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Бириккен Улуттар Уюмундагы
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**Statement by H.E. Mr. Kamil Baialinov
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations
at the
48th session of the
Commission on the Status of Women**

**New York
Thursday, 4 March 2004**

Madam Chair

Please allow me to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your election. Allow me also to assure you of our support.

Madam Chair

In January of this year we presented our country's second national report on the implementation of the CEDAW Convention before the Committee during its thirtieth session. We had a constructive and fruitful dialogue which took place between the delegation and the members of the Committee. And I would like to assure you that our government takes into consideration the recommendations of the Committee in order to make a full implementation of the CEDAW Convention. Also I would like to emphasize that our country as the State party to the Optional Protocol to the Convention is ready for full cooperation with the Committee and its Working Group on the effective implementation of the Optional Protocol.

Madam Chair

Two thematic issues under the consideration of the present session are very important contributions to the periodic follow-up to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the UN General Assembly. These thematic issues are as follows:

- Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building;

- The role of men and boys in achieving gender equality.

We have to recognize that the understanding as well as attention to women's role in the realization and maintenance of peace and of the linkages between the gender equality and peace have increased significantly in recent years. Women's equal participation in all aspects of the peace process and attention to gender issues in such a processes is an important focus of international action that shows the great improvement in people's understanding of different kinds of obstacles on the way towards the advancement and full participation of women in all spheres of our life. The vital importance of women's equal participation in all aspects of the peace process has led to the adoption by the Security Council of Resolution 1325 (2000) in October 2000. This resolution called upon all actors to adopt a gender perspective as one of the main approaches for conducting peace negotiations and implementing peace agreements and also to address the special needs of women and girls during repatriation, resettlement, rehabilitation, reintegration and post-conflict reconstruction.

Madam Chair

The Kyrgyz Republic fully supports the Security Council's call for measures to ensure the protection of and respect for women's human rights especially those related to the constitution, the electoral system, the police and the judiciary. The Council's new measures to support women's peace initiatives, including meeting with women's groups

and networks are also welcomed. The wider dissemination of the Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) among the actors in the peace process would be a concrete way of bringing women and gender perspective into the peace process.

Madam Chair

During this 48th Session, the Commission on the Status of Women for the first time focused specifically on the theme "The role of men and boys in achieving gender equality". In the Beijing Declaration (1995), Governments called upon men to participate fully in all actions involving gender equality and emphasized that equal sharing of responsibilities and an harmonious partnership between women and men was critical to their well-being and that of their families, as well as to the consolidation of democracy. Also we have to emphasize particularly that the Beijing Platform for Action stressed that gender equality could only be achieved when men and women worked together in partnerships. In order to guarantee gender equality, the Kyrgyz Republic has ratified more than 30 international human rights instruments. Strengthening of legislation and the national mechanism to improve the status of women are the main achievements in gender equality in Kyrgyz Republic. As an example I would like to draw attention to the Law on the Basics of State Guarantees of Gender equality adopted in 2003. Of course, this is not enough for bringing men and women to the goal of gender equality as there are a number of obstacles, including persistent gender stereotyping of professional and family responsibilities. It is widely recognized that men should play an important role in supporting gender equality including advocacy, alliances, campaigns and educational programs for young men. The following forces should be used to influence gender equality:

- Education system as a tool for positive learning about gender equality;
- Mass media and advertisements that target children and youth as a powerful tool in providing exposure to positive gender roles;
- Sport groups could also be an important venue for gender-sensitive education.

Men also have an important role in promoting women's economic rights and independence. Men and boys should be involved more widely in the fight against HIV/AIDS in light of the harmonious partnership between women and men.

Madam Chair

In closing, I would like to draw attention to our government's action, including the National Plan of Action for Achieving Gender Equality for the period 2002-2006 placed within the context of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action to be reviewed next year. I believe that the review of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the 23rd Special Session will demonstrate our progress in gender equality issues.

Also allow me to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Angela King, Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and the Advancement of women for the work she has done over the years.

Thank you Madam Chair