



KAZAKHSTAN

Please, check against delivery

STATEMENT
by
the Delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations
to the Third Committee of the Sixty-sixth Session of the
United Nations General Assembly
on the agenda item 18 *Advancement of women*

10 October 2011, New York

Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, let me thank the Secretary-General and Special Representative for Violence against Women for their concise and comprehensive reports which highlight a clear overview of the current situation of gender mainstreaming perspective and advancement of women. Let me also thank the Women's Security Executive Director and the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women for their presentations which delineate the measures taken to support inter and intra-governmental processes for providing gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Kazakhstan would like to emphasize the critical role of the United Nations in ensuring that women have access to decision-making, mainstreaming of gender sensitive approaches in ongoing programmes and policies, and protection from violence against women and thus realize their full enjoyment of basic human rights, cultural, civil and political rights. In this regard, let me note with appreciation the incorporation of gender-related issues in the preparatory process and the outcomes of the high-level intergovernmental events: the Fourth Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the Conference of Sustainable Development and review and appraisal of the Madrid International Decade of Action for Ageing. My delegation urges that thematic discussions be held considering needs of specific groups of women.

Referring to the forthcoming events under the auspices of the United Nations, my delegation would like to underscore the role of UN Women with its mandate to lead and coordinate the United Nations system work on gender equality, to making significant inputs. My delegation urges the active involvement of UN Women and due reflection to be given in its recommendations to actively enrich the gender component and outcomes of all these high-level conferences. Kazakhstan deems necessary to further develop gender analysis and the provision of gender and age-aggregated data in the activities of the United Nations events. Taking into account the wide range of issues covered by the various programmes and agencies, this information is important for supporting gender equality policymaking.

Mr. President,

Nevertheless, the actual situation demonstrates that progress towards gender equality is still fragile and uneven. The programmes of the United Nations and Member States demonstrate a glaring gap between non-binding declarations and operational activities on the ground. In this regard, let us also emphasize the importance of measures

framework of commitments to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as adopted at the twenty-third special session.

Kazakhstan is strongly committed to the further advancement and empowerment of women and gender equality, particularly through implementing the National Law on State Guarantees of Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Women and Men and the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence. Both these laws aim at incorporating international standards into national legislation and ensuring women's wellbeing and men's health through introducing strict measures for violators of domestic violence.

Recognizing that the key factor for the economic empowerment of women is their employment, Kazakhstan has managed to significantly decrease the unemployment rate among women to 3.4 per cent, and for rural women, this indicator has dropped to 3.7 per cent. Furthermore, the wages for women is moving closer to that of men, reaching today some 66 per cent, in comparison with 61 per cent five years ago. According to the National Strategy on Gender Equality, we expect the employment of women to rise to 80 per cent by 2020. My country also undertakes measures to provide allowances for women who lose or give up their jobs due to pregnancy or child birth, and for economically vulnerable families. The total budget for family support programmes over the last 10 years has reached some 3 billion US dollars.

The role of women in decision-making is steadily increasing and becoming more significant. The current proportion of women in the Parliament has now risen to 44 per cent and on the ministerial level to 33 per cent. Over 58 per cent of the small and medium enterprises are held by women. Kazakhstan's women are more than equally employed in the private business sector. The proportion of women is now 52 per cent and 66 per cent of these women have their own small business.

For socially empowering women and preventing gender-based violence, Kazakhstan has adopted a multi-targeted gender strategy that aims to address gender-related issues and equip women with comprehensive knowledge about their legal rights, as well as access to those rights. Government reviews and resolves complaints of individual women who face violence and discrimination. Victims of violence have access to immediate assistance on a 24-hour basis through centers throughout the country.

My delegation considers achieving gender equality as one of the important conditions for sustainable economic and social development, consequently, the promotion of peace and accord, security and stability in the world. Kazakhstan is therefore committed to continue to further promoting gender equality and the advancement of women in its foreign and domestic policies.

Thank you for your attention.