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H.E. Ambassador Herman Schep

Permanent Representative of the Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
to the United Nations

Fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women
High-level plenary

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Mr/Madam Chair,

Let me first align myself with the statement of the Kingdom of the Netherlands on behalf of the European Union.

Mr/Madam Chair,

It has been fifteen years since the adoption of the Beijing declaration and the Platform for Action. Much has been accomplished. Many challenges remain, especially MDG3 and 5, which are lagging behind most. We have to look at what has worked, what not and what still needs to be done to realize the goals and commitments we made. We cannot be satisfied with our results. We should continue the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action vigorously.

In the Netherlands there is a growing interest in gender equality. Labour participation of women has increased. The Dutch government is actively working towards a society in which women work more hours and men spend more time with their children.

We are in a time of financial and economic uncertainty. We should use this opportunity to encourage and empower women to increase their labour participation, to secure the household income. International finance institutions and governments should include gender-sensitive strategies in their stimulus packages to reduce the effects of the economic crisis on women and girls.

Mr/Madam Chair,

A very important topic is violence against women and the right of women to sexual and reproductive health and rights. Comprehensive health policies, taking into account the interlink between HIV/AIDS, violence against women and sexual and reproductive health and rights...

Violence against all women, including vulnerable groups like lesbian and bisexual women, and transgender people, is a violation of their human rights. Domestic violence against women seems to be the most difficult area to combat. The Beijing Platform for Action. The Netherlands therefore pays a lot of attention to giving priority against women in general, as well as in improving the position of women and girls in armed conflict. For example by implementing UNSC resolution 1325, through a National Action Plan.

We firmly believe that the full involvement of women as agents of change is essential in all these efforts. The Dutch government operates in concerted action with civil society organizations, women's networks and other partners. Gender equality should be promoted starting at a young age. More organizations have an official training and accreditation and should be involved in decision-making processes.

Mr/Madam Chair,

I conclude with a few words on the IJN gender parity. We are very pleased with the adoption of the resolution by the General Assembly to create gender parity within the UN system. The Netherlands has appreciated the contributions in the gender equality field and should become operational as soon as possible. In anticipation thereof we already have...

...seems. Over the entity is
approved and the Netherlands will double its present core funding for the IJG's work on
women in the newly established organization.

Thank you Mr/Madam Chair.

It has been fifteen years since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action. Much has been accomplished. Many challenges remain, especially for the least developed countries. We have to look at what has been achieved and what still needs to be done to realize the goals and commitments we made. We cannot be satisfied with the progress. We should ensure the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

In the past decade there is a growing interest in gender equality. Labour participation of women has increased. The United Nations is actively working towards a society in which women have equal status and equal opportunities.

World is a time of national and economic uncertainty. We should use this as an opportunity to encourage and empower women to increase their labour participation, to secure the world's future. International financial institutions and governments should include gender sensitive strategies in the financial policy to reduce the effects of the economic crisis on women and girls.

Mr/Madam Chair,

A very important topic is violence against women and the rights of women to sexual and reproductive health and rights. Governments should step up efforts in support of women's sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Children, young women, school-age girls, the groups like lesbian and bisexual women and transgender people are a violation of basic human rights. People all good should ensure women's rights to be the most vulnerable area of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action. The United Nations should ensure the rights of women and girls in armed conflict, in general as well as in improving the position of women and girls in armed conflict.

We finally believe that the full involvement of women as agents of change is essential in all these efforts. The United Nations should ensure in all countries that women's organizations, women's networks and other partners. Gender equality should be promoted. The United Nations should ensure that a special role is given to women's equality. Women should be involved in decision-making processes.

Mr/Madam Chair,

I conclude with a few words on the IJG gender entity. We are very pleased with the response to the resolution by the General Assembly. The Netherlands has appreciated the contribution of the gender entity, which now should become operational as soon as possible. In anticipation thereof, we hope that the Secretary