

**54<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women  
1 -12 March 2010**

**H. E. Mr. Garen Nazarian  
Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women**

**Closing remarks  
12 March 2010**

**Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen**

We have come to the end of the 54<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women. I would like to thank all the participants for their most valuable contributions to this session, and especially all the delegates who came from Capital and the members of non-governmental organizations. I express my deep appreciation to the members of the Bureau for their support and guidance in the preparation of the session, and for their tireless work during the session.

This session was especially significant in that we had the opportunity to assess progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, identify the strategies that worked and determine what future actions are needed. We were able to celebrate the 15-year anniversary of the adoption of the landmark Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in a commemorative meeting of the General Assembly. The high-level roundtable and the interactive expert panels organized for this session provided extensive opportunities to engage in substantive discussions on key issues. I was very pleased to note that all of these events attracted a lot of interest and large numbers of participants. The summaries of some of these events will be transmitted to the ECOSOC as a contribution to the Annual Ministerial Review, and to the MDG event of the General Assembly in September.

The very large number of parallel events, both here at United Nations Headquarters and in other locations confirms that the Commission on the Status of Women is **the** market place for ideas, innovations and networking among all stakeholders who are committed to the promotion of the rights of women. This is clearly indicative of the vital and vibrant role which this Commission continues to play for gender equality and the empowerment of women. I commend and salute all of you for your commitment and leadership.

**Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen**

The Commission's Declaration on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women sends a strong political signal of our unwavering commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Platform for Action. I commend those delegations that have brought new initiatives to the Commission on important issues such as maternal mortality, women's economic empowerment, and the composite gender equality entity, and encourage all

relevant stakeholders to work on follow up. I also note with appreciation the outcomes on other critical issues.

The Commission's session has ended but the work is not over. There is still much to be done at international, regional and national levels to ensure the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women. As we heard throughout this session, we must move from commitment to implementation – the time for action is now.

I thank you.