

54th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women
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Gender Issues and Advancement of Women
Closing Remarks

Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We started this 54th session of the Commission on the Status of Women two weeks ago, with high expectations for an invigorating meeting to exchange good practices and lessons learned. We looked forward to a meeting where stakeholders would share experiences in the implementation of the Platform for Action; one where persistent and new gaps and challenges in implementation would be considered; and where ways and means for overcoming these obstacles on the path to gender equality and women's empowerment would be identified.

On all these scores we have not been disappointed. Member States and representatives of civil society and the UN system held lively discussions on a broad range of subjects within the framework of the Platform for Action. The regional perspectives of these issues were also highlighted.

You considered how accelerated implementation of the Platform for Action contributes to the achievement of the MDGs, and provided concrete examples and constructive suggestions for improving this link. You considered women's economic empowerment in the context of current global economic and social realities, and pinpointed recommendations for preventing and addressing their adverse impact on women. You made recommendations for reorienting economic policies towards more inclusive and participatory approaches for the benefit of all -- women and men, girls and boys.

You considered the many ramifications of violence against women and what needs to be done to prevent, and adequately respond to it. You welcomed the Secretary-General's leadership through his campaign *Unite to end violence against women*.

You emphasized the role of strong national mechanisms for gender equality and underscored the importance of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in the practical realization of the principle of the equality of women and men.

There were also high expectations for the Commission to turn the year 2010 into a year of accountability for gender equality and women's empowerment. The Commission sent a strong political message of recommitment to the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Platform for Action; and is shaping gender perspectives for the forthcoming high-level events of ECOSOC and the GA.

