



STATEMENT

**by H.E. Mrs. Svetlana Inamova
Vice-Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan,
Senator of the Upper House of Uzbek Parliament and
Chairman of the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan at the
High-Level Plenary of the 49th session of the UN
Commission on Status of Women**

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Madam Chairperson,
Distinguished Ministers and participants of the session,

I am honored to address this important event on behalf of the Government of Uzbekistan. In fact, the 49th session of the Commission on the Status of Women offers us a great opportunity for appraisal and analysis of achieved goals and remaining tasks of the Beijing declaration and Platform of action, after ten years of their adoption.

I would like to express sincere hope that this session will significantly contribute to the process of further advancement of women and protection of their rights in every single region of the world.

Madam Chairperson,

Uzbekistan along with other states fully supports and approves all of the UN initiatives aimed at ensuring rights and interests of women.

From the very beginning of its independence Uzbekistan has been attaching a great importance to the issues of advancement of women in society, protecting their social, economic and political rights.

As the past experience proved that protection of women, particularly in those countries, including Uzbekistan, passing through period of transition cannot be guaranteed without prioritizing it at the level of state policy. It is no doubt that in the absence of common efforts of the whole society the rights and interests of women cannot be fully ensured.

In difficult stages of the state development women and children become economically and socially vulnerable. That is why one of the first steps taken by the Government of Uzbekistan after it has obtained its Independence was ratification of the Convention on elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (in 1995). With this decision Uzbekistan has assumed full international responsibility and obligation to adhere to all provisions of the Convention.

Apart from that Uzbekistan, like other countries of the world, consistently implementing the necessary measures to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, aimed at, first of all, reducing poverty and improving people's lives.

For the past years Uzbekistan made a significant progress in education and healthcare for women, gender equality and other directions related to well-being of women.

The Government of Uzbekistan has reaffirmed its continuous attention for advancement of women by adopting Presidential decree on further encouraging the activities of the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan and a Government programme to implement the decree.

Within the framework of various programs and decrees adopted by the Government of Uzbekistan there has been an active work to protect women's

rights ensuring their full participation in political and public as well as social and economic life of the country.

In particular, the Law on Supplementary Privileges for Women, Government programs adopted in connection with declarations of the Year of family, Year of women, Year of mother and child, Year of healthy generation, Year of health, Presidential decree on additional measures to strengthen the social protection of women and also other documents have been playing an important role for advancement of women.

We have established a national monitoring system to guarantee the rights of women and children are well protected and this system is successfully functioning.

The Ombudsman of the Uzbek parliament together with the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan has established the Advisory-analytical council that monitors the realization of the laws of Uzbekistan, and also international legal instruments related to the protection of women's interests.

Ensuring the full protection of the rights of women, motherhood and children are among priorities of the Uzbek Government.

The main directions of the state policy aimed at protection of women's interests are the following:

- systematical study and assess the situation on protection of women, encouraging their role in family, society and state policy;
- elaboration and implementation of the measures to ensure women's employment, including development of their entrepreneurial activities;
- preparation and realization of necessary measures directed to encouraging public, political and social activities of women, and also assisting women's NGOs to take an active in public and political life of the country.

Madame Chairperson,

In 2004 Uzbekistan made a tangible progress towards democracy. In December of the last year Uzbekistan held parliamentary elections for the first bicameral parliament of the country. One of the most important aspects of the elections process was the introduction to the Law on Election additional provision applying 30 per cent quota for women at the parliament.

Today women are well represented in the new bicameral Parliament of Uzbekistan, in both upper and lower houses.

The Government of Uzbekistan is carrying out purposeful policy to support the socially vulnerable families, families with big number of children, and also women in need of help.

The Government has recently adopted regional programs to ensure the employment of women for the period of 2005-2007. The programs envisage:

- annual creation of extra work places for women in every region, mainly by developing small businesses, services, and household employment;
- formation of rational structure for the employment of women in rural areas;
- providing favorable loans for small businesses headed by women or whose main work force is consisted of women;
- organisation of trainings for unemployed women on the programs "Basics of entrepreneurial activity", "Start your business";
- introducing amendments to the current legal framework to establish the principle of quota for women (with children) in employment.

For the realization of these tasks special commissions were formed under the guidance of the Prime Minister of Uzbekistan and also governors and these commissions monitor the activities of state bodies in advancement of women.

Further more Uzbekistan has been consistently implementing the National Plan of Action on the realization of recommendations made by CEDAW.

Distinguished delegates,

Uzbekistan will further continue to support all of the initiatives of the UN related to women's interests. In this regard I would like to note with satisfaction the ongoing cooperation of Uzbekistan with all UN agencies.

We are also ready for cooperation with other countries and international organisations for the sake of women's interests.

Let me finish my words by wishing all of the participants of this event good health, well-being and success.

Thank you.