

**Remarks by Carolyn Hannan  
Director, Division for the Advancement of Women**

**At the Commonwealth Consultation of National Women's Machineries  
New York, 1 March 2009**

Madame Moderator  
Distinguished delegates

I am pleased to provide you with some brief information on the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action in 2010.

In 2006, when establishing the new multi-year programme of work from 2007, the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women decided to postpone the decision on whether or not to hold a review and appraisal of implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action on the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its adoption until 2009.

In its decision on the methods and organization of work of the Commission on the Status of Women in 2006, ECOSOC therefore requested the Commission to discuss at its fifty-third session (2009) the possibility of conducting in 2010 a review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

The Secretary-General's report: "*Proposals for a multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women the Commission*" (E/CN.6/2009/3) which was prepared to support Member States in their consideration of this issue, provides the following information and recommendations:

- A background on the modalities for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration in 2005:
  - ✓ Expanded use of interactive dialogue, with broad-based participation of governmental delegations at the highest level of responsibility and expertise and of civil society and organizations within the United Nations system, with an emphasis on sharing of experiences and good practices on efforts to overcome the remaining challenges of implementation.
  - ✓ A high-level plenary, open to the participation of all UN Member States and Observers, on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.
  - ✓ The transmission of the Commission's outcome, through the ECOSOC, to the General Assembly, including to the high-level event of the General Assembly on the review of the Millennium Declaration.

- ✓ The adoption of a Declaration which called for accelerated implementation.
- Information on the regional review and appraisal processes: including that:
  - ✓ Review and appraisal processes for the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary are being organized in all regions by the regional commissions.
  - ✓ A common questionnaire has been developed to solicit information from MSs which will be compiled into regional reports.
  - ✓ The regional reports will be presented at review meetings in the regional intergovernmental bodies in all regions, in 2009 and 2010.
  - ✓ The reports will subsequently be presented to the CSW.
- Presentation of a proposal that the Commission may wish to consider:
  - ✓ Organizing a review and appraisal of implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and commemoration of the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at its fifty-fourth session in 2010, similar to the ten-year review and commemoration process at its forty-ninth session in 2005.
  - ✓ Ensuring a strong regional focus in the fifteen-year review and commemoration and that the regional reviews and outcomes of the regional-level intergovernmental processes are given adequate attention, in line with mandates encouraging increased regional focus in the work of the Commission.
  - ✓ Following the modalities of the 2005 commemoration - a high-level plenary meeting and transmit the outcome to the Annual Ministerial Review in ECOSOC, and through ECOSOC, to the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly and the proposed MDGs Review Summit to be convened in 2010.

The Bureau of the Commission is currently preparing a draft resolution (which will be a Chairperson's text) on the possibility of a review and appraisal in 2010. The draft will be made available in the coming week and informal negotiations will begin.

The United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) has worked with the regional commissions on the preparation of the common questionnaire. DAW is awaiting a mandate from the Commission on the Status of Women. If the mandate to carry out a review is provided by the Commission, DAW will not send out a new questionnaire but will utilize the responses received by the regional commissions. The focus of the report prepared by DAW will depend on the mandate received.

DAW has received information from the regional commissions that the questionnaires have been forwarded to all Member States and the deadlines for submission of reports vary between regions, but most are between end of March to end April). It is expected that all regional reports will be prepared before end of September – to feed into the preparations for the Commission on the Status of Women. Regional meetings will be held in all regions before the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2010, except for the ECLAC region which plans to hold its regional meeting in mid 2010. The first meeting will be held in the ECE region, probably in mid July. ESCAP is planning its meeting for September, and ESCWA and ECA for October.

I will also provide some information on the overall theme of this session: monitoring and evaluation. The Commission on the Status of Women is charged with monitoring the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted in 1995. As part of its multi-year programmes of work adopted after the Fourth World Conference, the Commission has systematically reviewed implementation of critical areas of concern and adopted new recommendations to accelerate implementation.

In addition, the Commission has been involved in five-yearly reviews of implementation. The first in 2000 was a special session of the General Assembly, but the Commission on the Status of Women was charged with the preparation for the special session. The ten-year review was carried out in the Commission and it is expected, as I discussed earlier, that the 15-year review will also be undertaken by the Commission.

In the working methods adopted since 1995, the Commission has highlighted the importance of a focus on national level implementation and the need for the Commission to play a key role globally as a forum for exchange of experiences, lessons-learned and good practices. The new working methods adopted in 2006 placed a strong emphasis on interactive events and the inputs of experts into the discussions in the Commission.

To emphasize the importance of regular monitoring of implementation at national level, in 2006 the Commission decided to systematically review the implementation of policy recommendations (agreed conclusions) two to three years after their adoption, through an interactive dialogue.

The Commission also called for increased dissemination of the agreed conclusions at national level to ensure enhanced implementation. The Division for the Advancement has therefore, since 2006, provided the agreed conclusions in a more user-friendly brochure format to ensure more effective dissemination and use. These are available for both the priority theme and the review theme in all six languages of the United Nations.

The Commission on the Status of Women has also increased its focus on the development of indicators by initiating collaboration with the Statistics Commission, in particular in relation to violence against women. In recent years, it has held two panels jointly with the Statistics Commission to further develop collaboration. While the

Commission on the Status of Women can decide on the issues it would like to measure, the technical inputs of the Statistics Commission are needed on defining the indicator, identifying the data needed for measurement and ensuring that reliable comparable data is available for the effective use of the indicator. The Statistics Commission has established a “Friends of the Chair” in order to be able to provide advice and support to the Commission on the Status of Women on the development of indicators on violence against women.

Thank you.

Thank you.