

**Statement of the Delegation of Ukraine at the General Debate
at the High-level segment of the ECOSOC substantive session 2010
(1 July 2010, New York)**

Mr. President,

Delegation of Ukraine aligned itself with the Statement delivered by the European Union. In my remarks I would like to highlight some issues that are of particular interest for Ukraine.

Ukraine, along with the European Union, considers gender equality, gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women not only as important objectives, but also as an essential part of the development and social agenda. My delegation expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his comprehensive reports on this issue. The recommendations and conclusions made in these reports can be instrumental in achieving progress on empowerment of women. We also welcome the fact that this issue is one of the priorities in the Secretary-General activity.

Considering that equality between women and men must be ensured in all spheres of life, it's our belief that gender equality concerns should be taken into account in outlining, implementing and evaluating all policies and programmes on international and national levels, in particular with regard to the activity of new gender entity within the UN.

Ukraine has made considerable progress in implementation of the outcome documents of Beijing Conference and 23rd Special Session of the UN General Assembly as well as in achieving Millennium Development Goals. Aspired to achieve tangible results in this endeavour, our national authorities work consistently in order to transfer international strategies in gender sphere into respective national programs. The most important achievement was the precise coordination of all government agencies and civil society organizations. Many important steps are properly reflected in the combined sixth and seventh periodic report of Ukraine on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which was successfully considered in January 2010.

One of the main priorities of the Government activities this year was to avert reduction in living standards while focusing on developing and implementing measures aimed at minimization of the negative impact of the crisis, especially for the most vulnerable.

A number of measures to mitigate the negative impact of the global financial crisis in the sphere of employment, social support to pregnant women and maternity payments were introduced. The Government also undertook a number of measures to improve the targeting of the provision of social benefits and privileges and the reforming of social services for individual vulnerable citizens, in particular women and girls with disabilities, orphans and girls deprived of parental care living in long-term state care institutions.

In spite of the progress achieved there is still much to be done. Our country considers the issues of equal representation of women and men in decision-making process as increasing representation of women at senior levels of legislative and executive power as the most topical ones. Violence against women is regarded as the main obstacle in achieving gender equality. As part of the World Campaign to eliminate violence against women initiated by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the Ministry of Ukraine for Family, Youth and Sports as the specially authorized body on prevention of domestic violence successfully run the Campaign "Stop violence" in Ukraine.

Ukraine is concerned that women and girls around the world still face discrimination and violation of their rights. The situation is also deteriorating because of adverse financial consequences of economic and food crises, which in turn affects not only women's lives, but also the effectiveness of efforts to achieve MDG and the global development agenda.

The delegation of Ukraine shares the concern expressed about the problem of sexual exploitation and trafficking in human beings that has become a serious challenge for many states, representing one of the worst forms of violence against women. In order to enhance the fight against this crime, Ukrainian authorities took a number of legislative measures thus contributing to fostering international and regional cooperation in the sphere of combating trafficking in human beings. We would also like to stress that human trafficking is a regional and global phenomenon that cannot be dealt with effectively only at the national level. Close cooperation is needed at bilateral and multilateral levels. It is particularly critical for the countries involved in different stages of the trafficking cycle. Ukraine, therefore, is ready to further enhance cooperation in fighting against this scourge and calls upon all relevant UN bodies to consider appropriate ways of rendering assistance in this field.

In conclusion, Mr. President, my delegation would like to reaffirm the strong commitment of Ukraine to redouble its efforts in order to ensure for women as well as their families and children healthy and worthy conditions for their steady advancement in all spheres of life. We are also committed to the full and effective implementation of the goals set out in the global gender and development agenda.

I thank you.