

GA59- References to Women and Gender in the 59th General Assembly

AFGHANISTAN

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/afgeng040921.pdf>

Mr. Hâmid Karzai, President of the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan
September 21, 2004

“Earlier this year, the Constitutional Loya Jirga adopted an enlightened Constitution, establishing a democratic Islamic republic. It guarantees equal rights and equal protection for every citizen – men and women. The vision of the Constitutional Loya Jirga is becoming a reality. About forty-two percent of the registered voters are women, and women will make up at least twenty five percent of our future parliament. Our Constitution also guarantees freedom of speech and the freedom of the press.”

“Our achievements have not come without a cost. During the elections for the Constitutional Loya Jirga, terrorists did everything to disrupt the process, including bombing an elementary school and killing over twenty children. During the registration for the elections, terrorists showed their desperation by intensifying their attacks. They bombed vehicles carrying women registration workers, killed civilians who carried registration cards, and bombed religious schools killing children. These attacks have not stopped our people from crossing one milestone after another.”

ARMENIA

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/armeng040929.pdf>

Mr. Vartan OSKANIAN, Minister for Foreign Affairs
September 29, 2004

“The Millennium Development Goals are guidelines for Armenia. To this end empowerment of women, child protection, fight against poverty are not just goals for us, but they are indeed building blocks for a prosperous, healthy, stable society. The Government of Armenia has approved national action plans for the Protection of the Rights of the Child, on Improving the Status of Women and Enhancing Their Role in Society, and for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons. In addition, a broad anti-corruption strategy, developed with the participation and counsel of the international community, will complement the Poverty Reduction Strategy Program that is already beginning to yield results.

AUSTRIA

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/auseng040923.pdf>

Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Minister for Foreign Affairs
September 23, 2004

“Security, as we see it, is human security. It is the kind of security all human beings are looking for: among them millions of civilians in all parts of the world affected by armed conflict, the majority of them women and children, and 40 million people living with the HIV virus. Human security transcends the concept of "hard threats" and "soft threats". If we see those threats through the prism of the human beings concerned it becomes clear that for the afflicted individual all of those threats – be they war or hunger, terrorism or deadly disease – deprive them of their security.”

“To work for Human Security requires us to work together to fight the scourge

of trafficking in human beings. We actively supported the elaboration of the UN protocol on trafficking in persons, which forms the legal basis for determined international action to punish traffickers and to protect victims. The efforts of UNODC's global programme on trafficking in human beings are highly commendable.”

“As a Member of the Human Security Network, we cooperate with others to promote human security in the world. As one concrete example, Austria - together with Slovenia and Jordan – initiated and funded an aid project for traumatized children in Iraq. I am convinced that applying a human security perspective to international problems has the potential of energizing political processes aimed at preventing or solving conflicts and promoting peace and development.”

AZERBAIJAN

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/azeeng040924.pdf>

Mr. Ilham Heydar oglu ALIYEV, President

September 24, 2004

“As we entered the new century, we have done our best to maintain the vital importance of international law, so that all countries may have count on this Organization in their hour of need and the United Nations in its turn could fulfill what the world expects from it. Some of our actions sought to protect millions of innocent people, especially women and children that still fall victims of brutal armed conflicts. Others endeavored to establish a more equitable world economy, where all countries must have equal chances for fair competition.”

BAHAMAS

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/baheng040930.pdf>

Frederick MITCHELL, MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Public Service

September 30, 2004

“As a part of this overall process of reflection, my delegation welcomes the high level reviews planned for 2005 of our commitments with respect to social development and the advancement of women. We must ensure that we undertake an unflinching examination of the progress made in achieving the priority goals of the Copenhagen Programme of Action and the Beijing Platform for Action to determine how far we have come, and what remains to be done. It is critical that the outcomes of the respective appraisals will acknowledge the gaps in implementation and allow States and the international community as a whole to move forward and achieve the timely and effective implementation of the commitments undertaken at Copenhagen, Beijing and beyond. We must also make certain that the results of our deliberations feed constructively and synergistically into the high-level event in September 2005, so as to ensure that no ground is left uncovered.”

BANGLADESH

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/baneng040923.pdf>

Mr. M. Morshed Khan, MP Minister for Foreign Affairs

September 23, 2004

“Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman laid the foundations of our national development in the late 1970s. His philosophy embraced reinforcing democracy with development. Our achievements are largely due to this pursuit. It reflected our commitment to human rights, good governance and the empowerment of the poor, especially women. Innovative ideas flowing from our own

intellectual resources were harnessed with the cooperation and support of our development partners and the UN system. Our efforts were backed by a free press and a vibrant civil society. The outcome was positive. It was to invoke what the World Bank described as a 'silent revolution.' We are aware, that much more remains to be done. However, our commitment to improving visibly the quality of life of our people remains uncompromising.”

“Education has remained a major thrust of our government's policy. Our school enrolment rates are among the highest in the developing world, particularly for girls. Free schooling for girl children, gender mainstreaming, and empowerment of women have helped create a vibrant and progressive society.”

CAMBODIA

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/cambeng040927.pdf>

Mr. HOR Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of State, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

September 27, 2004

“Late last year, the Royal Government of Cambodia released a report of the Cambodia Millennium Development Goals, with priorities on education, health care, rural development, agriculture, gender equality, and the environment. Cambodia is fully committed to implement the Cambodian MDGs, which are the cornerstone of Cambodia's development policy. The ultimate goal of the Royal Government of Cambodia is to ensure that, by 2015, improvements will be achieved in these sectors of life, poverty, and prevalence of HIV/AIDS will be reduced.”

CANADA

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/caneng040922.pdf>

The Right Honourable Paul Martin, Prime Minister of Canada

September 22, 2004

“Herein lies the importance of the United Nations. It comprises member states, but its mission is indeed to serve the world's peoples. Its charter makes this very clear: and I quote: "we, the peoples of the United Nations (are) determined to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women".”

“The Security Council has been bogged down in debating the issue. They have looked at whether Darfur is a "threat to international peace and security". They are considering whether the tragedy qualifies as genocide, because either could provide justification in international law for intervention. The fact is though that while the international community struggles with definitions, the people of Darfur continue to suffer. They are hungry, they are homeless, they are sick and many have been driven out of their own country. Tens of thousands have been murdered, raped and assaulted. War crimes and crimes against humanity are being committed.”

“Since the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, humanity has made remarkable strides in the area of human rights. Conventions are now in place to protect a number of rights: civil, political, economic, social and cultural. But we must remain vigilant in the face of new forms of abuse, such as international trafficking of people and the child sex trade.”

CROATIA

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/croeng040922.pdf>

Mr. Ivo Sanader, Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia

September 22, 2004

“In an effort to promote and protect the human rights of all people, Croatia is devoting special attention to the human rights of members of national minorities as well as of women, children, refugees and disabled persons.”

DENMARK

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/deneng040923.pdf>

Dr. Per Stig Møller, Minister for Foreign Affairs

September 23, 2004

“The UN has been instrumental in establishing the core international Human Rights conventions. This year we are celebrating the 25 th anniversary of one of these conventions – the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. The importance of the elimination of discrimination and the respect for the right of women to decide freely over their own life -including in matters relating to marriage, reproductive health, and HIV/AIDS -is self evident. This main message of the Cairo Programme of Action, adopted 10 years ago, is as relevant today as ever.”

DIJIBOUTI

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/djieng040922.pdf>

Mr. Ismail Omar Guelleh, President of the Republic of Djibouti

September 22, 2004

“This Conference has culminated in a Somali Transitional Parliament, in which all the factions and various components of the Somali civil society are represented, such as the intellectuals, professionals, women... etc).”

“Djibouti seeks to improve its private sector development by reducing the cost of doing business, improving its labor force through investments in education, health and social protection, and eliminating gender disparities.”

DOMINICA

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/domeng040924.pdf>

Mr. Roosevelt SKERRIT, Prime Minister

September 24, 2004

“Every cent spent on addressing this threat is a cent taken from our campaign to sustain the fight against trafficking in narcotic drugs and human beings, the pandemic of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases, and degradation of our common environment. Water security, food security, energy security, and health security are other important goals that stand to suffer if additional resources are not found to pursue them. Conflicts in various parts of the world are consuming scarce resources critically needed for development and poverty alleviation.”

GAMBIA

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/gam040923.pdf>

Al Hadji Yahya Jammeh, President of the Republic of the Gambia

September 23, 2004

“We have registered major successes in other areas as well. We have greatly strengthened our democratic governance structures, institutions and practices. The Constitution promulgated in 1996 widened the guarantees of human rights to encompass the rights of women, children and the disabled. It established, for the first time, an Independent Electoral Commission which has since, functioned efficiently and effectively in conducting elections at the national as well as the local levels in a free and fair manner. It set up a functioning Office of the Ombudsman and a National Civic Education Council. And we have adhered to its provisions in advancing the process of decentralization.”

GHANA

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/ghaeng040923.pdf>

Alhaji Aliu Mahama, Vice-President of the Republic of Ghana

September 23, 2004

“Mr. President, Ghana attaches great importance to the empowerment of women to make them equal partners in the formulation and implementation of development policies. Since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, gender equality has been an essential element of Ghana's efforts to attain sustainable development. The active involvement of women in political processes and decision-making at all levels and in all sectors is being vigorously pursued. Impediments such as discrimination and violence against women are being dealt with through education, advocacy and legislation

GREECE

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/greeng040923.pdf>

Mr. Petros Molyviatis, Minister for Foreign Affairs

September 23, 2004

“In this fight, we must prevail. Besides the scourge of terrorism, however, there are many more challenges and grave problems that afflict humanity. Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, human trafficking, organized crime, failing states, environmental catastrophes, social and economic crises, pandemics, large scale humanitarian disasters, hunger and poverty, constitute the core problems we have to face in solidarity regardless of geography, culture or religion.”

GUATEMALA

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/guaeng040922.pdf>

Mr. Oscar Berger Perdomo, President of the Republic of Guatemala

September 22, 2004

“The fight against common crime, juvenile gangs and organized crime, with special emphasis on combating drug trafficking, terrorism, smuggling, money laundering, human trafficking and unlawful trafficking in arms, all of which are a huge challenge that cannot be met without the support of the international community.”

IRELAND

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/ireeng040923.pdf>

Mr. Brian Cowen, Minister for Foreign Affairs

September 23, 2004

“Whatever political difficulties may have arisen in Darfur, the people of Darfur did not deserve to suffer massacre, rape and famine, or to see their villages and crops destroyed and their livestock driven off. When the depredations of the ruthless militias were unleashed upon them, they looked in vain for the even-handed protection of their government.”

JORDAN

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/joreng040927.pdf>

H.E. Mr. Marwan MUASHER, Minister for Foreign Affairs

September 27, 2004

“Jordan believes that for reform to be truly meaningful, it has first and foremost to emanate from within the society and to be sensitive to the peculiar parameters and needs of each country. Accordingly, we in Jordan sought to develop an integrated agenda that addresses the primary issues of concern to the common person in the entire country. These include: broader political involvement and personal freedoms, wider roles for women and youth, more efficient judiciary system, educational reform, achieving a steady economic growth with a view to improving the living conditions of all individuals towards the evolution of a more progressive, open and tolerant society.”

KENYA

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/keneng040927.pdf>

The Honourable Chirau Ali MWAKWERE, MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs

September 27, 2004

“For long-term economic stability and development, the Government has embarked on an Economic Recovery Strategy for Wealth and Employment Creation aimed at revitalizing the economy and enhancing the welfare of our people. Other measures have been taken to improve the well-being of the Kenyan people. These include improvement and promotion of the welfare of children through free and compulsory primary education and the recognition of the central role played by women in development.”

LATVIA

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/lateng040922.pdf>

Mrs. Vaira Vike-Freiberga, President of the Republic of Latvia

September 22, 2004

“Ten years after the human catastrophe in Rwanda, we are again confronted with the systematic rape, torture and killing of civilians in the Darfur region of Sudan. These have occurred on such a wide scale that they might be classifiable as ethnic cleansing and genocide.

LEBANON

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/lebeng040922.pdf>

Mr. Issam Fares, Deputy Prime Minister of Lebanon

September 22, 2004

“Democracy will neither rise nor long endure without civic organizations — Political parties, syndicates, clubs, women's organizations, and associations of all types. These are the cornerstones of the democratic system”

LESOTHO

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/leseng040923.pdf>

The Right Honourable Pakalitha Bethuel Mosisili, Prime Minister and Minister for Defence and Public Service of the Kingdom of

September 23, 2004

“Mr. President, perhaps we have to recall that, four years ago, we were gathered in this very hall with hope for and anticipation of a better life for all humankind in the twenty-first century, as we adopted the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals. We set time-bound and measurable goals for combating, inter alia, poverty, hunger, disease, the spread of HIV and AIDS, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women.”

LITHUANIA

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/liteng040922.pdf>

Mr. Valdas Adamkus, President of the Republic of Lithuania

September 22, 2004

“No less universal and consistent must be our efforts to reduce poverty and hunger, to diminish disparities between and within nations, to improve the condition of living for women and children, and to offer a hope of a dignified living to ever larger segments of world population, as pledged in the Millennium Declaration.”

MALDIVES

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/mald040930.pdf>

Mr. Fathulla JAMEEL, Minister for Foreign Affairs

September 30, 2004

“Global challenges that we face today are numerous. While goals are set and programmes launched for eradicating poverty; achieving universal primary education; promoting gender equality; reducing child mortality; fighting HIV/AIDS and protecting the environment, hundreds of innocent lives are lost every day as a result of conflict and civil war.”

“The Arab Summit constituted a historic occasion during which the Arab States reaffirmed that finding just solutions to the fundamental problems of the region, which have adversely affected world peace and security, would reinforce in its peoples the feelings of security and peace, enhance its process of development, modernization and the consolidation of the principles of human rights and democracy, and foster women's role and status in society, in conformity with each country's cultural peculiarities, conditions and capacities, and based on its free will and its commitment to common universal values.”

MONACO

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/moneng040923.pdf>

Prince Albert, Crown Prince of the Principality of Monaco

September 23, 2004

“In this fight, the role of women is crucial. In my country, Her Serene Highness Princess Stephanie, My Sister, presides over the Association "Fight AIDS Monaco" that provides moral and material support to AIDS patients and their families and promotes information and prevention programs.”

MOZAMBIQUE

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/mozeng040921.pdf>

Mr. Joaquim Alberto Chissano, President of the Republic of Mozambique

September 21, 2004

“As a result of sound economic and social policies and an enabling political environment we have been able to record some encouraging progress. Absolute poverty levels decreased from 69.4 per cent in 1997 to 54.1 per cent in 2003. The illiteracy rate fell from 60.5 per cent to 53.6 per cent and women illiteracy rate went down from 74.1 per cent to 68 per cent in the same period. Today, 91.7 per cent of our children have access to primary education, 54 per cent of the population have access to health care, against 74.9 per cent and 40.1 per cent in 1997 respectively. From 1997 to 2003, the real average GDP growth was 8 per cent.”

NAMIBIA

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/nameng040922.pdf>

Mr. Sam Nujoma, President of the Republic of Namibia

September 22, 2004

“UN Member States collectively pledged, among others, and by 2015, to:

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Achieve universal primary education
- Promote gender equality and empower women
- Reduce child mortality and improve maternal health
- Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases

- Ensure environmental sustainability
- Develop global partnership for sustainable development

By endorsing these development goals and targets, our Governments have made a serious and irrevocable commitment, through reliable public policy interventions, to care for millions of our children all over the world, who are asking for nothing more than love, protection and a peaceful childhood.”

“At the beginning of my statement, I referred to the launch of the African Union and NEPAD and Africa's resolve to pursue a new beginning. I now want to add another crucial dimension of gender equality and empowerment of women in decision-making, resource mobilisation and election to decision-making institutions and structures nationally, regionally and internationally.”

“Recognition and full participation of women in decision-making are fundamental to Africa's

transformation and industrialisation. With that in mind, we proudly acknowledge the election of Mrs Gertrude Mongela of Tanzania, who became the first President of the Pan-African Parliament. There is no shortage of competent and experienced African women to lead the way forward. The African Union Commission is made up of female Commissioners from various African countries. Africa must place high on the agenda the involvement and support of women as leaders and role-models.”

“We have advocated for such a system that will bring the poor and the rich of the world together to save lives of millions and pursue sustainable development and human security as our common calling.

...The United Nations is the ideal place where solutions should be found through multilateral negotiations and compromise. The Secretary-General needs unwavering support from all member States to play an effective role in the Middle East, Africa and in other conflict situations around the world. Whether fighting poverty, HIV/AIDS or terrorism, the international community must act as one. We must stop the looming catastrophe and suffering. Instead, we must promote human security and prosperity for all.”

“Poverty, education, healthcare, unemployment, HIV/AIDS, skills development, empowerment of women, protection of children and assistance to people with disabilities, are among the urgent national priorities covered in those people-centred Government interventions.”

NEW ZEALAND

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/nzeng040921.pdf>

The Honourable Phil Goff, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade
September 21, 2004

“The Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty concluded two and a half years ago that sovereign states have a responsibility to protect their own citizens from avoidable catastrophe – from mass murder and rape, from starvation. When they are unwilling or able to do so, that responsibility must be borne by the broader community of nations.”

PAKISTAN

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/pakeng040922.pdf>

General Pervez Musharraf, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
September 22, 2004

“In Pakistan, we are well on the way to transforming our country into a modern, progressive, tolerant, democratic, Islamic state, reflecting the vision of our founding father, the Quaid-e-Azam. Democracy has been restored in Pakistan. The people have been empowered through a revolutionary Local Government System. Our women have been empowered. However, like other developing countries, Pakistan confronts several challenges. But, we are confident of success. Our governance is good. Our national priorities are clear.”

PERU

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/pereng040922.pdf>

Mr. Alejandro Toledo Manrique, President of the Republic of Peru

September 22, 2004

“Many poor states are affected by domestic and external violence. Non-state actors, such as terrorist organizations and traffickers of drugs, weapons and people are emerging, acquiring a devastating global power.”

PORTUGAL

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/poreng040922.pdf>

Mr. Pedro Miguel de Santana Lopes, Prime Minister of the Portuguese Republic

September 22, 2004

"We the peoples of the United Nations" believe in the dignity and the value of the human being, in fundamental freedoms and in the equality between men and women. We defend the primacy of International Law and tolerance in the relations between peoples.”

“But one should also stress the attention the United Nations has given to those who are vulnerable, to children, to those who are disabled, and to the promotion of gender equality. For this Organization, Humankind is not an abstract entity. The dialogue between cultures, civilizations and religions, which Portugal upholds, is an inherent part of the daily work of the United Nations.”

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/skiteng040928.pdf>

Timothy HARRIS, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Education

September 28, 2004

“It is easy to become excited when I speak of our efforts in addressing the issue of women in development, but we will never let down our guard. In St. Kitts and Nevis, we have recognized and benefited from gender equality and the empowerment of women. It may be recalled that St. Kitts and Nevis was among the first in this hemisphere to create a Ministry of Women's Affairs.”

SAMOA

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/sameng040924.pdf>

Tuila Sailele Maliekegaoi, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade

September 24, 2004

“Besides terrorism, other scourges to world peace and the stability of our nations persist. The threat of weapons of mass destruction, poverty and hunger, environmental degradation, trafficking and smuggling of human beings, HIV/AIDs, malaria and tuberculosis are becoming perennial major threats to global security.”

SAN MARINO

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/sanmeng040928.pdf>

Mr. Fabio BERARDI, Minister for Foreign and Political Affairs

September 28, 2004

“The recent signature and ratification by San Marino of the UN Convention on Eliminating All Form of Discrimination against Women has been followed by a Law granting full gender equality in the transmission of San Marino citizenship to children. Moreover, the Government has subsequently established for the first time in history a Ministry for Equal Opportunities.”

SINGAPORE

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/sineng040924.pdf>

Mr. George Yeo, Minister for Foreign Affairs

September 24, 2004

“What we need profoundly is a respect for plurality in the world, one that is built on a common substrate which defines us as civilized human beings in the 21st century. In the 19th century, slavery was abolished. In the 20th century, gender equality became the norm. In this century, we must add more layers to what we share in common. Upon this shared substrate, however, we must not only accept diversity, we should encourage it. Indeed, like biological diversity, it is essential for human progress that there should be cultural and political diversity in the world. Without diversity, our ability to respond to new challenges will be weakened.”

SOUTH AFRICA

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/soueng040922.pdf>

Mr. Thabo Mbeki, President of the Republic of South Africa

September 22, 2004

“The other is that next year we will mark the 10th anniversaries of the Copenhagen Social Summit and the Beijing Women's Summit, and discuss their outcomes.”

“...We will also agree that we took all these initiatives, the convening of the Social, Women's and Millennium Summits, and the constitution of the High Level Panel, because we were of one mind that we had a number of problems that needed to be solved.”

“To this we added the commitment that, “We will spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty... We are committed to making the right to development a reality for everyone and to freeing the entire human race from want.”

“They have correctly drawn our attention to the violent conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, the Sudan, Palestine, Israel, Iraq, Afghanistan, Chechnya, Abkhazia, South Ossetia and elsewhere, and other unsolved problems such as self-determination for the people of Western Sahara, that cry out for a solution.”

SPAIN

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/spaeng040921.pdf>

Mr. José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Spain

September 21, 2004

“Peace and security will only spread over the world with the strength of international legality, with the strength of human rights, with the strength of democracy, of abidance by the law. With the strength of equality: equality between women and men, equal opportunities, no matter where people are born. With the strength of our rejection against those who manipulate or want to impose any kind of religion or belief. With the strength of education and culture: culture is always peace; let us ensure that our perception of others is coloured with respect. With the strength of dialogue among peoples.”

“To ensure peace, security and hope all over the world, international instruments for the promotion and protection of human rights need to be strengthened and effectively implemented. This is one of the basic pillars of our foreign policy. Our objectives are the signing and ratification of the optional protocol to the Convention against Torture; the universal abolition of the death penalty; the fight against discrimination of women and gender violence; an end to discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation; the protection of children and the fight against exploitation and abuse suffered by children; the strict observance of human rights in the fight against terrorism and crime.”

SWEDEN

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/sweeng040921.pdf>

Mr. Göran Persson, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Sweden

September 21, 2004

“Four years ago, the resolution 1325 on women, peace and security was passed. It was a groundbreaking achievement. But now we need to do more to translate the common objectives into concrete improvements for women around the world.”

TUNISIA

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/tuneng040928.pdf>

Mr. Habib BEN YAHIA, Minister for Foreign Affairs

September 28, 2004

“The Arab Summit constituted a historic occasion during which the Arab States reaffirmed that finding just solutions to the fundamental problems of the region, which have adversely affected world peace and security, would reinforce in its peoples the feelings of security and peace, enhance its process of development, modernization and the consolidation of the principles of human rights and democracy, and foster women's role and status in society, in conformity with each country's cultural peculiarities, conditions and capacities, and based on its free will and its commitment to common universal values.”

UKRAINE

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/ukreng040927.pdf>

H.E. Mr. Kostyantyn GRYSHCENKO, Minister for Foreign Affairs

September 27, 2004

“Another pressing problem is trafficking in persons, especially in women and children. Ukraine spares no effort to address it.

This year Ukraine has become a party to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and to its two optional protocols. However, tackling these issues requires a comprehensive approach and close cooperation of the international community. We need to create a truly functioning and efficient mechanism to combine the efforts of the countries of origin, transit and destination. Effective strategies to combat human trafficking should be based on both -law enforcement measures and improvement of economic and social conditions of potential victims. Ukraine welcomes the appointment of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children, and stands ready to render every support in implementing respective mandates.”

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/taneng040921.pdf>

Mr. Benjamin William Mkapa, President of the United Republic of Tanzania

September 21, 2004

“When both rich and poor countries meet their obligations, tangible progress is realised. My country is an example. Our Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP), for instance, has recorded remarkable progress. We now expect to attain the education goal in 2006. Gender parity has been attained, and the Net Enrolment Ratio is already 90.1 per cent. Pass rates have doubled over the last 4 years. This was made possible by increased budgetary allocation to the sector, debt relief, increased aid channelled through our own budget, and local ownership and participation. We are grateful for the cooperation we have received from our development partners. Together we have shown what can be done where there is political will.”

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/statements/usaeng040921.pdf>

Mr. George W. Bush, President of the United States of America

September 21, 2004

“Declaration of Human Rights proclaim the equal value and dignity of every human life. That dignity is honored by the rule of law ...limits on the power of the state ...respect for women ...protection of private property ...free speech ...equal justice ...and religious tolerance.”

“Because we believe in human dignity, America and many nations have joined together to confront the evil of trafficking in human beings. We are supporting organizations that rescue the victims, passing stronger anti-trafficking laws, and warning travelers that they will be held to account for supporting this modern form of slavery. Women and children should never be exploited for pleasure or greed, anywhere on earth.”

“Because we believe in human dignity, peaceful nations must stand for the advance of

democracy. No other system of government has done more to protect minorities, to secure the rights of labor; to raise the status of women, or to channel human energy to the pursuits of peace. We have witnessed the rise of democratic governments in predominantly Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, Jewish, and Christian cultures.”

“They have adopted a constitution that protects the rights of all, while honoring their nation’s most cherished traditions. More than ten million Afghan citizens ...over four million of them women ...are now registered to vote in next month’s presidential election.”

“The United Nations and my country share the deepest commitments. Both the American Declaration of Independence and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaim the equal value and dignity of every human life. That dignity is honored by the rule of law ...limits on the power of the state ...respect for women ...protection of private property ...free speech ...equal justice ...and religious tolerance.”