

Malta

Statement by
Ms Deborah Attard-Montalto
Counsellor

On the occasion of the 49th session of the Commission on the
Status of Women

High-Level Plenary Meeting

New York, 7th March 2005

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Madam Chair,

It is a great honour for me to take the floor at this 49th session of the Commission on the Status of Women which marks the tenth Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995. Luxembourg has already delivered a statement on behalf of the EU. Malta reiterates its commitment to the promotion of gender equality, development and peace, and the promotion and protection of women's human rights.

In joining the consensus on the declaration adopted in this 49th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the delegation of Malta would like to reaffirm its reservation made to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action on those sections of the document that directly or indirectly relate to induced abortion. The interpretation given by Malta is consistent with its national legislation, which considers the termination of pregnancy through induced abortion as illegal. The same reservation was made in the context of other conferences and meetings relating to this subject.

We wish to restate our position that any recommendation made relating to Development assistance should in no way create an obligation on any party to consider abortion as a legitimate form of reproductive health or rights.

It is requested that these reservations be inserted in the records of this 49th session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Thank you Madam Chair