



**PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY  
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OF THE PRIME MINISTRY OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**

**AT  
THE 53<sup>RD</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

**AGENDA ITEM 3:  
FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN AND  
TO THE TWENTY-THIRD SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
ENTITLED “WOMEN 2000: GENDER EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE  
FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY”**

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Mr./Madame Chairperson  
Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset I wish to congratulate you upon your election as Chairperson of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women and other members of the Bureau. I assure you my delegation's full support and cooperation during the proceedings of this important session.

Turkey aligned herself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Czech Republic on behalf of the European Union.

My delegation welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on "Equal Sharing of Responsibilities between women and men, including care giving in the context of HIV/AIDS" and underlines that intensified efforts are necessary to meet the challenges mentioned in the Report, and on matters before us.

Despite international instruments on the advancement of women and gender equality that have been adopted since 1970's, and despite initiatives by Governments and long years of advocacy by women NGOs, there is still a long way to go for ensuring gender equality in all walks of life, namely in social, economic and political spheres.

Gender division of labour which relegates the burden of household and family-care responsibilities on women, including care of children, elderly and the sick, hampers women's access to education and employment opportunities and their equal participation in social life.

Women, who can find the opportunity to work, are on the other hand confronted with shouldering the double burden of unpaid domestic tasks and family-care. Their demands and needs are neglected since they have no say in family power structures. Care, in particular conditions, such as HIV/AIDS which requires permanent care giving, aggravates the psychological pressure and workload on women.

Since such responsibilities are mostly taken by women in the household as unpaid labour, their enormous contribution to economy goes unnoticed in economic indicators.

Gender division of labour also affects girls; their school success is lower compared to boys as they take the responsibility of housework, help with child or elderly care added to their school responsibilities; thus, rate of school drop-outs is higher among girls.

In this view, needless to say, concerted efforts by all pertinent actors are necessary to bring substantial solutions to the challenges stated above.

Mr./Madame Chairperson,  
Distinguished Delegates,

Legal arrangements that regulate equality between women and men in social, economic and political life are in place in Turkey.

Equality between women and men before the law is one of the basic principles of Turkish Constitution. In Article 10, it is stated that “women and men have equal rights” and that “the State is responsible for overseeing that this equality goes into practice”.

In addition, with the amendment to Article 90 of Turkish Constitution in 2004, supremacy was given to international conventions concerning basic rights and freedoms over all national laws. This amendment placed CEDAW above all other legal arrangements in case of a conflict.

Furthermore, the two fundamental laws of Turkish legal system, namely the Civil Code and the Penal Code were completely amended and significant achievements were realized in the articles concerning women.

I would like to note with pleasure that one more major step has taken in institutionalizing gender equality in Turkey very recently. A Parliamentary Commission on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men was established last month.

Mr./Madame Chairperson  
Distinguished Delegates,

Despite the progress achieved in many countries, the fact that we are meeting here with this specific agenda, reveals that we still need policy priorities as well as legal arrangements in order to ensure equal sharing of responsibilities.

As The Secretary General states, care work is a critical social function, therefore needs multi-faceted, multi-sectoral and multi-lateral approach.

While concluding, I wish our deliberations during 53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the CSW will lead to most substantial results and policy responses in guiding Member States on equal sharing of responsibilities and care work.

Thank you.