



**PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**  
**MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**Statement by Mme. Song Xiuyan**  
**Head of the Chinese Delegation to 55th Session of the Commission**  
**on the Status of Women, Vice-Chairperson of the National Working**  
**Committee on Children and Women**  
**under the State Council of China**  
(24 February 2011, New York)

Mr. Chairman,  
Honorable ministers,  
Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the Chinese Delegation, I would like to extend congratulations on the official launching of UN Women. We appreciate Mme. Michelle Bachelet's work, which has already generated fruitful achievements since her assumption of the Executive Director. We believe, under her leadership, UN Women will efficiently coordinate various resources, further promote global cause for gender equality at both normative and operational level, and play a leading role in UN's gender equality endeavors.

In the past year, under the guidance of people-centered development concept, the Chinese government has adopted a wide range of measures to fulfill its international commitments, such as Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA), Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Significant progress has been made in the promotion of gender equality and the protection of women's rights and interests, as reflected in the following areas.

1. Revising current laws and regulations to promote and protect women's rights and interests.

The year 2010 witnessed formulation or revision of four laws. Among them, the Law on the Mediation and Arbitration of Rural Land Contract Disputes, effective since 1 January 2010, safeguards the land contract rights and interests of the rural women, particularly those who are

married off or divorced. The recently revised Organic Law of the Villagers' Committees safeguards the rights and interests of women at the grassroots to participate in decision-making and administration, stipulating that the villagers' committee shall include at least one female member, and that female representatives shall account at least 1/3 of all members of the villagers' representatives' assembly. The Decree on Legally Punishing the Crimes of Abducting and Trafficking in Women and Children, issued in March 2010, marks a significant progress in combating trafficking in women and children.

2. Promoting the full realization of the goals defined by the National Program for the Development of Chinese Women (hereafter referred to as the Program), which is the guiding document on the development of Chinese women. Since the promulgation of the Program (2001-2010), governments at all levels have attached great importance to it with concrete actions for implementation to ensure accountability. Monitoring statistics indicate that almost all main goals listed in the Program have been achieved by 2010.

Based on the implementation of the Program for the last decade, as well as relevant international documents including CEDAW, BPFA and MDGs, we are now drafting the new Program for 2011 to 2020. The new Program will identify next decade's main goals and strategic measures in seven priority areas, namely, health, economic participation, decision-making and administration, education, legislation, social security and environment.

3. Increasing financial investment to solve the most urgent problems in women's development.

In order to ensure women's health rights, in 2010, 2.2 billion Yuan (equivalent to 340 million US dollars) has been made available from China's central financial budget as subsidies for rural women undergoing in-hospital childbirth, breast cancer and cervical cancer scanning, and free folic acid intake project among rural women of childbearing age. In order to help women with their entrepreneurial initiatives, the State has made more inputs and efforts to implement the preferential national policy which has been put in place to provide small loans to women with interests incurred fully subsidized. In 2010, 719 million was subsidized by the national and local financial departments to the total loans of 16.605 billion that have benefited over 400,000 women in their efforts to start business or get employed.

Mr, Chairman, Dear colleagues,

Over the years, all states have made active efforts to implement BPFA with marked progress in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. However, we are still faced with severe challenges. The international community should continue to strengthen its efforts to promote legislation on gender equality, enhance women's economic situation and political status, improve women's participation in society, education and labor market, eliminate violence against women, and guarantee women's rights and interests.

The launching of UN Women clearly indicates the great importance that different parties have attached to, and the broad consensus reached on women issues. This marks a concrete step that the United Nations has taken to further push forward gender equality, and an important milestone in global women's movement. We all have great expectations on the new entity. Hereby the Chinese delegation would like to propose the following:

1. UN Women should be committed to the realization of women's full development. More input should be made to alleviate poverty among women and to improve their education and health. All kinds of women's issues should be treated with equal importance.

2. The needs of the developing countries should be addressed with priority and their capacity building should be enhanced in UN Women's operational activities.

3. The principle of being open, transparent as well as geographical balance should be applied in the allocation of financial and human resources, and coordination with other UN entities should be strengthened.

The Chinese government stands ready to enhance cooperation with all states, adopt practical measures and make concerted efforts for the realization of gender equality and women's empowerment.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

