



*Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations*

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STATEMENT

BY

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DURING

THE

**57<sup>TH</sup> SESSION  
OF THE  
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW)**

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**Chairperson,  
Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I thank you Madam Chairperson for giving me the opportunity to address this distinguished gathering. My delegation reaffirms our confidence in your able leadership and wishes to pledge its support to you throughout our deliberations to a successful conclusion of this Session.

My delegation associates itself with the statements delivered by Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and Chad on behalf of the African Group.

**Chairperson,**

The theme for this year's session is very important. The Government of Kenya recognizes violence against women and girls as one of the most pervasive human rights violations the world over. It occurs in various forms such as rape, defilement, commercial child sexual exploitation, domestic violence, sexual harassment as well as harmful cultural practices like female genital mutilation, widow inheritance, and early marriage.

Current statistics indicate that one in five Kenyan women has experienced one form of the many forms of violence representing a significant increase since 2003. Most of these women are within the ages of 15-49. But violence has not spared children either. Many children both female and male have experienced violence including sexual violence during childhood. Further, the National Prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation stands at 27.1% and continuing to drop.

**Chairperson,**

The grim statistics of violence against women are unacceptable. Consequently, and consistent with its commitment to eradicate gender based violence the Government of Kenya has taken the following concrete actions:

- a) Strengthening the legal systems in order to deal with Sexual and Gender based violence through the development and implementation of key legislation and policies. Fundamentally, Kenya's Constitution provides for the protection of women, men and children from all forms of violence including harmful cultural practices. It provides for freedom from any form of violence either from public or private sources.
- b) The Sexual Offences Act of 2006, the Counter Trafficking in Persons Act of 2010, and the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act of 2011 among other laws has boosted the campaign against sexual violence.
- c) Instrumental Bills pending enactment include; the Marriage Bill, the Matrimonial Property Bill and Prevention against Domestic Violence Bill.
- d) In addition, an enabling policy environment for addressing some of the root causes of sexual and gender based violence exists through the Kenya Vision 2030 (the Country's blue print for social and economic development) and the Mid Term Plan (2008-2012) where sexual and gender based violence has been prioritized with the ultimate aim of reducing gender disparities and addressing associated vulnerabilities.

- e) Others include the National Policy on the Abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation, Reproductive Health Policy, Children's Policy, to mention but a few. Other national initiatives include: The Plan of Action for Kenya's Adolescent Reproductive Health and Development policy (2005-2015), Action Plan for implementation of resolution 1325, National Action Plan on Counter Trafficking in Persons (2011), Policy framework and guidelines for the administration of sexual violence and National Guidelines on Rape and Sexual violence management. Kenya also launched the first national gender action plan on accelerated country action on HIV/AIDS for women and girls.

**Chairperson,**

National Gender machineries as well as other relevant mechanisms play a critical role in the promotion of gender equality interventions. These institutions have been revamped, resourced and adequately trained to provide normative and policy guidance on gender equality and empowerment of women. They include:

- a) The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development to promote and coordinate gender equality initiatives including SGBV;
- b) The National Gender and Equality Commission to monitor work on the protection and promotion of the rights of women, children, youth, elderly, the minority and persons with disabilities;
- c) Gender Units in Government Ministries and State Cooperation's to spearhead gender mainstreaming including integration of the campaign against SGBV in their programs;
- d) The Commission on Administrative Justice to receive and investigate public complaints including sexual violence within the public sector;
- e) Kenya National Commission on Human Rights to address human rights violations including women's and children's rights.
- f) Gender Based Violence working groups and committees at the national and local levels.

**Chairperson,**

Various programmes to address sexual and gender based violence in both private and public sectors have been initiated by the Government of Kenya. Key among these include: help lines, Shelters and Rescue homes , Gender Based Violence Recovery one stop centres, legal aid clinics, psychosocial support services, rehabilitation and resettlement services as well as police gender desks. In addition, male involvement groups have been formed to champion the rights of women. Of significance is the **Million Fathers Campaign** launched in July 2012, as part of the UN Secretary-General's **Africa UNiTE Campaign** to end violence against women and girls. The campaign has been engaging men in their various roles as fathers, brothers, husbands and friends to serve as advocates to end gender-based violence within their communities and society as a whole.

**Chairperson,**

Despite these efforts, ending violence against women and girls continues to be a challenge in Kenya. This is due to a lack of comprehensive data on the magnitude of Sexual violence,

patriarchal nature of Kenyan society, culture and harmful traditional practices, Illiteracy, poverty and limited resources for Government and non-state actors.

To overcome these challenges, the Government recognizes the need for strong political commitment to end SGBV, implementation of the relevant laws and policies, provision of comprehensive services for victims and survivors with assurance of personal security, comprehensive and ~~systematic data~~ collection to better inform policy and programming and building of strong coalitions and partnerships.

**Chairperson,**

This is the reason my delegation believes that this year's theme is very important. CSW must continue to be the platform through which the international community galvanizes global support for gender equality and empowerment of women. We cannot afford to fail to adopt Agreed Conclusions again, particularly on an important subject as eliminating violence against women. Kenya is playing its rightful role in all fora of supporting efforts by contributing to the achievement of acceptable and progressive Agreed Conclusions consistent with our Constitution, the aspirations of Kenyan women and girls and the international tenets that we have agreed to abide by. It is in this regard that my delegation urges for flexibility by all delegations in the negotiations to ensure a speedy conclusion of the Agreed Conclusions. We should not allow the challenges of the last session to befall on us again.

**Chairperson,**

Kenya has just successfully completed General Elections. The elections were peaceful and devoid of violence. There are many gains made. One of the most significant is the highest number of women elected to both Parliament and the Senate. These gains, anchored in the Constitution, will be consolidated and increased in future for the benefit of women and society in general.

In conclusion, **Madam Chairperson**, I would like to re-affirm the commitment of the Government of Kenya to accelerate efforts towards the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls.

**Thank you Madam Chairperson.**

