



**Permanent Mission of The Republic of Equatorial
Guinea to the United Nations**

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP

BY

H.E. ANATOLIO NDONG MBA

**AMBASSADOR PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
EQUATORIAL GUINEA**

AT THE

**COMMEMORATIVE EVENT OF THE FIFTEEN YEARS OF THE
ADOPTION OF THE BEIJING DECLARATION
AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION**

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**Statement on behalf of the African Group by H.E. Anatolio Ndong Mba
Permanent Representative of Equatorial Guinea to the United Nations, at the
Commemorative event of the fifteen years of the adoption of the Beijing
Declaration and Platform for Action.**

New York, 2 March 2010

Mr. President,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the African Group at this important occasion to mark the fifteen years since we adopted the Beijing declaration and the programme of Action.

2. The Beijing platform for Action is a landmark document and Africa in particular played a critical role in its formulation. We wish to acknowledge Hon. Mrs. Getrude Mongella, a daughter of Africa for her role in steering the Fourth World Conference on Women to its successful conclusion.

Mr. President.

3. As we commemorate the Beijing platform for Action we need to recognize the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is a culmination of the efforts to promote equality for women, which we started in the world women conferences in Mexico and followed through in Copenhagen and Nairobi. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is our blue print for Action, we should preserve the consensus and commitments we achieved in Beijing.

4. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action recognizes that gender equality and empowerment of women is key to development, peace and human rights, the pillars upon which the United Nations stand for. The Beijing platform for Action further recognizes that women are full and equal partners, thus it is imperative that gender is mainstreamed in all policies and programs not only in our countries but also across all of the United Nations System and that women

have to be at the center of all decision making processes. We thus need to accelerate our efforts; it is now time to turn commitments into action so that gender equality and women empowerment becomes a reality.

5. Since Beijing, Africa has made great strides in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. I wish at this juncture to underscore the contribution of African women to development. African women are known for their resilience and for shaping the destiny of their families through their unwavering determination, hard work and creativity. However despite the progress and the women's contribution, constraints and challenges still remain to fully realize objectives of gender equality and empowerment of women. Africa has thus declared 2010 to 2020 as a decade for the African women. We invite the United Nations family and the international community to work together with us to make AU Women's decade a success

Mr. President,

6. In recognizing that we have to accelerate the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Africa now has in place a Banjul Declaration on the Strategies for Accelerating the Implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platform for Action. The declaration has seven strategic areas to focus action which are:-

- i. Economic Empowerment of Women through Poverty Reduction, Employment Creation, Social Protection and ICTs;
- ii. Peace, Security and Development;
- iii. Violence against Women;
- iv. Representation and Participation of Women in all Areas of Decision-Making;
- v. Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS;
- vi. Climate change and food insecurity, and
- vii. Financing for Gender Equality.

Mr. President.

7. Gender equality and empowerment of women is central to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed international goals. It is thus imperative that the review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action contributes to the Annual Ministerial Review of the Economic and Social Council, and its theme on “Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women” to be held in July 2010, and to the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly which will focus on accelerating progress towards the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, to be held from 20 to 22 September 2010,

8. In conclusion, the African Group reiterates its commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. While national governments have the primary responsibility for the full implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, international cooperation is needed to support national efforts in this endeavour. We call thus call for concerted efforts in order to fully realize gender equality and the full empowerment of women in all political, social, economical and cultural spheres.

I thank you.