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## STATEMENT BY

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**Commission on the Status of Women**

**Forty-fifth Session**

HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION AND THE OUTCOME DOCUMENTS OF THE TWENTYTHIRD SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S SHARING OF EXPERIENCES AND GOOD PRACTICES IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLATFORM FOR ACTION, WITH A VIEW TO OVERCOMING REMAINING OBSTACLES AND NEW CHALLENGES.

United Nations, New York

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HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION AND THE OUTCOME DOCUMENTS OF THE TWENTYTHIRD SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: SHARING OF EXPERIENCES AND GOOD PRACTICES ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLATFORM FOR ACTION; WAYS AND MEANS TO OVERCOMING REMAINING OBSTACLES AND CHALLENGES

Finland associates itself fully with the statement made earlier on behalf of the European Union by the distinguished representative of Spain. It is important to pay respect to the victims of the earthquakes in Chile and Haiti. My thoughts are especially with those who have lost their loved ones.

Mr Chair/Madam Chairperson.

The year 2010 is a very important year internationally, we are celebrating the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Millennium Development Goals. Last year we commemorated the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Optional Protocol. Finland is committed to continue the work to reach the goals set in these mutually reinforcing international commitments.

In a globalized world, where significant developments in various global crises take place more and more quickly than ever, women's contributory role cannot remain locked away more

Finland continues to promote women's and men's equal participation in political and social decision-making and leadership at all levels, both nationally and internationally.

The Government's Report on the Human Rights Policy of Finland details the priorities of Finland's international human rights policy, including the rights of women, the rights of persons with disabilities, gender and sexual minorities and indigenous peoples. Strengthening women's and girls' rights is one of the cross-cutting issues in Finland's Development Policy.

The strengthening of the UN work on gender equality and women empowerment continues to be a high priority of Finland. I would like to express Finland's strong support for the establishment of a new gender entity that would strengthen and improve the work in the field related to gender. I believe that the establishment of the gender entity would promote the achievement of not only MDG3 but the MDGs as a whole. I look forward to signing the new Comprehensive Gender Strategy in the near future, before the high-level meeting on the Millennium Development Goals in September 2010.

In this context, I would also like to highlight the need to ensure the full realisation of sexual and reproductive health and rights for the achievement of this goal. Finland is committed to the 2010 MDG Summit success. We need to send a strong political signal on the importance of achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

When promoting the rights of women, Finland emphasises the participation of women in the power structures of societies. One of our strong areas of expertise is in this respect, especially in decision-making processes on matters affecting climate change. Finland has taken an active role in ensuring that climate change decision making is inclusive of both women and men. Climate change does not affect women and men in the same way. It has a gender-differentiated impact. Finland stresses that it is only if the knowledge and views of both women and men are included and if both women and men are committed to the goals. We appreciate the enormous support we have received in enhancing this important issue and look forward to building partnerships in this area. We remain confident that gender aspects and recognition of women's role will indeed appear in the final text of the climate agreement hopefully adopted in Mexico at the end of this year.

Furthermore, Finland is committed to the aims of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and has integrated them in both internal and external policies. Finland will continue to give financial and political support to further these aims. Through the UN National Action Plan (NAP), from 2008, Finland will further deepen its long tradition and efforts to fully implement the goals of Resolution 1325.

Mr Chair/Madam Chairperson,

The Government Report to the Parliament on the Human Rights Policy, which is a presentation of the national and international human rights policy, is an action plan at national level. It provides a basis for a credible international human rights policy. This is the case also concerning the rights for women. Gender equality is enshrined in the Constitution and the Act on Equality between Women and Men. Guided by this principle, Finland has worked firmly to implement and fulfil all the commitments made in the Beijing Platform for Action.

Finland is among the leading countries in the world when it comes to women's involvement in political decision-making. Equally many representatives of both genders are engaged in decision-making, however, does not solve all the inequalities. We have a gender equality committee in the Ministries. The aim is to assess the impact of decisions on women and men at the stage when decisions are being prepared.

Some of the most important decisions regarding gender equality concern working life. To make the reconciliation of work and family life possible, Finland has a high-level, affordable day care provision for families. All children under the age of 12 are entitled to day care.

The Finnish Government takes violence against women seriously and has set to draft a national sectoral programme to reduce it. The programme will aim at executing concrete measures and disseminating good practices among the professionals and other actors. It will also support the victims of violence in their daily work.

Beijing Platform For Action's call for equal rights and opportunities between men and women remains as relevant today as it was 15 years ago. Finland on its part continues to work for the government for women's human rights.

Thank you, Mr Chair/Madam Chairperson.

The Government is pleased to present on the Human Rights Policy of Finland Incorporated in the national and international human rights policy into one document. A policy which will provide a base for a credible international human rights policy. This is the case, the content of the policy of women. Gender equality is one of the core values of the Finnish society, as evidenced in the Constitution and more specifically in the Act on Equality between Women and Men. The Government's gender equality policy is based on the commitment and fully active the commitment to work in the following areas for action:

First, to ensure the leading position in the world when it comes to women's involvement in decision-making. To this end, many measures will be taken among the decision-makers, however, not only in the state but also in the private sector. The goal is to ensure the progress of decision-making on women and men at the stage of the national work. The goal is to ensure the progress of decision-making on women and men at the stage of the national work. The goal is to ensure the progress of decision-making on women and men at the stage of the national work. The goal is to ensure the progress of decision-making on women and men at the stage of the national work.

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