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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Sixty-third session
Introductory Statement
by
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Mr. Chairperson

Distinguished delegates,
Colleagues and friends,

It is an honour and privilege to address the Third Committee as it discusses the advancement of women. May I warmly congratulate you, Mr. Chairperson, on your election and the other Bureau members. I would also like to thank Ambassador Raymond Wolfe of Jamaica, and members of the outgoing bureau, for their able stewardship which guided the deliberations of this Committee to a fruitful conclusion during the 62nd session of the General Assembly.

Our discussion today is taking place in the psychological shadow of multiple crises. The confluence of major threats such as outbreaks of conflict and violence, projected global economic slowdown, the global financial, food and energy crises, likely increase in unemployment, natural disasters and emergencies, global warming and continued lack of progress in trade talks would have serious adverse impact on the progress being made towards achieving the goals of the 2005 Millennium World Summit

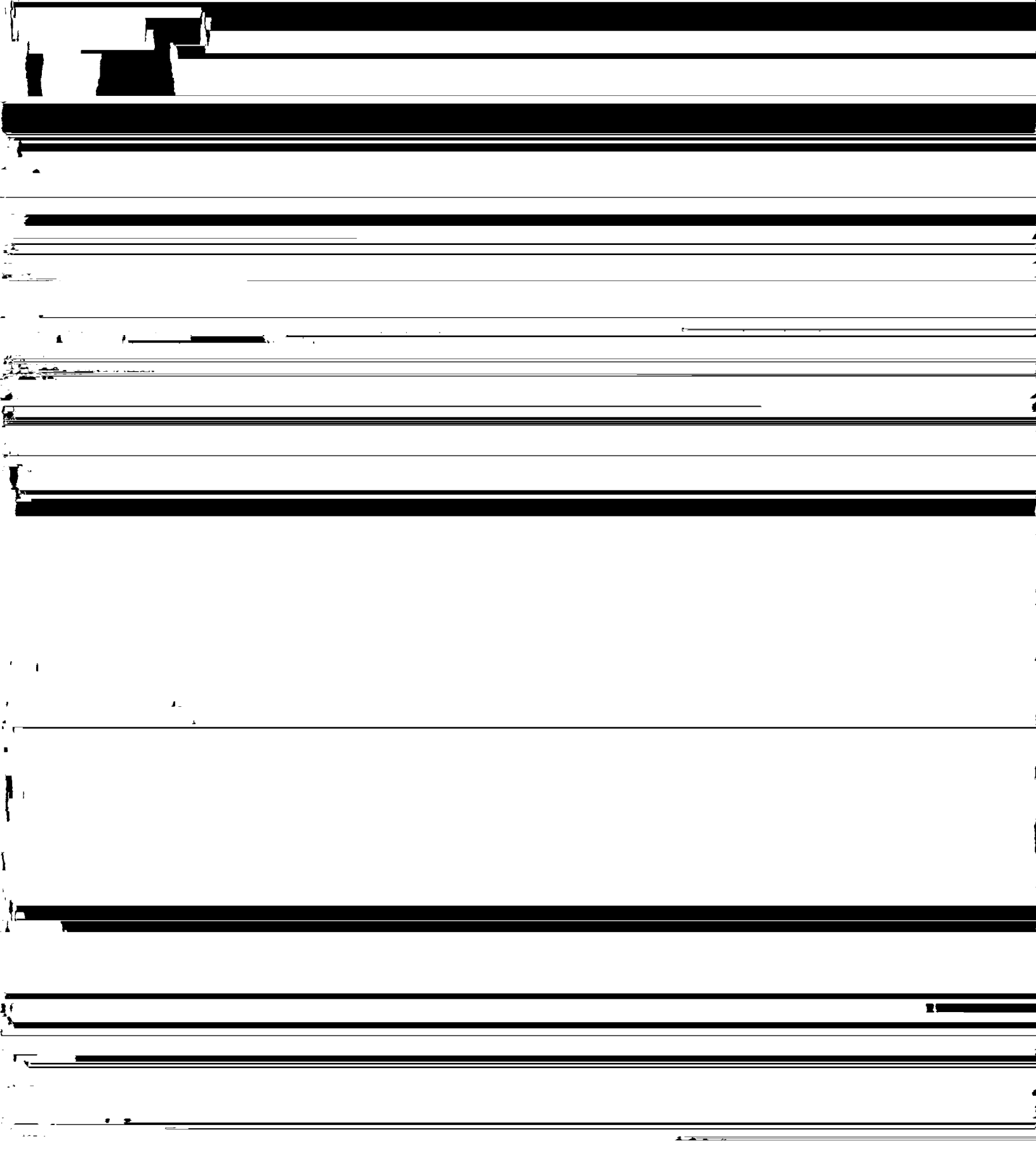
make this world safer and more prosperous.

What has helped this progress?

First, as Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon pointed out in his introductory statement at this session of the Assembly “the foundation of all our work is accountability.” It is clear that without mutual accountability international cooperation would be impossible. To harness global aid for effective development, in the same way as developing countries need to meet their commitments to implement sound domestic policies for reaching the goals, as outlined at the Millennium Summit and later as part of the Monterrey consensus, so too, donors urgently need to keep their commitments to support developing countries.

efforts. The same applies to all other areas of peace, development and human rights.

development, humanitarian assistance and the environment. The 2008 substantive session of ECOSOC emphasized the importance of gender equality to implementation of

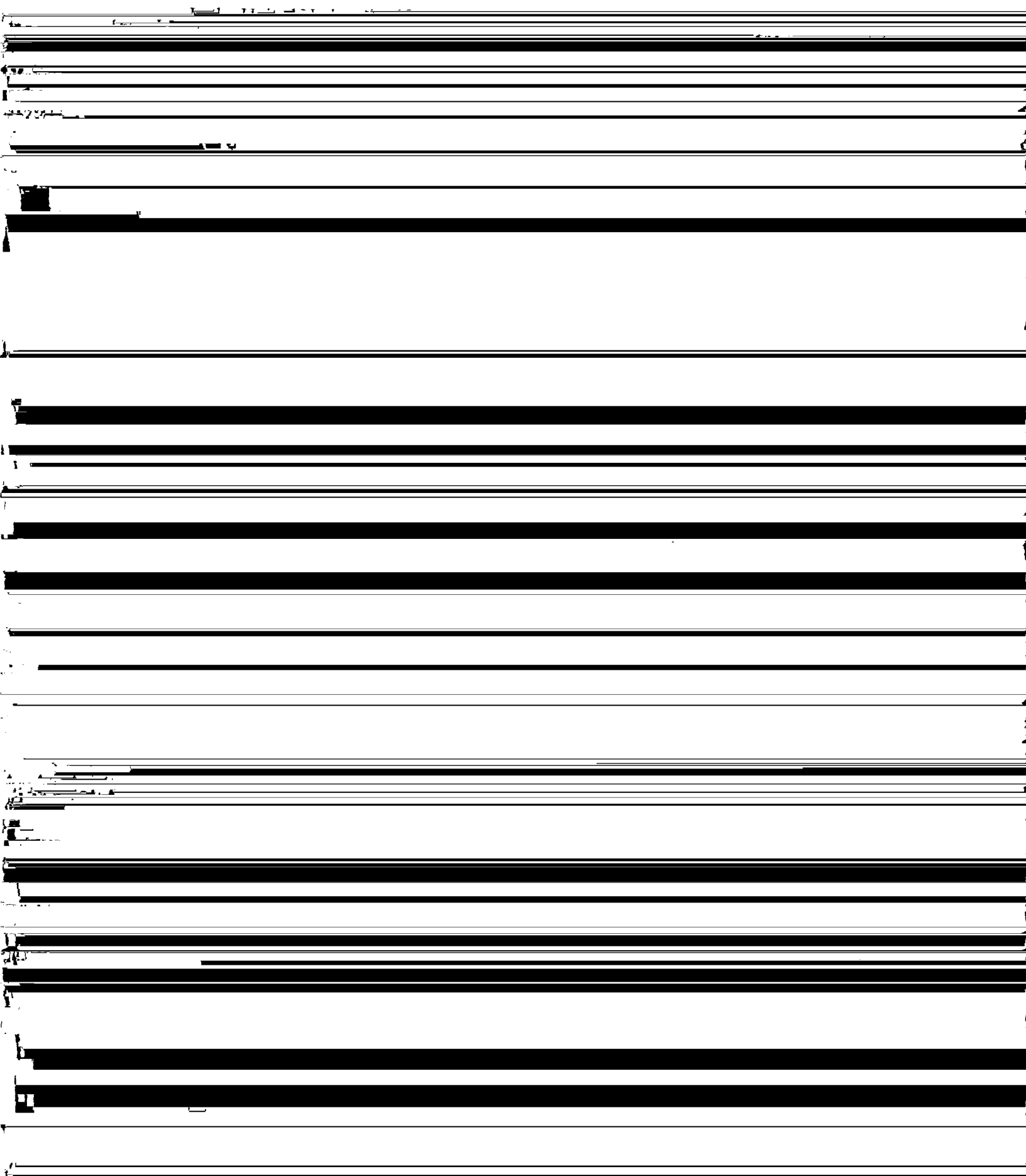


The fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women devoted its priority theme to financing for gender equality and women's empowerment. The agreed conclusions of the Commission on the theme (document E/CN.6/2008/L.8) provide

women's empowerment.

The work of this Committee has greatly contributed to the global momentum leading up to the launch of the Secretary-General's Campaign, including the General

Assembly Resolutions on intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence.



Women's Empowerment for operational activities. The Standards and the Performance Indicators would ensure a coherent, results based and effective approach to gender mainstreaming both at Headquarters and in the field.

Deflecting the challenge of fundamental change in the Network

system-wide programmes for capacity building of all staff, gender experts and senior management.

An important feature of the Network has been the close collaboration with the OECD/DAC Network on Gender Equality. Joint workshops with the Working Party have provided critical opportunities for discussions at policy and operational level on a range of cutting edge topics. At the latest workshop held in Paris in January 2008, both Networks discussed the partnerships of multilateral and bilateral agencies in scaling up support to partner country efforts to achieve gender equality.

System-wide coherence

Finally, on the system-wide coherence review, allow me to first congratulate the Co-Chairs on System-wide Coherence, Ambassador Kavanagh of Ireland and Ambassador Mahiga of the United Republic of Tanzania for their commitment and skillful conduct of the intergovernmental consultations on system-wide coherence.

On 16 May, 16 June and 8 September 2008 informal consultations of the General

totality of views expressed by Member States in the informal plenary consultations, focusing in particular on the “composite entity” option.

Mr. Chairperson,

I look to this session of the Assembly to discuss the

