

INDEX OF REFERENCES TO WOMEN AND GENDER
General Debate of the 62nd Session of the General Assembly, 25
September - 3 October 2007

The Gender Index includes all references to gender, women, females, girls, gender equality, violence against women and participation made in statements delivered during the General Debate held on 25 September - 3 October 2007.

OPENING SESSION

UNITED NATIONS secretary general
H.E. Mr. BAN Ki-moon, Secretary-General

Meanwhile, the UN's brave and exceptionally committed humanitarian aid workers do their best to save lives. They help protect civilian populations from the depredations of armed militias, children from starvation, women from shameful violence.

President of the 62nd General Assembly
H.E. Dr. Srgjan KERIM

CLOSING STATEMENT

COUNTRIES

AFGHANISTAN

H.E. Mr. Hamid KARZAI, President

No Gender References

ALBANIA

H.E. Mr. Sali BERISHA, Prime Minister

No Gender References

ALGERIA

H.E. Mr. Mourad MEDELICI, Minister for Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

ANDORRA

H.E. Mr. Albert PINTAT, Prime Minister

No Gender References

ANGOLA

H.E. Mr. José Eduardo DOS SANTOS,

No Gender References

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

H.E. Mr. Winston Baldwin Spencer, Prime Minister

We cannot continue talking while women and children are forced to live in refugee camps.

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

We urge the UN system and member states to continue to pay special attention to the issue of gender equality and women's empowerment. The dividends from investing in gender equality and women's empowerment are two-folded-democratic gains on one hand and development gains on the other.

My government has placed top priority on empowering women politically and economically. The Speaker of the House of Assembly in Antigua and Barbuda is female. So, too, are the President of the Senate and the Clerk of Parliament. My government has the honour of having the first female elected Member of Parliament, who currently holds the position of President of the Inter-American Commission on Women.

We haven't stopped there. The Chairman of the Integrity Commission pursuant to the Integrity in Public Life Act, is a woman. The Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda, appointed earlier this year on the advice of the Prime Minister, is female. The Ombudsman, a creature of the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda is also a woman. The Chairman of the Public Service Commission, also a creature of the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda is a woman.

We continue to focus on increasing women's participation in the political decision making process. In this, we have been helped by the normative framework of the various UN Gender entities. We will continue to work towards even greater gender parity in the political, economic and social spheres, and we encourage all member states to do the same.

ARGENTINA

H.E. Mr. Néstor Carlos KIRCHNER, President

No Gender References

ARMENIA

H.E. Mr. Vartan OSKANIAN, Minister for Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

AUSTRALIA

H.E. Mr. Robert HILL, Ambassador and Permanent Representative

No Gender References

AUSTRIA

H.E. Ms. Ursula PLASSNIK, Minister of European and International Affairs

At the outset, let me mention a burning issue- the situation in Myanmar/Burma: we join the call of many, including our partners in the EU and in ASEAN, for an immediate cessation of violence. The bloodshed has to stop. Democratic rights, the freedom of assembly and expression have to be respected. We reiterate the call for the release from detention of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of the Burmese democratic opposition. This appeal was also made at this morning's meeting of the Women Empowerment Network that unites women leaders from around the globe.

To this end, Burkina Faso and Austria will co-host a conference in Ouagadougou in November on how to create sustainable peace. This meeting unite participants from ECOWAS countries and Europe in an endeavor to provide a common input to the Lisbon summit...and by actively promoting the education of girls.

Women across the world are ready to bear a key responsibility in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peace building. But women also need to given a fair share of

positions in international mediation and peace building efforts. Not so long ago, there was not a single woman among the 54 United Nations Special Representatives and Envoys to conflict and post-conflict regions. I am encouraged by the Secretary-General's support on this matter and the recent nomination of three women Deputy Special Representatives for Liberia, Sudan, and Lebanon. It is also up to us, the Member States, to nominate more women for such positions.

No conflict is too complex or too deep to durably resist dialogue... We must actively combat attempts to hijack religion for other purposes-anywhere in our global village. Religious leaders must also take a clear stance in condemning and fighting practices not related to religion such as "honour killings" and female genital mutilation.

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. It is, therefore, not acceptable that human rights are relativized or diminished in relation to geography or other factors. No doubt-women must enjoy the same universal rights-wherever they live, whatever their culture, creed, or religion.

If we are truly committed to human security it is essential that we make every effort to meet the Millennium Development Goals, by determined, concentrated action to eradicate poverty and hunger, to promote equality between men and women and to protect our planets' resources.

AZERBAIJAN

H.E. Mr. Elmar MAMMADYAROV, Minister of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

BAHAMAS

H.E. The Honourable Theodore Brent SYMMONETTE, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs

In spite of the efforts of the various entities and the existence of United Nations Conventions to protect the rights of women and children, discrimination and violence against women and children persist throughout the world.

In an effort to better address this problem, The Bahamas has drafted a new Child Protective Act and Domestic Violence Protection Order Act to enhance and provide greater protection to these vulnerable groups.

BAHRAIN

H.E. Shaikh Khalid Bin Ahmed Bin Mohamed AL KHALIFA, Minister of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

BANGLADESH

H.E. Dr. Fakhruddin AHMED, Chief Adviser (Head of the Government) of the non-party interim caretaker government of Bangladesh

No Gender References

BARBADOS

H.E. The Honourable Dame Billie A. MILLER, M.P., Senior Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

Gender equity and the empowerment of women are critical to development at both national and international levels. There is need to improve the way in which gender is treated within the context of the United Nations. It is crucial that the proposal to establish a new gender architecture is further discussed at the inter-governmental level and all concerns addressed and taken into consideration before a final decision is made. Any new structure must give due prominence not only to normative and advocacy issues but also to issues of development, operational activities and adequate resources.

BELARUS

H.E. Sergei N. Martynov, Minister of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

BELGIUM

H.E. Mr. Karet DE GUCHT, Minister of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

BELIZE

H.E. Ms. Lisa SHOMAN, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

No Gender References

BENIN

H.E. Dr. Moussa OKANLA, Minister for Foreign Affairs, La Francophonie and Beninese

Widespread violation of international humanitarian law and war crimes against civilian populations, particularly against women and children in situations of conflict must continue to be given our attention.

BHUTAN

H.E. Mr. Yeshey DORJI, Foreign Secretary and Leader of the Bhutanese Delegation

No Gender References

BOLIVIA

H.E. Mr. Evo MORALES AYMA, President

No Gender References

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

H.E. Mr. Zeljko KOMSIC, Chairman of the Presidency

No Gender References

BOTSWANA

H.E.Mr. Festus G. MOGAE, President

No Gender References

BRAZIL

H.E. Mr. Luiz Inácio Lula DA SILVA, President

No Gender References

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed BOLKIAH, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade

No Gender References

BULGARIA

H.E. Ivailo KALFIN, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

BURKINA FASO

H.E. Mr. Djibrill Yipènè Bassole, Minister for Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

BURUNDI

H.E. Mr. Martin NDUWIMANA, Vice-President

No Gender References

CAMBODIA

H.E. Mr. Hor NAMHONG, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

No Gender References

CAMEROON

H.E. Mr. Paul BIYA, President

No Gender References

CANADA

H.E. Mr. Maxime BERNIER, Minister of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

CAPE VERDE

H.E. Mr. José María Pereria NEVES, Prime Minister

No Gender References

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

H.E. Mr. Côme Zoumara

No Gender References

CHAD

H.E. Mr. Ahmad ALLAM-MI, Minister for Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

CHILE

H.E. Mrs. Michelle Bachelet JERIA, President

No Gender References

CHINA

H.E. Mr. YANG Jiechi, Minister of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

COLOMBIA

H.E. Mr. Álvaro URIBE VELEZ, President

The options open for the release of kidnapped victims, which includes a French female citizen that is also Colombian, and three American citizens, are not options for the political positioning of terrorism.

COMOROS

H.E. Mr. Ahmed Abdallah Mohamed SAMBI, President

No Gender References

CONGO

H.E. Mr. Basile IKOUEBE, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and la Francophonie

No Gender References

COSTA RICA

H.E. Mr. Bruno Stagno UGARTE, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship

No Gender References

COTE D'IVOIRE

Mr. Laurent GBAGBO, President

No Gender References

CROATIA

H.E. Mr. Stjepan MESIC, President

No Gender References

CUBA

H.E. Mr Felipe PEREZ ROQUE, Minister of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

CYPRUS

H.E. Mr. Tassos PAPADOPOULOS, President

No Gender References

CZECH REPUBLIC

H.E. Mr. Václav KLAUS, President

No Gender References

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

H.E. Mr. Joseph KABILA KABANGE, President

No Gender References

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

H.E. Mr. Choe Su Hon, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

DENMARK

H.E. Mr. Carsten STAUR, Ambassador and Permanent Representative

Another major global challenge, to which Denmark attaches great importance, is to obtain equal opportunities for women. Here we also see a crucial role for an effective UN where gender equality is dealt with in a strengthened and systematic way – especially at country level.

In our view, no one should be excluded from contributing to peace, freedom and development. It is, therefore, of paramount importance – as a judicial, moral and ethical responsibility – that women everywhere have the same opportunities as men. In the fight against poverty it is an absolute necessity. Women must have equal rights as well as full access to employment, land and financial resources. Only then can development assistance realize its true potential and poverty be alleviated.

Donors must actively support partner countries in achieving gender equality. In the coming years, Denmark will have a strong focus on women and their role in development and conflict resolution. Setting goals, earmarking funds and monitoring progress to ensure that politics create results. Making a difference in this respect will require leadership from all parties. Without addressing the role of women we will never manage to halve extreme poverty by 2015. And our efforts to support the rights and empowerment of women must be complemented by a targeted effort to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights.

DOMINICA

H.E. Mr. Charles A. SAVARIN, Minister of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

H.E. Mr. Leonel FERNANDEZ REYNA, President

No Gender References

ECUADOR

H.E. Mr. Rafael CORREA, President

No Gender References

EGYPT

H.E. Mr. Ahmed Aboul GHEIT, Minister of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

EQUATORIAL GUIENA

H.E. Mr. Teodoro Obiang Nguema MBASOGO, President

No Gender References

EL SALVADOR

H.E. Mr. Elías Antonio Saca GONZALEZ, President

No Gender References

ESTONIA

H.E. Mr. Toomas Hendrik ILVES, President

No Gender References

ETHIOPIA

H.E. Mr. Seyoum MESFIN, Minister of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

ERITREA

H.E. Mr. Osman Saleh, Minister of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

FINLAND

H.E.Mrs. Tarja HALONEN, President

We must sustain our efforts to make the Council a credible institution – capable of defending and promoting globally the human rights of women, men and children. Our good words and intentions must lead to strong action.

Finland warmly welcomes the Panel’s recommendations concerning gender. We do need to take decisive measures to promote gender awareness across the entire UN system. We support the proposal to set up a new, consolidated gender agency and the new Under-Secretary-General position as its head.

In this context, I would like to stress the importance of engaging women in all phases of crisis management: conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding – not forgetting peace talks. Let me give one example: the UNIFEM Middle East Initiative. I believe that the cooperation between Israeli and Palestinian women under this initiative can help to restart the peace negotiations. I also use this opportunity to state that Finland is preparing her national action plan to advance the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 on “Women, Peace and Security”.

FIJI

H.E. Commodore Josai Voreqe BAINIMARAMA, Prime Minister and Commander of the Military Forces

No Gender References

FRANCE

Mr. Nicolas SARKOZY, President

No Gender References

GABON

H.E. Mr. Jean PING, Deputy Prime Minister in charge of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, La Francophonie and Regional Integration Former President of the General Assembly

No Gender References

GAMBIA

H.E. Aja Dr. Isatou NJIE-SAIDY, Vice-President

As we gather here, thousands of innocent civilians including women and children continue to be victimized by the fratricidal conflict in the Sudanese region of Darfur.

Within Iraq itself, the conflict has brought untold suffering on the civilian population including women and children.

GERMANY

H.E. Mrs. Angela MERKEL, Chancellor

No Gender References

GEORGIA

H.E. Mr Mikheil SAAKASHVILI, President

In South Ossetia, the courage of common men and women – who have chosen dialogue over division, and reconciliation over recriminations – is making a difference.

In closing, I would like to share with you the insights of a woman whose name is on our minds and in our hearts today – Aung San Suu Kyi.

Her courage, her resolve, her reflections on peace and democracy, cannot be imprisoned – they travel across every border and barrier to inspire us all.

Her words are of profound relevance to the people of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. I believe they also must be a beacon for all of us in this room.

GHANA

H.E. Mr. John Agyekum KUFUOR, President

No Gender References

GREECE

H.E. Dr. Yannis VALINAKIS, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

GRENADA

H.E. The Honourable Elvin NIMROD, Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Trade, Legal Affairs, Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs

It is well known that women are the most affected by poverty, and suffer the highest levels of marginalization. As the United Nations continues its look at the issue of the “gender architecture” and the general advancement of women, Grenada sees the empowerment of women as being critical for our development.

We therefore urge other states to contribute to the many bodies of the United Nations which promote and seek to secure avenues for women in the development process. Let us contribute to their budget and not to their demise; for even if only a few benefit, it sets the stage for others to follow. In our view, the advancement of women represents a most powerful force for social and economic progress. Investment in gender mainstreaming is an investment in social justice, economic diversity and political stability.

The UN must lead by example. Guided by the tenets of the Millennium Development Goals, Grenada is working arduously to improve the status of its women. Several years ago only a few women held high political and public offices in Grenada, but today, we are proud to report that approximately 50% of our cabinet or executive branch is made up of women, and many others hold top positions within the public service.

GUATEMALA

H.E. Mr. Oscar Berger PERDOMO, President

No Gender References

GUINEA

H.E. Mr. Lansana KOUYATÉ, Prime Minister

No Gender References

GUINEA BISSAU Guinea

H.E. Mr. João Bernardo VIEIRA, President

No Gender References

GUYANA

H.E. Mr. Timothy HARRIS, Minister for Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

HAITI

Mr. René Garcia PREVAL, President

No Gender References

HOLY SEE

H.E. Archbishop Dominique MAMBERTI, Secretary

The legitimate quest for equality between men and women has achieved positive results. Nevertheless, inequalities in the exercise of basic human rights unfortunately still persist in many places. This leads to a breakdown in social fabric and results in women's objectification and exploitation. The vindication of equality needs to be accompanied by the awareness that it goes hand in hand with and does not endanger, much less contradict, the recognition of both the difference and complementarity between men and women.

HONDURAS

H.E. Mr. José Manuel Zelaya ROSALES, President

No Gender References

HUNGARY

Hungary - H.E. Ms. Kinga GÖNCZ, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Allow me to put a special emphasis on women's empowerment. We firmly believe in the need for effective involvement of women in the decision-making processes at both national and international levels. In this respect Hungary supports the ongoing debate on the future of the strengthened gender equality architecture and welcomes the steps towards an effective gender mainstreaming throughout the entire UN system.

ICELAND

H.E. Mrs. Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Iceland regards women's empowerment and full participation at all levels as a fundamental issue for the New Millennium. Whether it be in relation to peace and security, health, poverty or climate change, empowerment of women is key to success. Women and men need to be equally represented and listened to everywhere.

I would like to reiterate Iceland's support for the recommendations of the Panel on System Wide Coherence regarding gender equality and women's empowerment. The current UN structure and approach to gender issues is too fragmented. The excellent work of UNIFEM must be built upon and reinforced within the new structures.

We firmly support the establishment of a new gender entity to strengthen the UN's performance in this field of work. Establishing the post of Under-Secretary General for gender equality issues would provide strong leadership and coordination, and it is my hope that this post will be quickly filled. Gender mainstreaming has to be addressed throughout the whole UN system in a more systematic manner.

A key instrument for ensuring human security is Security Council Resolution 1325, which needs to be thoroughly implemented.

Millions of individuals experience assaults on their personal security. In this context, allow me to express deep concern over events in Myanmar, where the democratically elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi has been held in detention for years and where peaceful expression of political dissent is at present being brutally oppressed.

I am thinking of the failure of authorities around the world to ensure the protection of women and children from violence and trafficking.

It is clear to me that most people in Israel and Palestine yearn for peace. [...] In particular, women from both sides voice their distress at the long-term effects of continued conflict on their children, who are the future of this region.

INDIA

H.E. Mr. Pranab MUKHERJEE, Minister of External Affairs

I affirm India's resolve to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. The Government of India accords the highest priority to inclusive growth, including the political, legal, educational and economic empowerment of women, effective and affordable public health and enhanced access to educational opportunities, especially for all those who are disadvantaged.

INDONESIA

H.E. Dr. Susilo Bambang YUDHOYONO, President

No Gender References

IRAN

H.E. Dr. Mahmoud AHMADINEJAD

The precious existence of women as the manifestation of divine beauty and as the peak of kindness, affection and purity has been the target of heavy exploitation in recent decades by the holders of power and the owners of media and wealth. In some societies, this beloved human has been reduced to a mere instrument of publicity, and all the boundaries and protective shields of chastity, purity, and beauty have been trampled. This is a colossal betrayal of human society, of succeeding generations, and an irreparable blow to the pillar of social coherence, the family.

IRAQ

H.E. Mr. Nori Kamil AL-MALIKY, Prime Minister

Our people, who have enjoyed the taste of freedom after eras of tyranny and oppression, will continue the road towards building a State of institutions, reinforcing the authority of the Law, respecting human rights and the active participation of women in all areas.

IRELAND

H.E. Mr. Dermot AHERN, T.D., Minister for Foreign Affairs

It is not acceptable in today's world that there are still 980 million living in abject poverty, that half of the developing world has no access to basic sanitation or that half a million women will die in pregnancy or childbirth each year.

ISRAEL

H.E. Ms. Tzipi LIVNI, Vice Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

ITALY

H.E. Mr. Romano PRODI, Prime Minister

No Gender References

JAMAICA

H.E. Dr. The Honourable Kenneth BAUGH, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

Jamaica recognizes the importance of the protection of the human rights of women which is critical to the international process aimed at achieving gender equality and the development of women.

JAPAN

H.E. Mr. Masahiko KOUMURA, Minister for Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

JORDAN

H.E. Mr. Abdelelah AL KHALIB, Minister of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

KAZAKHSTAN

H.E. Mr. Nursultan NAZARBAYEV, President

No Gender References

KENYA

H.E. The Honourable Raphael TUJU, EGH, MP Minister for Foreign Affairs

I appeal for closer collaboration by the International Community in addressing the complex and difficult problem of Somalia. There are several windows of opportunity that we must take advantage of to prevent the extreme human suffering especially of women and Children in that sister country.

KIRIBATI

H.E. The Honourable Natanaera KIRATA, Minister of Public Works and Utilities

No Gender References

KUWAIT

H.E. Sheikh Mohammad Al-Sabah Al-Salem AL-SABAH, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs

The State of Kuwait have made good progress in translating the commitments and resolutions of the 2005 World Summit into tangible realities, it also achieved the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in the fields of education, health and advancing the role of women in the society.

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

H.E. Dr. Thongloun SISOUKITH, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

LATVIA

H.E. Mr. Valdis ZATLERS, President

No Gender References

LEBANON

H.E. General Emile LAHOUD, President

No Gender References

LESOTHO

H.E. The Honourable Archibald Lesao LEHOHLA, Deputy Prime Minister

No Gender References

LIECHTENSTEIN

H.E. Ms. Rita KIEBER BECK, Minister of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

LIBERIA

H.E. Mr. Joseph Nyumah BOAKAI, Vice-President

Pursuant to our call for reform of the United Nations, we today call on Member States to give meaning and expression to gender equality. We propose that the United Nations recommit itself to ensuring an equitable partnership of women and men in the leadership of our Organization. Reforming the United Nations also means reforming our attitude toward women and other minority groups world-wide. There is no doubt in our mind that women would significantly contribute to the change process in this organization.

LIBYA

H.E. Mr. Abdurrahman Mohamed SHALGHAM, Secretary

In cooperation with Cuba and Nigeria, Libya established the South-South Programme for Healthcare in Africa and in 2006 launched the Gaddafi Program for African Women, Children, and Young People which provides healthcare and educational services in Africa.

LITHUANIA

H.E. Mr. Valdas ADAMKUS

Seven years ago, in this United Nations conclave, all nations made a historic step, pledging to eradicate poverty, illiteracy, and environmental degradation, to improve health and promote gender equality.

LUXEMBOURG

H.E. Mr. Jean Asselborn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration

No Gender References

MACEDONIA

H.E. Mr. Branko CRVENKOVSKI, President

No Gender References

MADAGASCAR

H.E. Mr. Marc RAVALOMANANA, President

No Gender References

MALAWI

H.E. Mr. Bingu Wa MUTHARIKA, President

We have also placed at the top of our development paradigm, research, science and technology including information and communications technology, gender empowerment and environment protection.

In the area of gender equality the MDG set to promote gender equality and empowerment of women by integrating targeted programs for women to enable them to become part of the economic growth. In Malawi, there is a high adult illiteracy level of 48% for women as compared to 24% for men, high girl dropout rates from formal schooling system, high vulnerability to HIV and AIDS infection. We are addressing these problems. My Government is also empowering women in the political, economic and social areas. In the past three years, there have been more women in Ministerial and other management positions than ever before. For example, women in Malawi now hold key positions of Attorney General, Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of Malawi; five full Cabinet Ministers; one Deputy Minister, Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission, Clerk of Parliament, several Ambassadors, Principal Secretaries and Chairpersons of Statutory Corporations.

MALAYSIA

H.E. The Honourable Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad BADAWI, Prime Minister

No Gender References

MALDIVES

H.E. Abdulla SHAHID, Minister of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

MALTA

H.E. The Honourable Mr. Lawrence GONZI, Prime Minister

We are concerned with the life and survival of those that do not have a voice to cry out against the injustices, underdevelopment, human rights violations, gender discrimination, poverty, child labour and environmental degradation.

MARSHALL ISLANDS

H.E. Mr. Kessai H. NOTE, President

No Gender References

MAURITANIA

H.E.Mr. Sidi Mohamed Ould Cheikh ABDELLAHI, President

In the same atmosphere of freedom and pluralism, municipal and legislative elections have made it possible to choose representatives of the people in municipal councils and the two houses of parliament. Special attention was given to Mauritanian women. In each of these elections, 20% of the contested seats were reserved for women. As a result, women are now more present than ever in the pyramid of legislative and executive powers, as well as in local administration, in diplomacy, and in local management.

MAURITIUS

H.E. Dr. The Honourable Navinchandra RAMGOOLAM, Prime Minister

We have enacted several legislations and we continue to enhance our legislative and institutional framework for further protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms. We have set up the National Human Rights Commission, the Sex Discrimination Division, the Office of the Ombudsperson for Children and the Human Rights Center to ensure and promote compliance with fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual and the international instruments on human rights.

MEXICO

H.E. Mr. Claude HELLER, Ambassador and Permanent Representative

No Gender References

MICRONESIA

H.E. Mr. Emanuel MORI, President

No Gender References

MOLDOVA

H.E. Mr. Andrei STRATAN, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Integration

No Gender References

MONACO

Prince Albert II, Prince

No Gender References

MONGOLIA

H.E. Mr. Enkhbold NYAMAA, Minister of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

MONTENEGRO

H.E. Mr. Zeljko STURANOVIC, Prime Minister

No Gender References

MOROCCO

H.E. Mr. Mohamed BENAÏSSA, Minister of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

MOZAMBIQUE

H.E. Mr. Armando Emílio GUEBUZA, President

No Gender References

MYANMAR

H.E. U NYAN Win, Minister of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

NAMIBIA

H.E. Mr. Marco HAUSIKU, MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

NAURU

H.E. Mr. Ludwig SCOTTY, President

No Gender References

NEPAL

H.E. Mrs. Sahana PRADHAN, Minister of Foreign Affairs

We support effective gender architecture in the United Nations and even stringer regional and country presence of UN on gender issues. Nepal accords high priority to promotion of women's right, gender equality and empowerment of women. A parliamentary declaration adopted on May 30, 2006 has provided for equal property and citizenship rights to women and their representation on at least one third of the elected bodies, including in the parliament.

NETHERLANDS

H.E. Mr. Jan Peter BALKENENDE, Prime Minister and Minister for General Affairs

No Gender References

NEW ZEALAND

H.E. Ms. Rosemary BANKS, Ambassador and Permanent Representative

We attach particular importance to working for a strengthened, coherent, gender architecture and toward effective gender mainstreaming across all UN entities.

New Zealand welcomes the completion of the United Nations Pacific-Based Development Agencies' Strategic Framework for the Pacific. We are keen to work closely with UN agencies to achieve positive outcomes for our Pacific partners in the areas of human rights, sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, child immunization and women's leadership.

NICARAGUA

H.E. Mr. Daniel Ortega SAAVEDRA, President

No Gender References

NIGER

H.E. Ms. Aichatou MINDAOUDOU

No Gender References

NIGERIA

H.E. Mr. Umaru YAR' ADUA, President

No Gender References

NORWAY

H.E. Mr. Jens STOLTENBERG, Prime Minister

In particular we are lagging behind in fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals on child and maternal health. Every year almost 10 million children die before the age of 5. Many lives can be saved by inexpensive and effective vaccines. And not only newborns but their mothers as well. Each year 500 000 women die in connection with childbirth.

We launch today an advocacy campaign for women and children to ensure that our message will reach every corner of the world.

I am pleased to announce that we are building a Network of Global Leaders to oversee and ensure that the women and children will indeed be given priority.

Today, let me also announce that Norway is pledging 1 billion US dollars over 10 years to support the Millennium Goals on child and maternal health.

The panel's report sets out a way forward. The UN has not broken down, but it requires maintenance. Therefore, the panel did not propose revolutionary changes. Rather, we put

forward some practical, achievable and effective measures, building on the thrust of decisions already made by Member States. A new gender architecture is urgently needed.

OMAN

H.E. Minister Sayyid Badr Bin Hamad ALBUSAIDI, Secretary General of the Foreign Ministry

No Gender References

PAKISTAN

H.E. Mr. Riaz Mohammad KHAN, Foreign Secretary and Leader of Pakistan Delegation

I wish to express our deep satisfaction and pride at the significant achievements of your predecessor Her Excellency Sheikha Haya Al-Rashid Al-Khalifa during her Presidency. Her stature and accomplishments symbolize the prominent role that women are playing in the Muslim world.

PALAU

H.E. Mr. Elias Camsek Chin, Vice-President

No Gender References

PALESTINE

H.E. Mr. Moumoud ABBAS, chairman of the Executive Committee of Palestinian Liberation Organization and President of the Palestinian Authority

No Gender References

PANAMA

H.E. Mr. Martin Torrijos ESPINO, President

No Gender References

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Grand Chief RT. Hon. Sir Michael Thomas SOMARE, GCL, GCMG, CH, CF, KStJ, Prime Minister

No Gender References

PARAGUAY

H.E. Mr. Nicanor Duarte FRUTOS, President

Paraguay recognizes the importance of the inclusion of gender as a theme in the agenda of the United Nations and the actual coordination between all the agencies and bodies of the system for the handling of the situation of the woman in the world, specifically in the

developing countries. With growing vigor we reject the existing inequalities between men and women, in the political, economic, social and cultural sectors.

Irrespective of the internal actions that we adopt in order to fight this discrimination, we consider the United Nations the most adequate forum to delineate programs that accompany the national policies aimed at advancing equality.

(Translated from Spanish by the Peacewomen staff)

PERU

H.E. Mr. Gonzalo Gutierrez REINEL, Vice Minister, Secretary-General of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

PHILIPPINES

H.E. Mrs. Gloria Macapagal ARROYO, President

This the time for Myanmar to return to the path of democracy and to release Daw Aung San Suu Kyi-now-and to involve all the parties including the National League for Democracy in the democratization and the constitutional process.

POLAND

H.E. Mr. Lech KACZYNSKI, President

No Gender References

PORTUGAL

H.E. Mr. José SOCRATES, Prime Minister

Furthermore, the EU values as an essential part of the development agenda the importance of gender equality and the empowerment of women. In this context, the EU looks forward to a strengthened gender entity and architecture, which is able to perform and deliver for women and girls at the normative, policy, and operational level.

QATAR

His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa AL-THANI, Amir

No Gender References

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

H.E. Mr. SONG Min-soon

My government has substantially increased its efforts to eliminate discrimination against vulnerable groups such as women, children and persons with disabilities. We have vigorously pushed for necessary legislation and the improvement of institutional frameworks to protect and promote the rights of such individuals.

ROMANIA

H.E. Mr. Adrian MIHAICIOROIANU, Minister of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

H.E. Mr. Sergey Viktorovich LAVROV, Minister of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

RWANDA

H.E. Mr Paul KAGAME, President

In the same context of the ongoing reforms, the proposal to restructure the gender portfolio is most welcome. We agree with the findings of the High-level Panel that the UN's contribution to gender issues have been incoherent, under-resourced and fragmented. The proposed reforms will assist in overcoming these shortcomings.

Today in the Great Lakes region, forces that committed genocide in Rwanda in 1994 continue their destructive operations. Almost fourteen years after their deeds in our country, they are still sowing mayhem in the region – they rape, murder, terrorize and plunder with impunity. Their leaders are active in Europe, America and Africa where they continue to promote the ideology of genocide. There can be no doubt that these terror groups constitute a threat to international peace and security.

SAMOA

H.E. The Honourable Tuila'epa Sailele MALIELEGAOI, Prime Minister

No Gender References

SAN MARINO

H.E. Mr. Fiorenzo Stolfi, Head of Government and Minister for Foreign and Political Affairs and Economic Planning

San Marino fully shares the commitment undertaken on a global scale to achieve the Millennium Goals and is ready to offer its own contribution and its collaboration to eradicate endemic problems, by fully recognizing the fundamental rights of the most vulnerable groups of society, such as the elderly, women, children and disabled people.

...my country has launched some awareness raising and effective intervention campaigns, such as the campaign on violence against women and in favour of children's rights.

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

H.E. Mr. Fradique Bandeira Melo de MENEZES

No Gender References

SENEGAL

H.E. Mr. Abdoulaye WADE, President

No Gender References

SERBIA

H.E. Mr. Boris TADIC, President

No Gender References

SEYCHELLES

H.E. Mr. Patrick Pillay, Minister of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

SIERRA LEONE

H.E. Professor Joe R. PEMAGBI, Ambassador and Permanent Representative

No Gender References

SINGAPORE

H.E. Mr. George YEO, Minister of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

SLOVAKIA

H.E. Mr. Ivan GASPAROVIC, President

No Gender References

SLOVENIA

H.E. Mr. Janez JANSKA, Prime Minister

No Gender References

SOLOMON ISLANDS

H.E. Patterson OTI, Minister of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

SOMALIA

H.E. Husein Elahe FAHIYE, Minister of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

SOUTH AFRICA

H.E. Mr. Thabo MBEKI, President

No Gender References

SPAIN

H.E. Sr. Don Miguel Angel Moratinos, Minister of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

SRI LANKA

H.E. Mr. Mahinda RAJAPAKSA, President

Sri Lanka's ancient civilization was rooted in the Buddhist principles of Metta and Ahmisa-Metta being loving kindness to all living beings and Ahmisa being a deep respect for life. Human rights have been an essential part of our great cultural tradition for millennia. It is therefore nothing new for us to protect human rights. Women in pre-colonial Sri Lanka enjoyed rights that are prescribed under CEDAW – including rights of property ownership and inheritance rights. It was certainly not an accident that Sri Lanka produced the first democratically elected woman Prime Minister in the world in 1960.

“Mahinda Chintana”, ten year development vision includes continuous qualitative upgrading of education and health programmes in all areas, livelihoods initiatives for low income groups, and broad social welfare programs covering poor and disadvantaged of society, and those specifically aimed and children and women.

ST KITTS AND NEVIS

H.E. Mr. Timothy HARRIS, Minister for Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

ST LUCIA

H.E. Mr. Stephenson KING, Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, External Affairs, Home Affairs and National Security

No Gender References

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

H.E. Dr. The Honourable Ralph E. GONSALVES, Prime Minister

No Gender References

SURINAME

H.E. Mrs. Lygia KRAAG-KETELDIJ, Minister of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

SWAZILAND

H.M. King MSWATI III, Head of State

No Gender References

SWEDEN

H.E. Mr. Anders LIDÉN, Ambassador and Permanent Representative

How can we ever achieve true progress of women's crucial role in peace building and development is not recognized? Gender equality and women's rights, participation, influence and empowerment are key goals in themselves and are also crucial for sustainable poverty reduction.

SWITZERLAND

H.E. Mrs. Micheline CALMY-REY, President

No Gender References

SUDAN

H.E. Dr. Lam Akol AJAWIN, Minister of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

H.E. Mr. Walid AL-MOUALEM, Minister for Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

TAJIKISTAN

H.E. Mr. Sirodjidin ASLOV, Ambassador and Permanent Representative

No Gender References

TANZANIA

H.E. Mr. Jakaya Mrisho KIKWETE

In this regard, we welcome the initiative mentored by the Norwegian Prime Minister Mr. Jens Stoltenberg to launch a global campaign to mobilize resources for achieving the MDG 4 on reducing infant mortality rates and MDG 5 on reducing maternal mortality rates. Tanzania supports the effort and we are happy to be associated with it.

THAILAND

H.E. General Surayud CHULANONT, Prime Minister

No Gender References

TMOR-LESTE

H.E. Mr. José RAMOS-HORTA, President

No Gender References

TOGO

H.E. Mr. Zarifou AYEVA, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Integration

No Gender References

TONGA

H.E. Sonatano T. Taumoepeau TUPOU, Minister of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

H.E. Mr. Philip SEALY, Ambassador and Permanent Representative

I wish also to take this opportunity to express Trinidad and Tobago's deep appreciation for the leadership of your predecessor in Office, Her Excellency Shaikha Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the first Arab woman to hold that lofty position.

TUNISIA

H.E. Mr. Abdelwaheb ABDALLAH, Minister of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

TURKEY

H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip ERDOGAN, Prime Minister

No Gender References

TURKMENISTAN

Mr. Gurbanguly BERDYMUKHAMMEDOV, President

No Gender References

TUVALU

H.E. The Honourable Tavau TEII, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Natural Resources

No Gender References

UGANDA

H.E. The Honourable Sam K. KUTESA, Minister for Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

UKRAINE

H.E. Mr. Volodymyr KHANDOGIY, First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

H.E. His Highness Sheikh Adbullah Bin Zayed Al NAHYAN, Minister of Foreign Affairs

In this context, I should make reference to the significant advances that have been made by the women of the United Arab Emirates, two of whom sit on the Council of Ministers while women hold around a quarter of the seats in the Federal National Council. They are also represented in the judiciary, with others being found in senior leadership positions throughout the decision-making process.

UNITED KINGDOM

H.E. Mr. David MILIBAND, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

No Gender References

UNITED STATES

H.E. Mr. George BUSH, president

Americans are outraged by the situation in Burma, where a military junta has imposed a 19-year reign of fear. Basic freedoms of speech, assembly, and worship are severely restricted. Ethnic minorities are persecuted. Forced child labor, human trafficking, and rape are common.

In all our education efforts, our nation is working to expand access for women and girls, so that the opportunity to get a decent education is open to all.

URUGUAY

H.E.Mr. Reinaldo GARGANO, Minister of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

UZBEKISTAN

H.E. Mr. Vladimir NOROV, Minister of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

VANUATU

H.E. George Andre WELLS, Minister of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

VENEZUELA

H.E. Mr. Nicolas Maduro MOROS, Minister of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

VIETNAM

H.E. Mr. Nguyen Tan DZUNG, Prime Minister

We hope that the United Nations will have more resources for development cooperation, with priority given to the implementation of program actions on poverty reduction, women's advancement, ?, population planning, and HIV/AIDS prevention.

YEMEN

H.E Mr. Abubakr Al-Qirbi, Minister of Foreign Affairs

No Gender References

ZAMBIA

H.E. Mr. Levy Patrick MWANAWASA, President

It was gratifying to have a lady preside over the highest office of the United Nations General Assembly after almost three decades of male dominance. I hope that this organ will not again take this long to have another excellent female president.

Our world today presents a lot of challenges. These include abject poverty [...] and gender equality.

ZIMBABWE

H.E. Mr. Robert MUGABE, President

No Gender References