United Nations Nations Unies

26 March 2003

Dear Mr. President,

I have the honour of bringing to your attention the agreed conclusions on "Participation and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women", adopted by the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-seventh session, 3-14 and 25 March 2003.

In choosing this topic for consideration at its forty-seventh session, one of the intentions of the Commission was to provide an input to the preparatory process of the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held in Geneva in December 2003 and in Tunis in 2005.

The Commission welcomes the convening of the World Summit on the Information Society and urges the integration of gender perspectives in every facet of the Summit. It also encourages high participation of women in the Summit, as well as significant numbers of gender equality experts and women ICT experts as members of national delegations and organizations of civil society and the business community. The agreed conclusions then put forward a series of action recommendations in areas such as policy development and regulatory aspects, access, education, work and employment, partnerships, participation and cooperation, research, data collection and good practices, and resources, that aim at ensuring that ICT can indeed become a tool for the promotion of gender equality. It is very much hoped that these recommendations will facilitate and inspire the work of all relevant actors to strengthen attention to gender perspectives in the media and information and communication technologies sectors, and thereby ensure that women have full access to the benefits of the information society.

I should be very grateful if you could bring to the attention of the preparatory committee for the World Summit on the Information Society the attached agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women so that they could be taken into account in an appropriate manner during the preparations and at the Summit.

Yours sincerely,

Kyung-wha Kang
Chairperson
Commission on the Status of Women

Mr. Adama Samassékou
President, Preparatory Committee
World Summit on the Information Society