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New York, 28 February – 11 March 2005

PANEL III

Presentation of the Review and Appraisal Processes at Regional Level:
Achievements, Gaps and Challenges

Written statement submitted by*

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* The paper has been reproduced as submitted.

The High-Level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and its Regional and Global Outcomes took place in Bangkok from 7-10 September 2004. At the meeting, we heard from the participating governments about a wide range of initiatives taken at the country level to promote gender equality and women's

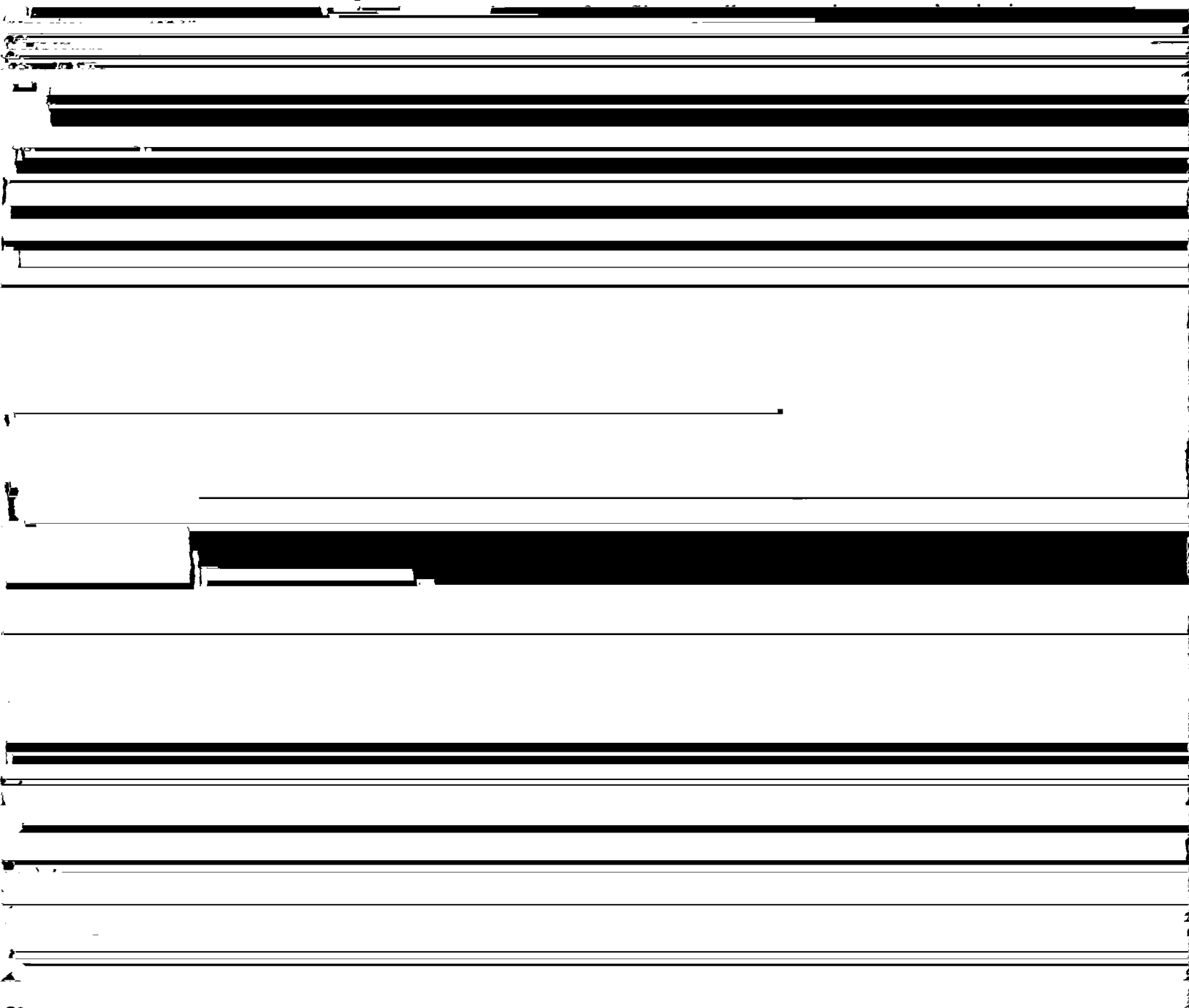
However, in spite of the progress made, many challenges remain.

In some countries, especially in South Asia and the LDCs, the educational and health (including reproductive and sexual health) needs of girls and women remain unmet . Furthermore, in some countries, educational attainments have not led to greater employability in any countries.

In spite of higher labour force participation, women continue to be in low-paid, low-skilled jobs , and there is growing informalization and casualization , characterized by irregularity and a lack of income security.

In politics, the number of seats held by women in national parliaments remain low in many countries.

Gender-based violence remains persistent and pervasive. With regard to conflict situations, in the Asia and the Pacific region, at least 10 countries are in situations of conflict and there is a need to



environmental and natural resource and multihazard disaster management which would involve

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