



KAZAKHSTAN

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STATEMENT
by
H.E. Mrs. Byrganym Aitimova
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations
to the UNGA Third Committee
on the agenda item 28 Advancement of women

16 October 2012

New York

**Chair,
Distinguished delegates,**

At the outset, let me thank the Secretary-General for his reports and recommendations which highlight a clear overview of the current situation of global gender mainstreaming and advancement of women.

Kazakhstan is convinced that the full, effective and accelerated implementation of objectives set out by the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action as well as the outcome of the Twenty-third special session of the General Assembly is integral to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. We stress the necessity to focus on gender equality and the empowerment of women in drafting of the post-2015 development framework. Almost 20 years after adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action, its fulfillment is decidedly mixed and significant gaps and challenges in achieving the strategic objectives still persist.

In this connection, Kazakhstan deems critical to evaluate the current progress in implementation of the major gender-related United Nations documents, particularly the Beijing Declaration and its Platform for Action as well as identify the present-day emerging threats in the gender sphere. In the opinion of a large number of Member States an event devoted to the anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration should focus on the appraisal of progress of its implementation as well as on reaffirmation of the strong political will to further improve pace of realization of the Platform for Action. In this regard, my delegation proposes the United Nations system and Member States to consider ways and modalities of the commemorative review devoted to the 20th Anniversary of the cornerstone documents on empowerment of women.

With particular attention paid to the role of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, my delegation encourages the current activities of the UN Women and its mandate to lead and coordinate the United Nations system work on gender equality. We appreciate the ongoing process aimed at increasing the field representation and ensuring that request of every country will be met. In this regard, my delegation as the Member of the Executive Board is committed to support the UN Women to ensure its ability to deliver prompt and concrete results on the field level.

Chair,

Let me present measures undertaken by Kazakhstan at the national level within the framework of the major United Nations documents in gender sphere. According to the international organization's "Social Watch" survey, my country is ranked 33rd among 156 states from the perspective of activity index for women.

Moreover, the social and political role of women is steadily increasing and becoming more significant, and in order to ensure decent representativeness of women on the decision-making level, strong proposals for women candidates on party lists have been developed. The current proportion of women in the Lower Chamber of the Parliament has now risen to 24 per cent.

Recognizing that the key factor for the economic empowerment of women is decent work, Kazakhstan has striven to significantly decrease the unemployment ratio among women to 6.4 per cent; and for rural women, this indicator has dropped to 5.4 per cent. According to the National Strategy on Gender Equality, we expect the average wage for women to rise to 80 per cent compared to those of men by 2020. My country also undertakes measures to provide allowances for women who loose or give up their jobs due to pregnancy or child birth, and for economically vulnerable families. In accordance to the outcome of the Fifth National Forum on Women, the Programme of development of female entrepreneurship 2009-2015 has been launched to empower women entrepreneurs.

There is national recognition of the urgency to provide and strengthen legislation for prevention and punishment of violators of domestic violence, as well as support services for victims of violence. Kazakhstan is strongly committed to the further advancement and empowerment of women and gender equality, particularly through implementing the National Law on State Guarantees of Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, and the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence. Both these legislations aim at incorporating international standards into national legislation and enacting legal previsions that will strongly protect women's wellbeing and their inalienable rights through introducing strict measures for violators of domestic violence. In order to prevent gender-based violence, Kazakhstan has adopted a multi-pronged gender strategy that aims to address gender-related issues and equip women with comprehensive knowledge about their legal rights as well as access to those rights. The Government reviews and resolves complaints of individual women who face violence and discrimination. Victims of abuse have access to immediate assistance in 21 crisis shelter centers throughout the country.

The goal of gender equality and the empowerment of women is integral to all three pillars of work of the United Nations, that is, development, peace and security and human rights. My delegation considers achieving gender equality as one of the important conditions for sustainable economic and social development, consequently, the promotion of peace and accord, security and stability in the world. Kazakhstan, therefore, is committed to continue further promoting gender equality and the advancement of women in its foreign and domestic policies.

Thank you for your attention.