



to the United Nations

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**Statement by Ms. Elsa Haile**

**Director of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

**On Agenda item 50: A.1**

**At the Third Committee of the Sixty-Third Session of the General Assembly**



Mr. Chairman

Advancement of women is viewed as key component of my country's major policy issues. Women's equality with men is constitutionally guaranteed without any limitation to their full participation in the political, social and economic spheres of the country.

Mr. Chairman,

Noting, that sustainable development and elimination of poverty cannot be attained without full emancipation of women, the National Education Gender Policy and Strategy is being implemented to ensure the equal rights and opportunities to both sexes, and to narrow disparities at the primary and secondary levels. This Policy is aligned with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and strives to achieve universal primary education by 2015. This

although, statistical data indicate that girl child's participation in the formal schooling system still trails that of boys, the girls' enrolment has increased by more than three fold between 1991/92 to 2005/06. The high participation of women in literacy programmes is also very encouraging.

Mr. Chairman,

The female genital mutilation (FGM) is a practice that affects a significant number of women in the country. The government has adopted a policy of zero tolerance towards this practice.