

Madam President,

I speak on behalf of the delegations of New Zealand, Australia and Canada.

All member states agreed in the Beijing Platform for Action that the United Nations should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes. This Council's agreed conclusions 1997/2 agreed conclusions on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the UN system established guiding principles for gender mainstreaming and remain an important framework for gender mainstreaming throughout the UN system. The UN's dual strategy approach to gender equality includes specific targeted policies, programmes and mechanisms for women and girls while at the same time mainstreaming a gender perspective into all its activities.

We welcome the review and appraisal undertaken this year as it is a much-needed opportunity to assess the success, as well as the remaining gaps and challenges, of the gender mainstreaming activities of UN programmes, departments, funds and agencies.

We are encouraged by the strong progress achieved over the years in the system-wide implementation of gender mainstreaming through the ongoing efforts of UN entities.

We particularly appreciate the work of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality to enhance capacities and promote coherence in gender mainstreaming throughout the UN system. We recognize that the Inter-Agency is an essential and active partner in the promotion and realization of gender equality. With its 60 members, representing 25 entities, as well as its multiple task forces, it accomplishes invaluable work.

Madam President, while the UN has made progress in this area, the goal of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policy and programmes of the UN system has yet to be achieved. The Secretary General has noted that further efforts are required to ensure the full implementation of the 1997/2 agreed conclusions. We are convinced that the significant gap between policy and practice will not be overcome without sustained commitment at the highest levels of the UN system.

This Council and its functional commissions have reiterated that gender equality is a goal in itself, as well as a condition for the effective pursuit of their other mandates.

The Security Council took a groundbreaking step with the adoption of resolution 1325. We encourage all actors to work toward its full implementation. Gender perspectives must be brought to bear on all peace negotiations and peace building initiatives, and throughout the mandates, policies and programmes of peace operations. We note also the critical role of gender specialists in carrying out the measures prescribed by 1325.

It is important to add in this regard that the responsibility to promote a gender perspective lies not just in the hands of women. The Commission on the Status of Women reminded us this year of the commitment we made in Beijing that that men must take joint responsibility with women for the promotion of gender equality. The Commission's agreed conclusions on the role of men and boys urged us to foster the involvement of men and boys in gender mainstreaming efforts in order to ensure improved design of all policies and programmes. This is especially important in those United Nations bodies and departments where the

majority of delegates and staff are still men, such as the Security Council, and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

Member States are also accountable for ensuring that our commitment to gender equality is reflected in our own activities at the UN. This includes the application of a gender perspective to the documents we address and negotiate throughout the year.

Member States are also accountable for ensuring that our commitment to gender equality is reflected in our own activities at the UN. This includes the application of a gender perspective to the documents we address and negotiate throughout the year.

Madam President, Our Governments are more committed than ever to the international consensus agreed to at Beijing in 1995. Progress towards the full implementation of the outcomes of the Fourth World Conference on Women is essential to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. We will strive to ensure that a gender perspective is reflected in the upcoming review of the Millennium Declaration in 2005.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge once again the tremendous contribution made by Angela King as Special Advisor to the Secretary General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women. We urge the speedy nomination of her successor.

Thank you.

Presented by Ambassador Gilbert Laurin, Permanent Mission of Canada to the UN, 2 July 2004