

**Statement
of the representative of Ukraine to the Third Committee
on agenda item 28 "Advancement of women"**

(October 12, 2010, New York)

Mr.Chairman,

While aligning fully with the statement of the Presidency of the European Union, I would like to briefly touch upon a number of issues which are of particular interest for my country.

I would like to reiterate once again Ukraine's commitment to the full and effective implementation of the goals set out in the global gender agenda. We consider ensuring gender equality, gender mainstreaming and the advancement of women not only as important objectives, but also as an essential part of the pursuit of democracy and development.

We welcome active involvement of all UN bodies in the process of improvement of ways and modalities of empowerment of women and express our appreciation to the UN Secretary-General for his leadership in this field.

Mr.Chairman,

Ukraine pays particular attention to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and implementation of the outcome documents of both the Beijing Conference and the 23rd Special Session of the UN General Assembly. We have made substantial progress in this regard.

Since the Beijing Conference the gender policy became an integral part of the state policy of Ukraine. 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. In 2010 in the office of the Ombudsman of Ukraine the Representative on protecting children's rights, equality and non-discrimination started her work. The society's perception of the role of men and women has changed, 40% of young families have equal distribution of gender roles. The population started to better identify the situations of discrimination on the basis of gender that shows the population's raising awareness of its rights.

These and other important trends are properly reflected in the combined sixth and seventh periodic report of Ukraine on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which was successfully presented in January 2010 in Geneva. There is work in progress on drafting the Law of Ukraine on State social program of ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men till 2016 taking into account the recommendations and concerns contained in the concluding observations of the Committee on the Eliminating of Discrimination against Women.

Ukraine took notice of the recommendations of the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, report of the Executive Board of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its seventh session as well as the note by the Secretariat transmitting the outcomes of the 2009 – 2010 sessions of the Committee of the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

I would like to emphasize that according to national legislation of Ukraine both men and women in our country have full socio-economic, civil and political rights and

freedoms as well as equal opportunities for their realization. The principle of gender equality is determined by the Constitution of Ukraine.

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 has submitted to the UN Secretariat the national report "Millennium Development Goals. Ukraine – 2010". It comprises targets and indicators related to gender equality which were adapted to the Ukrainian context taking into consideration the particularities of the country's development.

Among gender indicators are those reflecting the level of representation of women and men in high level executive authorities (among civil servants of the 1–2 categories) and in representative bodies of different levels – Parliament and local self-governing bodies, as well as the gender salaries ratio in the economy.

We should admit that the position of Ukraine in the field of gender equality in the rating of the World Economic Forum is weakening. Ukraine occupies the 113th place as regards the participation of women in legislative bodies. The level of participation of women in political decision-making needs improvement.

In order to remedy the situation and taking into consideration the experiences of developed countries, indicators of the gender ratio among members of Parliaments and high-level executives/civil servants are set at no less than 30 : 70 for either genders and at no less than 50 : 50 for either genders in local public administration bodies.

Though Ukraine has made a substantial progress on a number of issues defined in the national report, there are still challenges to face. Among them – incompleteness of the gender transformation; a need for further development of gender statistics; an insufficient level of awareness of the legal aspects of ensuring the equal rights and opportunities for women and men; established gender stereotypes in society, etc.

We will continue our persistent efforts in order to:

- achieve gender parity in high legislative and executive offices;
- ensure gender equality in access to decent labour and ensuring opportunities for balanced employment in the labour market and the household;
- decrease the gender gap in income levels of women and men;
- transform established stereotypes on the traditional distribution of gender roles in society.

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, to meet the above objectives.

It should also be noted that for the Ukrainian Government the achievement of gender equality in the society is one of the main components of social and economic reforms under way. These reforms are aimed at facilitating the working conditions, including household work, reducing poverty, providing for adequate salaries, increasing the purchasing capacity of the population.

Mr. Chairman,

President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich in his recent Statement at the General Assembly emphasized our belief that the Millennium Development Goals are realistic and attainable. So are gender equality goals.

We will continue our work on implementing policies, measures and practices seeking to reduce gender inequality in all its manifestations in any sphere of life.

We thank the international community, organizations and governments that support us in this endeavour.

Thank you.