

**Commemorative meeting of the General Assembly to mark the fifteenth anniversary
of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action**

2 March 2010 at 12 noon

H.E. Garen Nazarian

Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women

Mr. President
Deputy Secretary-General

It is an honour and privilege for me to speak in my capacity as Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women in this commemorative meeting of the General Assembly to mark the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. On behalf of the Commission, I thank the Assembly for convening this commemorative event to confirm the role which the Platform for Action has played, and continues to play at all levels for the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment, and to contribute to the momentum for closing the gap between commitment and action, between policy and implementation.

Mr. President,

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, in its 12 critical areas of concern, provides clear and concrete guidance for eliminating persistent gender inequalities. In the last 15 years, this landmark document has been the inspiration and blueprint that led to significant advances for women and girls worldwide.

We have cause to celebrate the achievements but cannot lose sight of the fact that much more remains to be accomplished before the goals of equality, development and peace are truly achieved for all women, everywhere. I strongly believe that we are committed to achieving these goals. The time for action is now.

Mr. President,

This morning, the Commission on the Status of Women adopted a Declaration on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women. Representatives of Governments reaffirmed the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and committed to the full and accelerated implementation of these key policy documents. Governments also recognized the link between implementation of the Platform for Action and fulfilment of the obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The Commission has invited the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, to endorse this Declaration, and we look forward to relevant action in due course.

Promising practices exist that can be drawn on, scaled up or replicated to move forward the gender equality agenda. We need to galvanize the efforts of all stakeholders, forge strategic partnerships and improve collaboration and participatory processes to achieve measurable positive outcomes for women and girls.

2010 is a critical year for gender equality, and, as others have said, there cannot be progress towards achieving the MDGs without progress in gender equality. Let us seize all opportunities at national, regional and global level and give new impetus to the promotion of gender equality and women's enjoyment of their human rights.

I thank you.