



STATEMENT BY
MR. GEORGE TALBOT
CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES
OF THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF GUYANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AT THE
FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION
OF THE
THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
FEBRUARY 28, 2011
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS

Kindly check against delivery

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
801 SECOND AVE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is pleased to participate in the general debate of the Commission on the Status of Women. We join others in extending warmest congratulations to you and the other members of the Bureau on your election.

Guyana also aligns itself with the statements made by the distinguished representatives of Argentina, the Bahamas and Chile on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Rio Group respectively.

Mr. Chairman, Guyana's commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women continues to find expression in various initiatives, including the enhancement of legislative and normative frameworks and the implementation of institutional and practical measures to improve the condition of women in our society. Though progress is evident in some areas, it is clear that much more needs to be done to realize the objectives we have set ourselves in this important area.

The Commission's focus this year on "access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work," is timely and could add impetus to efforts to remove existing stereotypes concerning women and their ability to study and be employed in the fields of science and technology. The Secretary-General's report contained in document E/CN.6/2011/3 has pointed out, the relevance of science and technology to efforts aimed at to the eradication of poverty, achievement of food security, the fight against diseases, improvement of education and the response to challenges of climate change. We firmly believe that women should not only be unhindered in the pursuit of opportunities in these areas, but be actively encouraged and facilitated in making their contributions, as partners in development.

In Guyana, education is the right of every individual and is provided free of charge in public schools from the nursery to the secondary school level. The advancement of science and technology is central priority in Guyana and males and females are being encouraged to study and pursue careers in these fields. Based on the 2008 – 2009 statistics seventh-one percent of graduates of the University of Guyana were females ten percent of which focused on studies in the area of science and technology. The encouragement of women to undertake studies in this field is still a necessity

In this regard, I wish to express our Government's gratitude to the UN system, as well as other multilateral and bilateral sources for their support to programmes implemented by the Government of Guyana aimed at promoting on gender equality

and the empowerment of women. We are fully convinced through consistent and collaborative efforts that states will be able to realize the goals set out in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, Guyana is heartened at the establishment of UN Women, an entity which embodies the hopes and aspirations of a better life for women and girls all across the world. We congratulate Ms. Michelle Bachelet on her appointment as Executive Director of this entity and look forward to the unveiling of the first strategic plan of UN Women to its Executive Board in June of this year. Mindful of the necessity for adequate and timely financing of any entity, Guyana has made a modest first contribution to the core budget of UN Women and encourages other States to do likewise given that the earmarking of fund limits flexibility in responding to the needs of Member States.

I thank you.