Women

(New York, 3 March 2010)

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,**

The process of globalization and the current crises are forcing a revision of the decisions taken in Beijing in 1995. Despite the progress that has been made in the field of gender there remains a concern regarding the full and timely implementation of commitments under the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals. In this regard, our delegation supports the CSW intention to prioritize the review of national best practices and lessons learned to bridge the gap between the normative and operational activities in each country.

Kazakhstan considers the achievement of gender equality as one of the important conditions for sustainable economic and social development, and as a consequence, promotion of peace and accord, security and stability in the world.

Mr. Chairman,

In order to implement international agreements at the national level and achieve the strategic objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action, a coordinating body under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan – the National Commission for women affairs and family-demographic policy – was set up. In accordance with the Millennium Development Goals and recommendations of the UN statutory and treaty bodies a Gender Equality Strategy for 2006-2016 was elaborated, which identifies gender indicators.

One of the priorities of the national human resources policy is to achieve an adequate representation in executive positions and equal participation of women in decision making. At present, women constitute 14% of the members of the Parliament. While in the civil service women account for 58%, the representation of women constitute only 10.3% in the decision-making. To promote better indicators in this field the Law "On the state guarantees of equal rights and equal opportunities for men and women" was adopted in December, 2009. It stipulates equal access of men and women to civil service, accountability of public bodies and employers to ensure equal rights and equal opportunities.

Kazakhstan considers poverty reduction, improvement of social and financial determinants and gender-based financing a primary impetus for the advancement of women. In past ten years the population's basic health indicators have been significantly improved. Average life expectancy has increased from 65 to 68 years, maternal mortality has halved and fertility has increased one-half times. The state programme "Kazakhstan 2020" approved last January is aimed to improve the quality and standard of living of all Kazakhstani citizens and strengthen social stability and security. The government measures to construct and equip health facilities, train medical personnel and promote healthy lifestyle should

further halve maternal and infant mortality and reduce by 30% the overall mortality by 2020.

Undoubtedly, the non-discriminatory education is a key factor for the advancement of women and girls. Kazakhstan has already reached the Millennium Development Goal of equal access for boys and girls to primary education. The gender component is incorporated into the overall State standard of secondary education, and school textbooks underwent the gender analysis.

Despite the present financial and economic crisis, the Government has undertaken the obligations not just to keep the pre-crisis level of social welfare in full, but increase it. Attaching priority to social protection of mother and child care the Government introduced in 2006 a new system of social benefits for mother and child, which have been further increased by 25% this year. All these measures are targeted at women doing unpaid domestic work.

Much attention is paid to gender equality in the economy, further development of entrepreneurship among women and increase of their competitiveness in the labor market. A network of centers to train women in administration and business management in order to improve their professional competence is under its way. The legislators simplified a credit obtaining procedure. As a result women account 52% of small and medium business owners and 66% of entrepreneurs.

Recognizing gender budgeting as one of the main aspects to achieve gender equality Kazakhstan has successfully incorporated a system of gender indicators into the budgetary policy and governmental programs and strategies and has introduced gender expertise of the legislation.

The 2009 UN report highlighted the accomplishments of Kazakhstan in social area by placing it among countries with a high level of human development.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite significant achievements in the advancement of women we must recognize that violence against women is eradicated in no one country in the world. To counteract such a grave violation of human rights Kazakhstan adopted the Law "On Prevention of Domestic Violence" in the end of 2009. This law doesn't only allow elimination of the impunity of violators, but also provides comprehensive measures to prevent all forms of violence against women. In accordance with the law, victims are also guaranteed special social services.

To protect women from violence there are specialized units in the internal affairs structures, whose mandate in addition to the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms from illegal acts includes conduct of analytical studies of gender-based violence, as well as legal consultations.

Mr. Chairman,

Kazakhstan expresses its full support for the UN new gender architecture in accordance with the Secretary-General's report A/64/588, and in perspective, the appointment of the UN Deputy Secretary-General to manage the composite entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women. Bearing in mind that the new gender entity should work closely with national governments and country partners, our delegation looks forward to effective and responsible execution of its future mandate. Kazakhstan also considers that the establishment of regional and country offices of the composite entity should be carried out in line with the principle of equitable geographical distribution. In this regard, we would like to recommend to efficiently exploit the valuable experience of the existing UNIFEM CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) office in Almaty.

Mr. Chairman,

Kazakhstan intends to continue further promotion of gender equality and the advancement of women in both foreign and domestic policies. To prove this, Kazakhstan as the OSCE Chairman has set up gender issues as one of its human dimension priorities.

Thank you for your attention.