

12 October 2009

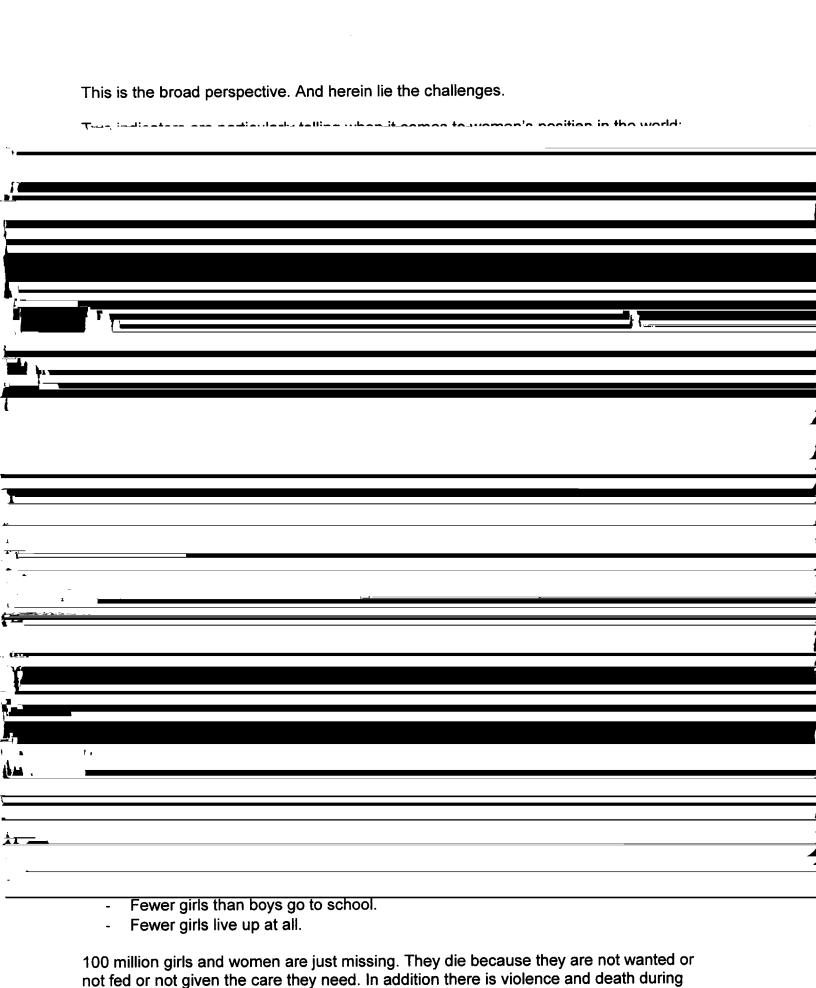
Third Committee. Agenda Item 62 Advancement of Women

Fredrik Arthur Ambassador

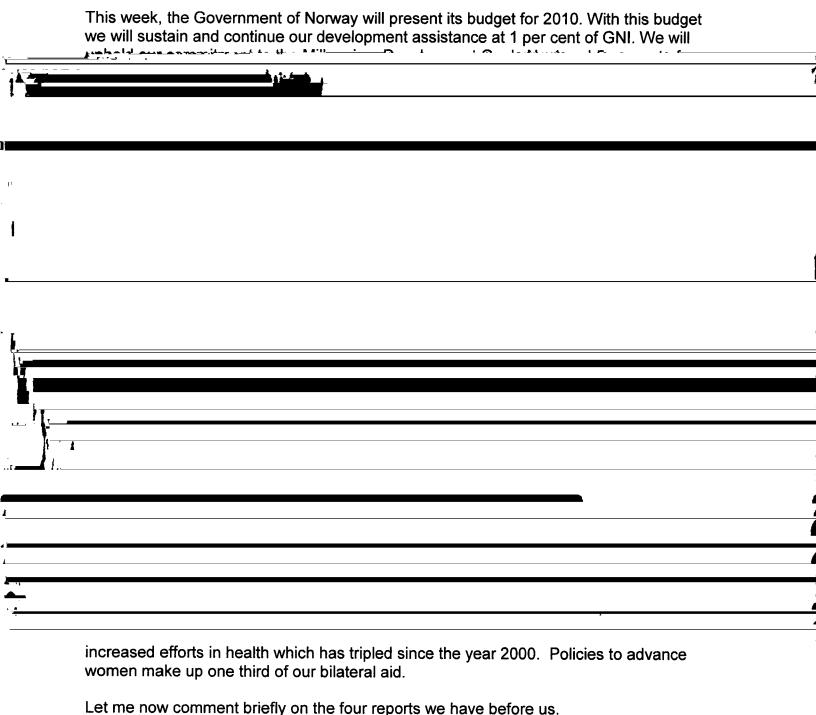
Mr. Chairman,

Women and girls are still regarded as second rate citizens in too many parts of the world. This despite decades of conferences, conventions and UN resolutions addressing the issue. Conservative and archaic attitudes, often with cultural and religious connotations, leave women and girls at the margins of society. This is the root cause of the problem we are here to discuss.

These deeply rooted impediments deprive women and girls of their human rights - to



pregnancy and childhirth



Perpetrators of violence against women and girls must be held accountable and brought before courts of justice. Nobody should be able to hide behind a shelter of impunity. We must strengthen our endeavours to change attitudes, especially amongst men, and fight stereotypical perceptions that perpetuate inequalities between men and women. Boys

Both with regards to violence against women in general and women migrant workers in particular, we must pursue a number of strategies at the same time. The victims must be given adequate protection, medical care, legal advice and relevant support services.

Mainstreaming means that boys must be sensitized to gender equality issues at an early stage of life to prevent comenting attitudes and heliaviour that discriminate against girls

and women.

Mr. Chairman,

The past few years have seen encouraging progress in many fields of gender equality, most recently in the international community's resolve to address violence against women, including sexual violence in armed conflict. We also commend the Secretary General's Clobal UNite campaign, which obviously has inspired women and men in all corners of the world and led to significant increase in the demand for support.

As we heard this morning, the UN_Trust Fund to End Volence against Women_which

UNIFEM manages on behalf of the UN system, received an incredible 900 million USD in requests this year. But, as we also heard this morning, the Trust Fund's available resources is a mere 12 million USD. This is a stark reminder and reality-check: Few of us are willing to follow up our words with sufficient funds.

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