

## **GENDER INDEX**

### **General Debate of the 61st Session of the General Assembly, September 19 - 29, 2006**

<b>Statements- Statistics</b>
166 states in total
80 mentioned women*

\*Statistics are based on the statements that were available in English. Statements that were not available in English have not been taken in consideration.

#### **OPENING SESSION**

##### **UNITED NATIONS Secretary-General**

*H.E. Mr. Kofi A. ANNAN, Secretary-General*

When I first spoke to you from this podium, in 1997, it seemed to me that humanity faced three great challenges.

One was to ensure that globalization would benefit the human race as a whole, not only its more fortunate members. Another was to heal the disorder of the post-cold-war world, replacing it with a genuinely new world order of peace and freedom, as envisaged in our Charter.

And the third was to protect the rights and dignity of individuals, particularly women, which were so widely trampled underfoot.

[...] Sadly, once again the biggest challenge comes from Africa – from Darfur, where the continued spectacle of men, women and children driven from their homes by murder, rape and the burning of their villages makes a mockery of our claim, as an international community, to shield people from the worst abuses.

##### **PRESIDENT OF THE 61st GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*H.E. Mrs. Sheikha Haya Rashed AL KALIFA*

No Gender References

#### **CLOSING STATEMENT**

##### **PRESIDENT OF THE 61st GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*H.E. Mrs. Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa*

Other fundamental global challenges that you raised include environmental degradation and climate change, HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases, gender equality and education for all.

## **COUNTRIES**

### **AFGHANISTAN**

*H.E. Mr Hamid KARZAI, President*

Terrorists are prepared to cross any boundaries, commit horiffic acts of violence to derail Afghanistan from its path of success; they want the international community to fail in its collective endeavour to help Afghanistan rebuild. That is why they decapitate elderly women, blow up mosques full of worshippers and kill school going children in indiscriminate bombings of civilian areas.

### **ALBANIA**

*H.E. Mr. Alfred MOISIU, President*

No Gender References

### **ALGERIA**

*H.E. Mr. Mohamed BEDJAOUI, Minister of State, Minister for Foreign Affairs*

Your election at unanimity to the presidency of the General Assembly of the United Nations is, to all evidence, more than a honoring well deserved for your professional and human qualities. [...] But it is also a fair recognition of the ineluctable promotion of the Arab and Muslim woman, as well as, of all women on the stage of history.

(Translated from French by the Peacewomen staff)

### **ANDORRA**

*H.E. Mr. Albert PINTAT, Head of Government*

No Gender References

### **ANGOLA**

*H.E. Dr. João Bernardo de MIRANDA, Minister of External Affairs*

No Gender References

### **ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

*H.E. The Honourable Justin L. SIMON QC, Attorney-General and Minister of Legal Affairs*

No Gender References

### **ARGENTINA**

*H.E. Mr. Néstor Carlos KIRCHNER, President*

Mme. President of the General Assembly, Haya Rashed Al Califa, I would like to congratulate you on your election as President of this General Assembly, since I believe it is very significant for a woman to have taken this role, in order to foster gender equality, a goal

both of my Government and of the United Nations.

**ARMENIA**

*H.E. Mr. Vartan OSKANIAN, Minister of Foreign Affairs*

No Gender References

**AUSTRALIA**

*H.E. The Honorable Alexander DOWNER MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs*

No Gender References

**AUSTRIA**

*Her Excellency Ms. Ursula PLASSNIK, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs*

In 61 years of United Nations you are [H.E. Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa is] only the third woman to preside over the General Assembly, and the first woman to do so coming from the Arab World. While congratulating you personally on being elected to this high position Austria also regards your election as a signal to all women in the world: the time has come to take their rightful place in all spheres of public life. We are called upon to engage politically at all levels, from the community level to the United Nations. The voices of women need to be heard more clearly in the work of the United Nations. Women know what holds families, communities and societies together. This age old knowledge in all its modern variety and colour should not be left untapped, in particular in peace processes. In UN missions, at the negotiation table, in decision making processes, and and not only as voices in the background. During her presidency of the European Union, Austria in her recruitment strategy, consistently aimed at deploying women in EU peace missions.

**AZERBAIJAN**

*H.E. Mr. Elmar MAMMADYAROV, Minister for Foreign Affairs*

No Gender References

**BAHAMAS**

*H.E. The Honourable Frederick MITCHELL, MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs and The Public Service*

The Bahamas renews its commitment to the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) and in particular our commitment to universal education, fighting HIV/Aids, equality for women and cutting poverty in half by 2015.

**BAHRAIN**

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

The election of Shaikha Haya as President of the General Assembly is an honour for the Kingdom of Bahrain, she being the third woman in the history of this International organization, and the first Arba and Muslim woman, to hold this prominent position. This election confirms the significant achievements of Arab and Muslim women and the progress

they have made in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The national gains multiplied and the people's participation in the political, economic and social fields has been enhanced. This has been reflected in the following areas: [...] - Enhancement of the role of women in society to assume leadership positions in the Kingdom, including the judiciary. In addition, a programme to empower women, overseen by the Supreme Council of Women, has been initiated. - Engaging and forging partnership with Non-Governmental Organizations as was evident in the Forum for the Future, hosted by the Kingdom of Bahrain last November. During the Forum, NGOs worked side-by-side with governments to discuss issues concerning human rights, fighting corruption, the rule of law and the empowerment of women. [...]

## **BANGLADESH**

*H.E. The Honorable Mr. M. Morshed KHAN, MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs*

Keeping our commitment to the Millenium Declaration, we have already achieved two MDGs by ensuring access to safe drinking water and removing gender disparity in primary and secondary education.

Apart from these, Bangladesh has achieved remarkable success in reduction of child and maternal mortality and malnutrition and in improving food security.

## **BARBADOS**

*H.E. The Honourable Dame Billie MILLER, Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade*

It is my pleasure to join with the preceding speakers in congratulating you on your election to preside over the sixty-first session of the UN General Assembly. My sentiments are doubly pleasurable, for in sixty-one years you are only the third female President of the Assembly. Throughout your distinguished career, you have championed with much determination and courage the cause of women's rights and I am confident and courage the cause of women's rights and I am confident that you will bring these and other outstanding qualities to your presidency.

## **BELARUS**

*H.E. Mr. Sergei MARTYNOV, Minister for Foreign Affairs*

Five years which have passed since 11 september 2001 proved with a painful clarity that ideology and practice of crusades do not bring peace and democracy. They lead to the devastation of states, the destruction of a fabric of life of entire nations, death of children, women, innocent civilians.

Please support the establishment on a system-based approach of a Global Partnership Against Slavery and trafficking in Human Beings. Who else than the UN should care about dozens, hundreds and perhaps millions of victims of modern slavery, above all women and children? [...]

## **BELGIUM**

*H.E. Mr. Karel DE GUCHT, Minister for Foreign Affairs*

No Gender References

**BELIZE**

*H.E. The Honourable Mr. Eamon COURTENAY, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade*

No Gender References

**BENIN**

*H.E. Mr. Boni YAYI, President*

English translation not available

**BHUTAN**

*H.E. Lyonpo Khandu WANGCHUK, Prime Minister and Leader of the Bhutanese Delegation*

No Gender References

**BOLIVIA**

*H.E. Mr. Evo Morales AIMA, President*

Statement is not available

**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

*H.E. Mr. Adnan TERZIC, Chairman of the Council of Ministers*

No Gender References

**BOTSWANA**

*H.E. The Honourable Lieutenant General Mompoti S. MERAFHE, MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and Head of the Delegation*

No Gender References

**BRAZIL**

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

The effectiveness of the United Nations is been seriously questioned. Unable to act when needed, the Security Council is accused of being morose. World public opinion is impatient in the face of such incomprehensible difficulties. Deaths of innocent civilians, including women and children, are a shock to all of us.

**BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

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

No Gender References

## **BULGARIA**

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

I would like to make a note of the fact that Bulgaria, yesterday ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention against Corruption.

(Translated from French by the Peacewomen staff)

## **BURKINA FASO**

*H.E. Mr. Youssouf OUÉDRAOGO, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation*

No Gender References

## **BURUNDI**

*H.E. Mr. Pierre NKURUNZIZA, President*

The program of the government of Burundi has inscribed the promotion of women's rights and gender equality as one of its priorities. We pressingly call for the United Nations to pay particular attention to this matter during the process of reforming the United Nations. The government would like to plead for a specific structure which in its nature would propel women out of their poverty to achieve true equality.

(Translated from French by the Peacewomen staff)

## **CAMBODIA**

*H.E. Mr. HOR Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation*

No Gender References

## **CAMEROON**

*H.E. Mr. Martin BELINGA EBOUTOU, Ambassador and Permanent Representative*

No Gender References

## **CANADA**

*H.E. The Right Honourable Stephen HARPER, Prime Minister*

That is why Canada is engaged in work like the rebuilding of girls' schools, ripped down and destroyed by the Taliban in their frenzy of hate.

More than one-quarter of the seats in Afghanistan's Legislature are now held by women – remarkable in a nation where a few short years ago girls could not attend school and women

had no human rights of any kind.

## **CAPE VERDE**

*H.E. Mrs. Maria de Fatima LIMA DA VEIGA, Ambassador and Permanent Representative*

English translation not available

## **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**

*H.E. Mr. Côme ZOUMARA, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and la Francophonie*

The recent Conference on Aids that was held here at the headquarters of the United Nations at the beginning of the month of June 2006 underlined the worrying characteristic of this calamity at the heart of the most vulnerable population which are women and children.

Despite the alleged delays in the implementation of the millennium development goals, the Centralafrican Government is firmly decided to reach them, especially the issues concerning the objectives 3 and 4, that relate to, respectively, the promotion of gender equality and the reduction of mortality of children under the age of five. Indeed considerable progress have been noted in the area of vaccine protection, and the freed distribution of impregnated mosquito nets to pregnant women and children under the age of five.

## **CHAD**

*H.E. Mr. Ahmad ALLAM-MI, Minister for Foreign Affairs, African Integration and International Cooperation*

No Gender References

## **CHILE**

*H.E. Mrs. Michelle BACHELET JERIA, President*

I come before this United Nations General Assembly as the first woman to be elected President of Chile.

## **CHINA**

*H.E. Mr. Li ZHAOXING, Minister of Foreign Affairs*

The Council should continue to give special attention to the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities, migrant workers, ethnic minorities and other vulnerable groups to ensure they enjoy the same level of respect as others.

## **COLOMBIA**

*H.E. Mr. Alvaro URIBE VÉLEZ, President*

No Gender References

**COMOROS**

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

What can be said on the situation in Palestine where the same situations perdure with its large numbers of martyrs, children and women victims of blind bombs.

(Translated from French by the Peacewomen staff)

**CONGO**

*H.E. Mr. Denis SASSOU NGUESSO, President*

No Gender References

**COSTA RICA**

*H.E. Mr. Óscar Arias SANCHEZ, President*

I can say to you that in my homeland, none of our citizens, man or woman, knows oppression, and that there is not a single Costa Rican that lives in exile. I can say to you today that mine is a nation of liberty.

**COTE D'IVOIRE**

*H.E. Mr. Youssouf BAKAYOKO, Minister for Foreign Affairs*

No Gender References

**CROATIA**

*H.E. Mr. Ivo SANADER, Prime Minister*

No Gender References

**CUBA**

*H.E. Mr. Esteban LAZO HERNANDEZ, Vice-President*

No Gender References

**CYPRUS**

*H.E. Mr. Tassos PAPADOPOULOS, President*

No Gender References

**CZECH REPUBLIC**

*H.E. Mr. Alexandr VONDRA, Minister for Foreign Affairs*



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, Chairman of the Delegation*

No Gender References

**DENMARK**

*H.E. Dr. Per Stig MØLLER, Minister for Foreign Affairs*

No Gender References

**DJIBOUTI**

*H.E. Mr. Ismail Omar GUELLEH, President*

Statement is not available

**DOMINICA**

*H.E. The Honourable Mr. Charles A. SAVARIN, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Labour*

No Gender References

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

*H.E. Mr. Leonel FERNÁNDEZ REYNA, President*

For me it is a great honour to extend my most cordial congratulations to Her Excellency, Mrs. Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, of Bahrain, for her election, as the first woman of the Middle East, to preside over the work of this sixty-first General Assembly of the United Nations.

We reiterate our profound commitment to the activities and objectives of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), in considering these suitable for the advancement and dignity of all the women of the world and in particular, the women of countries such as the Dominican Republic. As the host country, we warmly salute the support given by Member States to the INSTRAW.

**ECUADOR**

*H.E. Mr. Alfred PALACIO, President*

No Gender References

**EGYPT**

*H.E. Mr. Ahmed ABOUL GHEIT, Minister for Foreign Affairs*

At the outset, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate you upon your assumption of the

Presidency of the 61st session of the General Assembly. My pleasure is all the greater since you are the first Arab woman to occupy this high post since the establishment of the organization.

## **EL SALVADOR**

*H.E. Mr. Elías Antonio SACA GONZÁLEZ, President*

Madam President,

I express our most sincere congratulations to your election as president for the period of this session of the general assembly, with the certainty that your distinguished personal and professional qualities, will contribute to the optimal development of the working agenda, constituting moreover the recognition of the necessary participation of women in the process of reforming the United Nations.

(Translated from Spanish by the Peacewomen staff)

## **EQUATORIAL GUINEA**

*H.E. Mr. Teodoro OBIANG NGUEMA MBASOGO, President*

No Gender References

## **ERITREA**

*H.E. Mr. Saleh Said MEKY, Minister of Health*

No Gender References

## **ESTONIA**

*H.E. Mr. Sven JÜRGENSON, Under-Secretary of Political Affairs and Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

Madam President, The Millenium Development Goals are also intended to promote gender equality and empower women worldwide. And that includes us in the United Nations too. Estonia shares the vision that the role of women within the decision-making system of the UN should be increased. As the General Assembly is goign to approve the next Secreatay General this year, we supoort the proposal to consider Mrs. Vaira Vike-Freiberga as a candidate for Secretary General of the United Nations. President of Latvia could be the first women leading the United Nations in its sixty years of existence. Our commitments must be reflected in our decisions.

## **ETHIOPIA**

*H.E. Ambassador Negash Kebret BOTOR, Deputy Permanent Representative*

No Gender References

## **FIJI**

*H.E. The Honourable Mr. Kaliopate TAVOLA, Minister for Foreign Affairs & External*

## *Trade*

I extend to you Madame President the congratulations and best wishes of the Government and people of the Fiji Islands. The General Assembly is to be commended for accepting your candidature to become the third woman to assume the post of President of this august Assembly. This recognizes the critical role women play in the development of humanity in our global village. We assure you, of the support of my government during your tenure.

Fiji acknowledges the vital role women play in development, the monitoring of the Rights of Women contained in the Beijing Platform of Action has to be reinforced. One effective way is to ensure that domestic policies and legislations are in place to drive gender mainstreaming. This must be a priority target for us all.

## **FINLAND**

*H.E. Ms. Tarja HALONEN, President*

The newly established Peacebuilding Commission brings its own and much-needed contribution to the UN work for peace and security. The European Union will work actively to ensure that this new body will have a strong and dynamic role in the UN system. Gender aspect is important in this context.

## **FRANCE**

*H.E. Mr. Jacques CHIRAC, President*

No Gender References

## **GABON**

*H.E. Mr. Jean PING, Minister of State, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and the Francophonie and Regional Integration  
Former President of the 59th Session of the General Assembly*

No Gender References

## **GAMBIA**

*H.E. Mr. Lamin Kabba BAJO, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs*

My delegation extends to you, our heartiest congratulations on your election to the presidency of this august body. Your election signifies a most welcome re-balancing of the General Assembly towards greater gender parity and will certainly bring along with it a whiff of fresh air in our deliberations. We hope also that it will help our Organisation address those issues of war, conflict, oppression, deprivation and terrorism which dog today's world, with the kind of compassion and sensitivity known only to mothers.

In the Gambia, UN and other independent assessments indicate that on many fronts, we are making steady progress. [...] We have already achieved gender parity in education and by extension, registered significant progress in gender equality, equity and women empowerment. [...] We have reduced the prevalence of malaria and incidence of maternal and under-5 mortality.

## **GEORGIA**

*H.E. Mr. Mikheil SAAKASHVILI, President*

My country salutes the on-going efforts to make the United Nations even more effective, and we welcome the candidacy of a Secretary General whose competence and unique perspective on gender equality issues will help advance that goal.

## **GERMANY**

*H.E. Dr. Frank-Walter STEINMEIER, Minister for Foreign Affairs*

Following 23 years of civil war, the development of political structures is underway. [...] And what is equally important : young people can go to school again, also girls.

## **GHANA**

*H.E. Mr. John Agyekum KUFUOR, President*

No Gender References

## **GREECE**

*H.E. Mrs. Dora BAKOYANNIS, Minister of Foreign Affairs*

No Gender References

## **GRENADA**

*H.E. The Honourable Elvin NIMROD, Minister of Foreign Affairs*

No Gender References

## **GUATEMALA**

*H.E. Mr. Oscar BERGER PERDOMO, President*

The State is committed to the respect of civil, political and human rights, and promotes increasing participation of women in our society.

## **GUINEA**

*H.E. Mr. Mamady CONDÉ, Minister of State, Minister for Foreign Affairs*

It is for me a great pleasure to give you, Madam President, my congratulations to your brilliant election to the Presidency our 61st session on behalf of my delegation. In trusting you, as third woman presiding over the General Assembly, the member states have wanted to give recognition to your talents as experienced diplomat and pay tribute to your country for their realisation of the noble ideals of liberty, peace and prosperity in the world.

(Translated from French by the Peacewomen staff)

## **GUINEA-BISSAU**

*H.E. Mr. Antonio Isaac MONTEIRO, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Communities*

No Gender References

## **GUYANA**

*H.E. The Honourable Rudolph INSANALLY, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Former President of the General Assembly*

I am pleased, on behalf of the Government and the people of Guyana to convey to you our warmest congratulations on your election to the Presidency of this august Assembly. This distinction is a tribute not only to your own personal qualities but also to your gender since you are only the third woman to hold this high office in the history of the United Nations.

## **HAITI**

*H.E. Mr. Léo MÉRORÈS, Permanent Representative*

No Gender References

## **HOLY SEE**

*H.E. Archbishop Giovanni LAJOLO, President of the Governorate of the Vatican City State*

No Gender References

## **HONDURAS**

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

English translation not available

## **HUNGARY**

*H.E. Ms. Kinga GÖNCZ, Minister of Foreign Affairs*

May I first of all congratulate you warmly as the third female President of the United Nations General Assembly. I firmly believe that the involvement of women into the decision-making processes at national and international level may contribute to the better management of today's global problems.

## **ICELAND**

*H.E. Mrs. Valgerdur SVERRISDÓTTIR, Minister for Foreign Affairs*

Madame President, let me begin by congratulating you on your election as President of the General Assembly. I am especially pleased to see a woman in this important position after a break of nearly 30 years.

The global partnership rests on the principles of transparency, accountability, good governance, equity and commitment to poverty reduction. Iceland also places special

importance on the rights of women and children. As the Iranian Nobel Prize winner, Shirin Ebadi, has so rightly pointed out: "...to disregard women and bar them from active participation in political, social, economic and cultural life would in fact be tantamount to depriving the entire population of every society of half its capability." We want to see more determined efforts by development partners and UN agencies to pursue gender equality. The work of UNIFEM must be given more weight within the UN. Iceland has increased its support of UNIFEM more than tenfold over the last two years, and we will increase our support even further

#### **INDIA**

*H.E. Mr. Pranab MUKHERJEE, Defence Minister*

No Gender References

#### **INDONESIA**

*H.E. Dr. N. Hassan WIRAJUDA, Minister for Foreign Affairs*

I wish to congratulate you on your election as President of the 61st UN General Assembly. It signals the increasing role of women, especially women from the Muslim world, in international affairs – which is a very welcome and positive development.

#### **IRAN (THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN)**

*H.E. Mr. Mahmoud AHMADINEJAD, President*

No Gender References

#### **IRAQ**

*H.E. Mr. Jalal TALABANI, President*

Iraq believes that achieving a sustainable development parallels respecting human rights, providing security, achieving justice, fair distribution of wealth, and development of the agricultural, economic and services sectors. In order to rise up to these tasks, we must respect women and their rights, and activate their role in the development process and the political arena. This feeling has become a fixed principle in our pursuits, stipulated in the Iraqi constitution, which confirmed the women's right to contribute in a percentage not less than 25% of the Council of Representatives' seats. Iraqi women are also participating in 4 ministerial positions in the Iraqi National Unity Government.

#### **IRELAND**

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

The suffering of the people of Darfur shames the world. There has been human tragedy on a massive scale, with the intimidation, rape and murder of hundreds of thousands of innocents, and the displacement of vast numbers from their homes.

#### **ISRAEL**

*H.E. Mr. Tzipi LIVNI, Vice Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs*

No Gender References

#### **ITALY**

*H.E. Mr. Romano PRODI, Prime Minister*

No Gender References

## **JAMAICA**

*H.E. Senator The Honourable Mr. Anthony HYLTON, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade*

I congratulate you on your election as President of this Assembly. It is an added pleasure for me today to recognize your assumption to the Presidency, being one of only three women in the history of the General Assembly to assume this position, and significantly, the first since 1969 - nearly 40 years.

The Secretary-General has cited some startling statistics in his report on the Organization to this General Assembly. I refer to two. Ten million children die before their 5th birthday; and women in developing countries are 45 times more likely to die during pregnancy than women in developed countries. Irrefutable evidence that the situation remains absolutely and comparatively very unsatisfactory and unsustainable in an interdependent world.

Jamaica recognizes that there can be no development, no poverty eradication, no lasting peace without the advancement, equality and empowerment of women. Women's advancement is a priority in our national policy and we support all international initiatives towards the end.

## **JAPAN**

*H.E. Mr. Kenzo OSHIMA, Permanent Representative*

No Gender References

## **JORDAN**

*His Majesty King Abdullah II Bin AL HUSSEIN*

No Gender References

## **KAZAKHSTAN**

*H.E. Mr. Kassymzhomart Kemelevich TOKAEV, Minister for Foreign Affairs*

No Gender References

## **KENYA**

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

Madam President, Let me add my voice of congratulations to *Madam President*, on her assumption of this driving seat that has mainly been occupied by men in the history of the United Nations. At this August Assembly last week, we welcomed the first African woman to become President - Her excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia. At last, the glass ceiling that has tended to frustrate the attempts of women to become Presidents is surely cracking, in several places.

## **KIRIBATI**

*H.E. Ms. Teima ONORIO, Vice-President*

No Gender References

## **REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

*H.E. Mr. BAN Ki-moon, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade*

The key lesson to be drawn from the Korean experience over the past decades is that education is key to development, and women and girls are the most effective agents for change and social progress. In particular, in attaining the MDGs, such as eliminating poverty and fighting HIV/AIDS, gender mainstreaming must be made a central pillar of policy strategy. Lasting social change cannot be realized until women are fully incorporated into the process.

## **KUWAIT**

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

No Gender References

## **KYRGYZSTAN**

*H.E. Mr. Kurmanbek BAKIEV, President*

Translation not available

## **LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**

*H.E. Dr. Thongloun SISOUKITH, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Head of the Delegation*

No Gender References

## **LATVIA**

*H.E. Mrs. Vaira VIKI-FREIBERGA, President*

As many of you are aware, I recently announced my decision to submit my candidacy for the position of the Secretary General of the United Nations. I highly appreciate the confidence placed in me by the UN Secretary General Mr Kofi Annan as he appointed me Special Envoy on UN Reform.

I am personally committed to addressing the challenges posed by the UN reform and promoting human rights, freedom and democracy, including gender equality. While women represent half of the world's population, no woman has ever been at the helm of this organization. I believe that the time has come for a woman to be considered a serious candidate for the position of Secretary General.

## **LEBANON**

*H.E. General Emile LAHOUD, President*

Madam President,

Today, I am honored as I congratulate you on your election as the first Arab woman to ever



preside over this austere body, and I hope that this heralds a new era of better understanding of women's aspirations and Arab causes.

## **LESOTHO**

*H.E. The Right Honourable Pakhalitha Bethuel MOSISILI, Prime Minister*

No Gender References

## **LIBERIA**

*H.E. Mrs. Ellen JOHNSON-SIRLEAF, President*

It is a great honor for me to address this 61st session of the United Nations general Assembly on behalf of the people of Liberia, not just in my capacity as a leader, but the heralding position as the first democratically elected woman president of Liberia and in Africa.

Let me congratulate you on your election as president of the 61st regular session of the General assembly, trusting that you will bring your demonstrable experience to the work of this session. I am proud of you because you are the first Arab Muslim woman and the third woman to occupy this noble position. One of your women predecessors, Angie Brooks, hailed from Liberia. I was pleased to honor her on last Friday in a moving ceremony here in New York for her dedicated services and pride she brought to the country.

I strongly support women and gender equality and look forward with interest to the report of the high level panel on system-wide coherence appointed by the secretary general earlier this year, which is expected to submit its final recommendations on UN reform. It is my hope that the establishment of a new, independent UN fund or program for the empowerment of women and gender equality will be fully supported by member states and that such fund will have sufficient resources to support targeted programmes for women empowerment desperately needed at the national level.

We are aware that we face awesome challenges; the challenge of rebuilding our infrastructure, including education, health and other institutions, addressing generations of gender imbalance, especially as it relates to the education of the girl child and promoting for women their rightful place in society [...]

## **LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA**

*H.E. Mr. Abdurrahman Mohamed SHALGHAM, Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation and Head of the Libyan Delegation*

No Gender References

## **LIECHTENSTEIN**

*H.E. Mrs. Rita KIEBER-BECK, Minister of Foreign Affairs*

Let me first of all express my happiness to see you preside over the General Assembly. Your election sends a clear signal for an ever stronger participation of women in decision-making processes worldwide. We value your impressive track record on women's rights in particular and will assist you in every possible way in fulfilling your difficult task.

**LITHUANIA**

*H.E. Mr. Valdas ADAMKUS, President*

No Gender References

**LUXEMBOURG**

*H.E. Mr. Jean ASSELBORN, Vice-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. Dr. Bingu Wa MUTHARIKA, President*

No Gender References

**MALAYSIA**

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

No Gender References

**MALDIVES**

*H.E. Mr. Maumoon Abdul GAYOOM, President*

We have also acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women.

In reducing poverty and in providing primary education, the Maldives has already met the Millenium Development Goals. We are condident that we can attain the targets on healthcare and gender empowerment.

**MALI**

*H.E. Mr. Moctar OUANE, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation*

No Gender References

**MALTA**

*H.E. The Honourable Dr. Michael FRENDU, Minister for Foreign Affairs*

No Gender References

## **THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**

*H.E. The Honourable Ruben ZACKHRAS, Vice Speaker*

No Gender References

## **MAURITANIA**

*H.E. Mr. Mohamed Ould EL ABED, Prime Minister*

We would here like to underline the resolutions and the results relevant to the organization's actions through the summit conferences devoted to the information society, the fight against the Aids pandemic, the meetings on the issue of development, the fight against poverty, the protection of the environment, the promotion of women, and the large economic and financial forums.

This participation has manifested itself at the level of the nature, of the volume and the substance of the reforms, of the choices, as in the domains of constitutional reform, reform of the administration, the justice court, the fight against corruption and bad management, underhand dealings, but also in the electoral processes regarding choosing members for the national independent electoral commission, the calendar electoral expiries, the revision of electoral lists, the modes of poll and women's participation.

(Translated from French by the Peacewomen staff)

## **MAURITIUS**

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

No Gender References

## **MEXICO**

*H.E. Mr. Vicente FOX, President*

We take pride in having enacted laws and instituted practices against discrimination and in the fact that today, children, women, indigenous peoples, the sick and the people with disabilities have better conditions for their development in our country.

## **MICRONESIA (FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA)**

*H.E. Mr. Redley KILLION, Vice President*

No Gender References

## **MONACO**

*H.E. Mr. Gilles NOGHÈS, Head of Delegation*

Madam President, very few women before you have acceded to the presidency of the General Assembly although, as the Chinese saying goes: "Women hold up half the sky".

The upcoming designation of H.S.H. Princess Stephanie as a Special Representative of UNAIDS will further reinforce Her commitment to the battle against this terrible pandemic affecting more and more women. To face this situation, the Government of Monaco has decided, in addition to contributions allocated to UNAIDS, to finance, starting this year, a project of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) in Africa, intended for women, who are mainly seropositive, enduring extreme poverty and moreal distress, by offering them a medico-psycho-social relief.

## **MONGOLIA**

*H.E. Mr. Miyegombo ENKHBOLD, Prime Minister*

No Gender References

## **MONTENEGRO**

*H.E. Mr. Milo DJUKANOVIC, President*

No Gender References

## **MOROCCO**

*H.E. Mr. Mohamed BENAÏSSA, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation*

I would like, at the outset, to extend my sincere congratulations to you and the brother country of the Kingdom of Bahrain, on your election as the first Arab lady in the history of the United Nations Organization to preside over the General Assembly.

## **MOZAMBIQUE**

*H. E. Mr. Armando Emilio GUEBUZA , President*

No Gender References

## **MYANMAR**

*H.E. Mr. Nyan WIN, Minister for Foreign Affairs*

No Gender References

## **NAMIBIA**

*H.E. Mr. Hifikepunye POHAMBIA, President*

No Gender References

## **NAURU**

*H.E. The Honourable Ludwig SCOTTY, MP, President*

No Gender References

## **NEPAL**

*H.E. The Honorable Mr. K.P. Sharma OLI, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Leader of the Delegation*

No Gender References

## **NETHERLANDS**

*H.E. Mr. Bernard Rudolf BOT, Minister for Foreign Affairs*

No Gender References

## **NEW ZEALAND**

*H.E. The Right Honorable Mr. Winston PETERS, Minister for Foreign Affairs*

But increasing aid levels will not be enough. We must become more effective. We need to make sure that every dollar we spend makes a positive difference. That means addressing the key threats to our success – poor governance, corruption, gender inequality. [...]

## **NICARAGUA**

*H.E. Mr. Norman José CALDERA CARDENAL, Minister for Foreign Affairs*

In the health area, child mortality rates (for every 1,000 born alive), was reduced from 35 in 2001 to 31 in 2006; [...] and the maternal mortality rates (per 100,000) was reduced from 96,6 in 2003 to 83 in 2006.

(Translated from Spanish by the Peacewomen staff)

## **NIGER**

*Her Excellency Mrs. Aïchatou MINDAOUDOU, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and African Integration*

As the third woman in history to take on this role, your election is more than a title, full of symbolism and I would like to salute in you, the tough and very competent diplomat with assured qualities, that predict the positive result we will accomplish under your presidency.

## **NIGERIA**

*H.E. Chief Olusegun OBASANJO, GCFR, President [as delivered by H.E. Professor U. Joy OGWU, OFR Minister of Foreign Affairs]*

On behalf of the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to you and your country, the Kingdom of Bahrain, on your historic election as President of the Sixty-First Session of the United Nations General Assembly. Your assumption of this high office is a source of inspiration to all of us, particularly to women all over the world.

## **NORWAY**

*H.E. Mr. Jens STOLTENBERG, Prime Minister*

No Gender References

## **OMAN**

*H.E. Mr. Yousef Bin Alawi Bin ABDULLAH, Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs*

The number of societies that work under the supervision of the competent ministry up til now is 67 societies, including 45 Omani women's societies that work for the advancement of Omani women, in the social, economic and cultural fields, raising their standards and developing their different skills.

We, in the Sultanate of Oman, are pleased to pay special tribute to our achievements in the field of human rights and specifically the political equality of the sexes. This development has given Omani women a bigger chance in holding leadership posts and participating in decision making. Thus Omani women have become an increasingly bigger partner in real development in the country.

In affirmation of the role of Omani women in the march for comprehensive development, the Sultanate has shown special interest in encouraging women and helping them contribute to economic and social development. The Sultanate has also prepared a draft national strategy for the advancement of Omani women. The strategy is the fruit of co-operation between governmental and non-governmental organizations and academic institutions in the Sultanate.

## **PAKISTAN**

*H.E. General Pervez MUSHARRAF, President*

I am very happy to see a sister from fraternal Bahrain presiding over this important session of the General Assembly. Your election symbolizes the increasingly significant role women are playing in the Muslim world. Madam President. You will have Pakistan's full support in fulfilling your challenging responsibilities.

We have reformed our institutions of governance and our economy. Democratic governance has been introduced at the grass root level. We are focusing on the uplift of the under privileged sections of our society — the poor, the women and the minorities. Women are being politically and economically empowered and protected against discrimination. Minorities have been politically mainstreamed. We have also unshackled the media.

## **PALAU**

*H.E. The Honorable Mr. Elias Camsek CHIN, Vice-President*

No Gender References

## **PALESTINE**

*H.E. President Mahmoud ABBAS, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization and President of the Palestinian National Authority*

I come to you bearing the wounds of a people that bleed everyday. A people that seek a normal life, where our children go safely to school, where children are born to live, and not

to die. [...] Where women give birth to their babies in hospitals, not on the checkpoints of occupation.

## **PANAMA**

*H.E. Mr. Martín TORRIJOS, President*

I would like to express the complacency of the government of Panama in view of your election as president of the sixty-first sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations. Your remarkable professional trajectory and your extraordinary performance in the defense of women's rights forebode an exemplary leading of our debates.

(Translated from Spanish by the Peacewomen staff)

## **PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

*H.E. Sir Michael SOMARE, GCMG, CH, MP, Prime Minister*

No Gender References

## **PARAGUAY**

*H.E. Mr. Nicanor DUARTE FRUTOS, President*

No Gender References

## **PERU**

*H.E. Mr. José Antonio GARCÍA BELAÚNDE, Minister of Foreign Affairs*

To fulfill the Millenium objectives, the Government of Peru has undertaken immediate actions that include, [...] the policy in favor of women, youth and children. [...]

## **PHILIPPINES**

*H.E. Dr. Alberto G. ROMULO, Secretary for Foreign Affairs*

No Gender References

## **POLAND**

*H.E. Mr. Lech KACZYNSKI, President*

No Gender References

## **PORTUGAL**

*H.E. Mr. José SOCRATES, Prime Minister*

I would like to start by extending my warmest congratulations to Her Excellency Madam Haya Al Khalifa, the first woman in nearly forty years to take up the position of President of this General Assembly.

## **QATAR**

*His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad AL-THANI, The Heir Apparent*

No Gender References

**REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**

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

No Gender References

**ROMANIA**

*H.E. Mr. Mihai-Razvan UNGUREANU, Minister of Foreign Affairs*

Madam President,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you in your position as President of the General Assembly. The Romanian delegation looks forward to a presidency which brings to the World Organization excellent diplomatic skills, while increasing trust in the prospect of a more balanced gender representation at the top.

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

*H.E. Mr. Sergey V. LAVROV, Minister for Foreign Affairs*

No Gender References

**RWANDA**

*H.E. Paul KAGAME, President [as delivered by H.E. Mrs. Museminali Minister of State and Cooperation]*

No Gender References

**SAMOA**

*H.E. Mr. Tuileapa Sailele MALIELEGAOI, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade*

Similarly is the collaborative work with our partners to support the empowerment of our women.

**SAN MARINO**

*H.E. Mr. Fiorenzo STOLFI, Secretary of State for Foreign and Political Affairs and Economic Planning*

On behalf of the Government and the People of the Republic of San Marino, I wish to congratulate her Excellency Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa on her election as President of the 61st Session of the UN General Assembly. I am confident that her capacity and expertise will be decisive for success of this Session. To my satisfaction on the election of a woman after so many years, I add my best wishes for her important mandate.

As a consequence, peace building implies a particular attention to the condition of the most disadvantaged members of humanity, including children, young people, women and the disabled. In this regard, my country will guarantee its active support to the Pan-European



Campaign on Violence against Women, in particular domestic violence, will be launched during San Marino Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, in parallel with the celebration of the World Day for Elimination of Violence against Women.

## **SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE**

*H.E. Mr. Fradique Bandeira Melo DE MENEZES, President*

Please allow me to congratulate you, Madame Haya Khalifa, on your election as the new President of the General Assembly. We are fortunate to have a diplomat with such magnificent credentials as our president. In addition, this is a milestone for the United Nations, which makes us all proud. My country, Sao Tome and Principe, is a firm believer in gender equality. I am proud to say that we have a very high percentage of girls in school. We have also had a woman as president of our National Assembly. The head of our Supreme Court is a woman. We have had two female Prime Ministers, and today women head half of our government ministries. We, therefore, are delighted by your election, and wish you every success.

Despite desperate efforts at education and prevention, our tiny population is being laid waste by a shocking spiral of HIV/AIDS cases. We have only one hospital, a handful of doctors, and we are helpless in the face of this crisis, as we cannot afford the retro-virals we need for all our sick, nor do we have the ability to police our maritime borders to keep out the main source of infection. Our women and children are faceless victims, among the millions of others around the world, and without help, we could one day face extinction.

## **SAUDI ARABIA**

*His Royal Highness Prince Saud AL-FAISAL, Minister of Foreign Affairs*

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. Jérémie BONNELAME, Ambassador and Permanent Representative*

English translation not available

## **SIERRA LEONE**

*H.E. Mr. Solomon BEREWA, Vice President*

No Gender References

## **SINGAPORE**

*H.E. Mr. George YEO, Minister for Foreign Affairs*

No Gender References

## **SLOVAKIA**

*H.E. Mr. Robert FICO, Prime Minister*

No Gender References

## **SLOVENIA**

*H.E. Dr. Dimitrij RUPEL, Minister of Foreign Affairs*

No Gender References

## **SOLOMON ISLANDS**

*H.E. The Honorable Mr. Manesseh SOGAVARE, Prime Minister*

No Gender References

## **SOMALIA**

*H.E. Mr. Ismael Mohamoud HURREH, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation*

Moreover, over 100.000 women die each year from complications in pregnancy and childbirth.

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

*H.E. Mr. Thabo MBEKI, President*

No Gender References

## **SPAIN**

*H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel MORATINOS, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation*

Before beginning, allow me to congratulate the President, who is the first Arab woman to lead the Assembly.

## **SRI LANKA**

*H. E. Mr. Mahinda RAJAPAKSA, President*

I am happy to note that a lady from a sister Asian country will guide us through the current session. Sri Lanka, being the country that elected the first woman Head of Government in the modern world – Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike – your assumption of this high office is of special significance to us.

In 1970, when I was first elected to the Parliament of Sri Lanka, a paragraph in the Preamble of the Charter of the United Nations gave substance and direction to my future political life. (I quote) .... "to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small"

(Unquote) Having been a human rights campaigner at the grass roots level throughout my political life, it was natural that my new government should be committed to carrying the message of democracy to all corners of our multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious country.

We continue to maintain highest rating on the Human Development Index in South Asia. We have already achieved some of the Millennium Development Goal targets in primary school enrolment, gender equality and maternal and infant mortality rates.

#### **ST KITTS AND NEVIS**

*H.E. Dr. The Honorable Timothy HARRIS, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade, Industry and Commerce*

Our women, Children, Elderly and Disabled will remain at-risk sectors of our societies.

#### **ST LUCIA**

*H.E. The Honourable Petrus COMPTON, Minister for External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation*

No Gender References

#### **ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

*H.E. The Honourable Ralph Everada GONSALVES, Prime Minister, Minister for Finance, Planning Economic Development, Labour, Information, Grenadines and Legal Affairs*

You, Madam President, arise in this August Assembly as a breath of fresh air and preside as an inspiration to women, particularly in the Middle East, and to human beings the world over who treasure the stone that the builder rejects and which becomes the head cornerstone.

The world's people want to know, and see the practical evidence, that the United Nations is tackling in a purposeful way the issues of global poverty, environmental degradation, climate change, the empowerment of women, the protection of children, the promotion of peace and security, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the provision of clean water and an adequate supply of food, among other such telling requisites.

#### **SUDAN**

*H.E. Mr. Omer Hassan AL-BASHIR, President*

English translation not available

#### **SURINAME**

*H.E. Mr. Runaldo Ronald VENETIAAN, President*

No Gender References

#### **SWAZILAND**

*H.E. Mr. Phesheya Mbongeni DLAMINI, Ambassador and Permanent Representative*

No Gender References

**SWEDEN**

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

No Gender References

**THE SWISS CONFEDERATION**

*H.E. Mr. Moritz LEUENBERGER, President*

No Gender References

**SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC**

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

Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen, I congratulate you and your fraternal country, Bahrain on your election to the presidency of the 61st Session of the United Nations General Assembly. You are the first Arab woman ever to assume this high position. Your selection to this post is a proof that the empowerment of women has become an integral part of the arab experience.

**TAJIKISTAN**

*H.E. Mr. Talbak NAZAROV, Minister for Foreign Affairs*

No Gender References

**THAILAND**

*H.E. Khunying Laxanachantorn LAOHAPHAN, Ambassador and Premanent Representative*

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you, Madam President, and the Kingdom of Bahrain, upon your assumption of the office of the President of the 62st Session of the General Assembly. As a woman myself, I welcome your election with great pride and wish to assure you of my delegation's full support in any possible way.

**TIMOR-LESTE**

*H.E. Mr. José Luis GUTERRES, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation*

Our people will never forget his decisive support and we wish much success to him and to Mrs. Nane Annan, whom we honor for her contribution to the strengthening the role of women in the world and for the compassion shown to those who suffer.

**TOGO**

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

English translation not available

**TONGA**

*H.E. Mr. Mahe 'Uli'Uli TUPOUNIUA, Counselor*

No Gender References

**TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

*H.E. Ambassador Mr. Philip SEALY, Permanent Representative and Head of the Trinidad and Tobago Delegation*

It is indeed an honour for me to extend to you sincere congratulations on behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on your election to the presidency of the 61st Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly. As the third woman ever to hold this esteemed position, your appointment is of special significance and must be duly recognized.

**TUNISIA**

*H.E. Mr. Abdelwaheb ABDALLAH, Minister for Foreign Affairs*

No Gender References

**TURKEY**

*H. E. Mr. Abdullah GÜL, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs*

I wish to start by warmly congratulating you, Madame President. Although, the empowerment of women has long been a priority, it has been nearly forty years since a lady last held the presidency. Thus, we are encouraged by your appointment.

**TURKMENISTAN**

*H.E. Mr. Rashid MEREDOV, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs*

No Gender References

**TUVALU**

*H.E. Mr. Enele Sosene SOPOAGA, Ambassador and Permanent Representative*

No Gender References

**UGANDA**

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

No Gender References

**UKRAINE**

*H.E. Mr. Borys TARASYUK, Minister for Foreign Affairs*

No Gender References

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

*His Highness Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed AL NAHYAN, Minister for Foreign Affairs*

No Gender References

**UNITED KINGDOM of GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

*H.E. Mrs. Margaret BECKETT MP, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs*

No Gender References

**UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

*H.E. Mr. Jakaya Mrisho KIKWETE, President*

Permit me to begin by congratulating you, Madam President, on your well deserved election to the Presidency of the 61st Session of the General Assembly. This is an important milestone on the gender agenda at the United Nations.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

*H.E. Mr. George W. BUSH, President*

Some of the changes in the Middle East are happening gradually, but they are real. Algeria has held its first competitive presidential election, and the military remained neutral. The United Arab Emirates recently announced that half of the seats in its Federal National Council will be chosen by elections. Kuwait held elections in which women were allowed to vote and run for office for the first time.

**URUGUAY**

*H.E. Mrs. Belela HERERRA, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs*

Madam President, permit me to express my personal satisfaction, to see you exercise such an important function, as I am sure your position as a woman will permit you to dispose an additional quota of measure and mildness. In Uruguay as in the United Nations, we believe that it is very important to state an example and that is why the Government that I represent has assumed among other tasks, to elevate women's position and to increase their participation in different areas.

(Translated from Spanish by the Peacewomen staff)

**UZBEKISTAN**

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

No Gender References

**VANUATU**

*H.E. The Honourable Sato KILMAN, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs*

No Gender References

**VENEZUELA (THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA)**

*H.E. Mr. Hugo CHÁVEZ FRÍAS, President*

No Gender References

**VIETNAM**

*H.E. Mr. LE Cong PHUNG, First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs*

At the outset, on behalf of the Vietnamese Delegation, may I extend our warmest congratulations to You, the third woman in the UN history elected as President of the General Assembly.

The United Nations should work out, especially at the national level, measures to further incorporate the MDGs in the implementation of global commitments undertaken during the past decade in the areas concerning women, children, population, development, HIV/IDS prevention, housing, environment and social development.

**YEMEN**

*H.E. Mr. Abubakr AL-QIRBI, Minister for Foreign Affairs*

English translation not yet available

**ZAMBIA**

*H.E. Dr. Kalombo T. MWANSA, Special Envoy of the Government*

On behalf of the Zambian delegation, I congratulate you, on your election as president of the 61st Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly. It is indeed significant to have a lady presiding over the highest office of the general assembly, after almost three decades. This to us, attests to the commitment of the united nations to the principle of gender equality.

In addition, human trafficking is on the increase world-wide. Often, innocent women and children in search of a better life, are unwittingly being sold for the sole purpose of engaging them in illicit activities.

**ZIMBABWE**

*H.E. Mr. Robert Gabriel MUGABE, President*

No Gender References

