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Distr. GENERAL

A/HRC/1/G/2 26 June 2006 CHINESE Original: ENGLISH

人权理事会 第一届会议 议程项目4

大会 2006年3月15日题为"人权理事会"的 第 60/251 号决议的执行情况

2006年6月20日克罗地亚外交部长致人权理事会主席的信

我谨转告您,2006年6月19日在日内瓦,以下国家的女外长们利用出席人权理事会之机举行了会晤,就妇女权利和联合国改革,以及妇女参加政治和公共生活问题交流了经验和看法。她们是:巴巴多斯的比莉·米勒、克罗地亚的科琳达·格拉巴尔-基塔罗维奇、列支敦士登的瑞塔·凯博·贝克、瑞士的米什琳·卡尔弥-瑞;其他高级官员和显要人物有:日本副外务大臣山中亚希子、莫桑比克司法部长埃斯佩兰萨·马沙维拉、卢旺达司法部长埃达·穆卡巴圭扎、乌拉圭副外长贝莱拉·赫雷拉、联合国人权事务高级专员路易丝·阿伯、人权事务副高级专员米哈·肯·威廉姆斯以及诺贝尔和平奖获得者旺加里·马塔伊。

与会者们一致通过了克罗地亚建议的《妇女参与政治生活声明》(见附件*)。

该声明还得到了下列人士的赞同:西班牙副首相玛丽亚·特雷莎·费尔南德斯·德拉维加女士、欧盟对外关系和欧洲邻国政策专员贝妮塔·费拉罗·瓦尔德耐尔女士,以及其他八位女外长:乌苏拉·普拉斯尼克、多拉·芭科亚妮、根茨·金

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^{*} 附件不译,原文照发。

高、齐皮·利夫尼、伊琳卡·米特雷娃、安娜·福蒂加和恩科萨扎娜·德拉米尼·祖马。

谨请将该声明作为人权理事会的正式文件散发。

克罗地亚外交部长 科琳达·格拉巴尔-基塔罗维奇(签名)

Annex

STATEMENT

by the Women Ministers of Foreign Affairs and High Officials on the Participation of Women in political life on the margins of the 1st session of the Human Rights Council

We, women ministers, participating at the 1st session of the Human Rights Council, have to raise our voice against all existing forms of discrimination against women including cultural stereotypes and prejudices, and point out the need for ensuring full and targeted attention to end discrimination of women in political and public life.

Creation of the Human Rights Council is providing us with the unique opportunity to locate women's human rights at the heart of its work and to integrate these rights fully in all agenda items.

Realization of the principle of equality of women and men is a precondition for the functioning of any democratic society. This principle has been embodied in the constitutions and laws of many countries and in all key international instruments but its practical realization in political and public life is still far away.

Examining the present political landscape, it is evident that women are very much underrepresented in the political institutions and in public life in general. Even though some progress has been achieved since the introduction of policies and programmes resulting in an increase in women's participation in decision-making processes at the local, national and international levels, there are still economic, social and cultural barriers that limit their active participation.

Women's active participation at all levels of decision-making processes is essential for achieving the goals of gender equality, development and peace and for strengthening of democracy, as well as for the advancement of the society as a whole. We are also strongly convinced that the empowerment of women and their effective participation in all spheres of life are essential tools in the prevention and elimination of gender-based discrimination and all forms of violence against women.

Recalling the framework of international standards of equality and of participation of women and men in public life, including those enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Political Rights of Women, we underline that women have, on equal terms with men and without any discrimination, the right to vote in all elections and to be eligible for election, to hold public office and exercise all public functions established by national law.

We take this opportunity to declare our support to the outcome of the 2005 World Summit which reaffirmed that the full and effective implementation of the goals and objectives of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action is an essential contribution for the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

In light of the persistent gap between women's de iure and de facto equality, we urge governments to implement effective temporary special measures to accelerate the achievement of women's de facto equality.

The review and amendment of existing electoral laws is a precondition to enhance women's equal participation and we therefore call upon governments to adopt temporary special measures, such as provided for by the general recommendation No. 25 of the CEDAW Committee, including, setting benchmarks, for achieving equitable representation of women in elected positions and assisting women candidates to develop their skills, capacities and expertise. We are deeply convinced that, in the long run, it will result in the development of policies and programmes building a critical mass of women in strategic economic, social and political positions, and thus having a genuine impact on political life of any country.

In this regard, we fully subscribe to strategies aimed at involving men in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women as well as fostering an enabling environment in decision-making processes at all levels, including measures for reconciliation of family and employment responsibilities.

We express our full commitment to undertake measures to eliminate occupational segregation and gender wage gaps in the labour market, and to develop strategies to eliminate gender stereotypes, including in the education system. We strongly recommend to all governments to set up a statistical system for successful monitoring of the progress of equality in all public sectors.

We, women ministers, will endure in our request for the removal of all barriers in order to achieve practical realization of gender equality in political and public life.

Geneva, 19 June 2006
