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## Third Committee

### Summary record of the 9th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 10 October 2011, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Haniff..... (Malaysia)

## Contents

Agenda item 28: Advancement of women

- (a) Advancement of women
- (b) Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.*

**Agenda item 28: Advancement of women**

**(a) Advancement of women** (A/66/38, 99, 181, 212 and 215)

**(b) Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly** (A/66/211)

1. **Ms. Puri** (Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)) said that all of the five priorities of UN-Women — economic empowerment; political empowerment; ending violence against women; enhancing the role of women in peace and security; and gender-responsive budgeting and planning — were closely related to the promotion and protection of human rights. Gender equality and the empowerment of women were increasingly on the agendas of heads of State and Government.

2. For the first time in the history of the United Nations, the current General Assembly had been opened by a woman, and women's issues had been prominent in the general debate. A group of women heads of State and other leaders had joined with the Executive Director of UN-Women to call for increasing women's political participation. Women had been actively involved in organizing and demanding political freedoms during the Arab Spring. The announcement of the Nobel Peace Prize winners a few days before the current meeting had caused general rejoicing.

3. UN-Women had fully assumed its leadership and was working with the United Nations system and government and civil society partners around the world. The Entity was focusing on strengthening its field presence in more than 78 countries. Its first flagship report was on women's access to justice.

4. UN-Women was supporting intergovernmental processes so that dynamic, responsive global norms and policies on gender equality were in place, primarily in the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women. It was contributing to discussions on climate change and to the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).

UN-Women was also working to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

5. Introducing the report on improvement of the situation of women in rural areas (A/66/181), she said that rural women were critical agents in poverty reduction and environmental sustainability and that their contribution was central to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Rural women remained economically and socially disadvantaged for many reasons. The report recommended strengthening implementation of all existing commitments on rural development and rural women's empowerment; putting in place temporary special measures; targeting rural women in employment-creation initiatives; and strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices to collect, analyse and disseminate comparable sex-disaggregated data.

6. Introducing the report on violence against women migrant workers (A/66/212), she said that many women who migrated to work were at risk for gender-based violence, discrimination and exploitation. The report stressed the need to ratify and implement international instruments, enhance data collection, strengthen national legislation and expand prevention and support measures. Those two reports indicated that there was a dearth of knowledge regarding the impact of initiatives to empower rural women and women migrant workers. A more systematic and targeted approach was needed.

7. The report on measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (A/66/211) also indicated the need for more systematic attention to gender perspectives. Inequalities between women and men permeated all sectors. The report recommended mainstreaming a gender perspective into all issues considered by intergovernmental bodies at the United Nations and reports of the Secretary-General, improving data collection, emphasizing the role of civil society in implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, and encouraging the participation of women's groups and non-governmental organizations in intergovernmental processes.

8. **Mr. Kamau** (Kenya) requested information on activity by UN-Women to build capacity to respond to women's needs and achieve Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 5, improving maternal health.

9. **Ms. Puri** (Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)) said that raising funds and marshalling resources was an existential priority for the new Entity. Traditional donors had been requested to make UN-Women a priority, especially during the next two years. Major donors were being asked to make contributions as early as possible for the current period; non-traditional and emerging country donors were being asked to make significant contributions, particularly during the initial period; and non-traditional donors were being sought in the private sector and among foundations. Beneficiaries should indicate to donors in bilateral contexts that gender equality and women's empowerment were priorities.

10. **Ms. Manjoo** (Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences), introducing the report to the General Assembly on advancement of women (A/66/215), said that it focused largely on the continuum of violence against women from the home to the transnational sphere. Under her mandate she studied the forms, causes and consequences of violence against women, analysed the relevant legal and institutional developments and made recommendations to Governments and the international community. The report analysed violence against women in four spheres: the family, the community, violence perpetrated or condoned by the State, and violence that occurred in the transnational sphere.

11. States were required to prevent and respond to all acts of violence against women and also to prevent, investigate, punish, protect and provide remedies. Investigation, prosecution, protection and redress measures had a direct effect on prevalence rates. The ultimate objective of States' efforts in the sphere was the prevention of future acts of violence.

12. The report proposed a holistic approach to understanding and addressing discrimination and violence against women. Violence was part of a continuum. It was not the root problem, but occurred because other forms of discrimination were allowed to flourish. States must recognize the existence of structural and institutional inequalities. Interventions

must seek not only to ameliorate the abuse, but also to factor in women's realities, in order to challenge fundamental gender inequalities. An understanding of inter- and intra-gender differences was required. Discrimination affected women differently depending on their position within various hierarchies. Not all women were equally vulnerable to violence.

13. She had received positive replies to requests to visit Italy, Jordan, Somalia and the Solomon Islands and looked forward to receiving favourable responses from the Governments of Bangladesh, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe. Her recent follow-up visit to Algeria had shown that there had been significant developments in nationality, family and penal legislation to eliminate critical areas of inequality between women and men. There was, however, persistent *de jure* and *de facto* discrimination, and entrenched attitudes relegated women to a subordinate role. Violence against women in the family, sexual harassment and stigmatization of single women were areas of concern.

14. She had visited Zambia near the end of the review process of the new Constitution. The excitement concerning the new law against gender-based violence, which was awaiting Presidential approval, had been palpable. Legal achievements in the area of gender had not translated into concrete improvements in the lives of most women, who were discriminated against and at high risk of violence. Impunity was widespread. There were few shelters, insufficient legal representation and a reluctance to recognize numerous forms of violence as crimes and human rights violations. Negative customary and religious practices persisted, despite efforts by the State to regulate some of them.

15. She had visited the United States of America to examine the situation of violence against women in custodial settings, domestic violence, violence against women in the military and violence against immigrant women and women of colour. Legally binding federal domestic violence legislation was in short supply. Even where local and state police were grossly negligent in their duties to protect women's right to physical security, there was no federal-level constitutional or statutory remedy. In some jurisdictions, there was little protection for domestic violence victims. Many women in various parts of the country suffered from inadequate protection, particularly poor, minority and immigrant women.

16. Her second thematic report to the Human Rights Council had focused on multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence against women (A/HRC/17/26). It argued that the intersections between gender-based discrimination and other forms of discrimination were too often overlooked. The communications contained in her report to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/17/26/Add.1) reflected a pattern of inequality and discrimination related to violence against women. Of the 13 Governments concerned, only 3 had replied.

17. She had continued strengthening cooperation with intergovernmental expert bodies which monitored the situation of women's human rights. She had met with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to discuss women's human rights in conflict and post-conflict situations and to strengthen partnerships between the two mandates. She had presented a report to the Commission on the Status of Women on the need for more effective implementation by States of due diligence with regard to violence against women.

18. She had contributed to a report on the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (A/HRC/16/68), expressing her deep concern at the serious violations of the human rights of women and girls by both State and non-State actors. She and others had called on the Human Rights Council to consider the creation of a special procedures country-specific mandate.

19. She had also participated in a regional consultation for the Asia Pacific region and a national consultation in Malaysia as well as consultations in Brussels with European civil society organizations, including observatories on violence against women. In most of the 21 countries whose reports had been considered by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in 2010, violence against women was either high, persistent or on the increase. While ensuring the human rights of women was a collective responsibility, the primary responsibility rested with States.

20. **Mr. Saadi** (Algeria) said that, since the visit of the Special Rapporteur to his country, there had been a new dynamism with regard to reforms. The Constitution was under review, and there was discussion of a women's rights law that would establish percentages of seats in elected bodies reserved for women.

21. Terrorism, which Algeria had struggled to resist, had been the cause of violence against women in Algeria over the past 10 years, but the Special Rapporteur had made no reference to terrorism in her report. The reconciliation charter adopted by referendum did not grant full clemency to people who had committed violence. He wished to know what recommendations the Special Rapporteur had with regard to changing discriminatory customs and mindsets, which was so much more difficult than revising laws.

22. **Ms. Chisanga-Kondolo** (Zambia) said that the section of the report entitled "Violence perpetrated or condoned by the State" was highly misleading. Her Government had introduced stiffer penalties for sexual offenders. Legislation on gender-based violence had come into force during the current year. It criminalized gender-based violence, protected and compensated survivors, established shelters for survivors and had set up a social protection fund for survivors.

23. Guidelines for working with survivors of sexual and gender-based violence had been developed. The guidelines set standards for survivor care and served as a reference for health workers, the police, lawyers and social welfare officers. One-stop centres for victims were being established to provide counselling, treatment of injuries, investigation and prosecution.

24. If, as indicated in the report, there had been incidents of Zambian authorities allegedly torturing or subjecting women to cruel treatment, they were not condoned by the State. Where individual police officers had been found wanting, they had been appropriately dealt with. The State had provided education and awareness-raising to law enforcement officers on the new legislation. A more balanced, accurate report would be appreciated.

25. **Ms. Greble** (Australia) said that efforts were needed to engage with young males to change attitudes and behaviours that prolonged discrimination. She requested further information on measures to ensure that the aims of Security Council resolution 1820 (2008) were reflected in discussions of protection of civilians.

26. **Ms. Phipps** (United States of America) said that her country was taking steps to respond to violence against women within its constitutional framework, which divided jurisdiction between federal, state and local authorities. The United States had devoted

substantial resources at home and abroad to eliminating violence against women. She encouraged the Special Rapporteur to continue considering issues confronting refugee and displaced women.

27. **Ms. Gregg** (Liechtenstein) asked for further information on how the Special Rapporteur was cooperating with UN-Women and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. She wondered what the Third Committee could do to help put an end to early and forced marriage, which continued unmonitored and unpunished, despite legal prohibitions.

28. **Ms. Djibo** (Niger) said that deeply rooted cultural attitudes were difficult to combat. Many illiterate women accepted domestic violence and social discrimination as natural. A successful example of how to change mindsets had involved the establishment in Niger of a school for husbands, under the aegis of the Ministry for the Advancement of Women and Protection of the Child. In the school, men and women discussed and found solutions to the problems and violence triggered by women's use of contraceptives.

29. **Ms. Kaljulate** (Observer for the European Union) asked what role States could play in tackling violence in the private sphere, and how it could be determined that a State had done everything that it could to prevent violence in the private sphere. Examples of best practices with regard to due diligence in cases of violence against women would be welcomed.

30. She also requested further details on the inter-gender and intra-gender approaches to remedies for violence against women. How could programmes to improve the position of women be modified to reach less privileged women? She also wished to know the extent to which the Special Rapporteur had cooperated with other Special Rapporteurs on the issues under discussion.

31. **Ms. Eyenga** (Cameroon) said that she agreed that economic empowerment of women, including property rights, the right to land, adequate housing, economic independence and secondary education, was key to violence prevention. Violence and poverty were linked. Opening a dialogue with the full participation of women would make it possible to address the deep causes of violence and break patriarchal structures.

32. **Mr. Babadoudou** (Benin) said that the economic roots of violence against women and domestic violence must be studied further. The previous week, the Parliament of Benin had adopted a law on prevention of violence against women.

33. **Ms. Jusu** (Sierra Leone) said that female genital mutilation was a form of violence against women. In her country, the incidence of female genital mutilation was over 80 per cent. She requested information on how the Third Committee would help Governments to eradicate the tradition.

34. **Ms. Manjoo** (Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences), replying to the delegates' questions, said that, while her report had acknowledged historical conditions in Algeria, she had chosen not to make reference to "terrorism", as that was a loaded term. However she had alluded to the impact of the period known as the Black Decade.

35. Societal transformation was the challenge facing Zambia and the United States. Governments were able and willing to change constitutions. There were 131 constitutions which laid down gender equality. There was a need for education at all levels. Education of women would be a step towards addressing systemic, structural inequalities in order to eliminate violence against women.

36. Violence against women perpetrated by the State included violence against women committed by State actors in custodial settings. The Special Rapporteur interviewed women prisoners and requested information on violations. Violence which was condoned was due to a failure to protect. Impunity had normalized violence against women in many countries. Governments must prevent violations of women's rights by using the same standards of fairness that they used with regard to crimes not related to women.

37. The holistic approach was a proposed framework. Early and forced marriages were a response to socio-economic realities. The economic realities of families needed to be addressed. Parents also preferred to have their girls married than defiled. For example, girls experienced sexual violence on the way to school and in school and entered into unsafe sexual practices with taxi drivers, so as not to walk long distances to school.

38. Peace education was needed at all levels of schooling, in post-conflict and conflict situations, as

well as in situations of “so-called ‘peace’”. The expression “so-called ‘peace’” emphasized that no country was at peace when acts of violence against women were so pervasive. Addressing impunity indicated that a Government took violence against women seriously.

39. A way to address privilege and elitism was to decentralize services such as justice, counselling and economic and educational support. Many countries had recognized that it was not possible to function only at the national level. However, decentralization must come with adequate resources. Oversight and accountability were challenges in that regard. It was crucial to include marginalized voices in developing policies and programmes. Meaningful participation, empowerment and equality must be the central features of the human-rights-based approach to development for women. It was not clear that the goals of equality, development and peace were part and parcel of thinking at the regional and national levels.

40. Norm-setting at the regional human rights level was a welcome development. The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence was a recent development. The Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, known as the Convention of Belem Do Para, had been in place since 1994. The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa had been in place since 2003. Work at the regional level further decentralized the process and made human rights more meaningful at the national and regional levels.

41. **Ms. Pimentel** (Chairperson, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women), introducing the report on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/66/99), called upon the seven States which had not yet done so to ratify or accede expeditiously to the Convention. The Optional Protocol to the Convention had been accepted by 102 States parties. The Committee appreciated the extension of its meeting time granted under General Assembly resolution 62/218, pending the entry into force of the amendment to the Convention, which had been accepted by 64 States parties. For the amendment to enter into force, acceptance by 125 States parties was required.

42. It was the responsibility of the States parties to ensure a stable resource base for the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and it was also in their interest to do so. The Committee had considered or scheduled for consideration all reports that were 10 years or more overdue. While the Committee considered 24 reports per year, recently it had been unable to keep pace with the number of submissions. The Committee was working to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of its working methods and had established a working group for that purpose. However, not all measures leading to greater efficiency would necessarily reduce costs. Greater investment in analysis, research, time, new technologies and documents might be required.

43. The Committee had been collaborating with UN-Women to establish a framework for cooperation, increase awareness of the Convention and achieve greater gender equality. The Committee had provided input into the UN-Women Strategic Plan and was collaborating with it in drawing up draft general recommendations on women in conflict and post-conflict situations and on access to justice. The Committee had met with the Special Rapporteurs on the human rights of internally displaced persons and on violence against women, its causes and consequences. It had also met with the Secretary-General and was impressed with his commitment to women’s rights.

44. The Committee was elaborating general recommendations on the economic consequences of marriage, family relations and their dissolution and on harmful practices, the latter in conjunction with the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The general recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women were a source of legal and policy guidance, addressing such core issues as the conceptualization of violence against women as a form of discrimination and the elaboration of States parties’ due diligence obligation.

45. Jurisprudence under the Optional Protocol had been used in the European Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, setting a high bar for legislative protection and implementation of legal standards and triggering progress at the domestic level. Committee experts had promoted the Convention through their participation in events involving the United Nations, regional organizations and Government and civil society partners. However, while the Convention and the Optional Protocol had

led to significant changes in laws and policies, transforming the lives of many women and girls worldwide, the potential of the Convention had not been fully tapped, due to lack of visibility, accessibility and political will.

46. **Ms. Murillo** (Costa Rica) thanked the Committee for its recommendations in connection with the recent submission of Costa Rica's periodic report. They provided the opportunity for a domestic review of the relevant provisions. Recently, a decision had been made to establish an inter-agency commission to implement all treaty body recommendations.

47. **Ms. Gregg** (Liechtenstein) said that information about the Committee's experience of working in parallel chambers would be welcome. Of interest was not only quantitative information, but information about the quality of the discussion in small groups and Committee responses and whether the format was sustainable in the long term.

48. **Ms. Kaljulate** (Observer for the European Union) said that it was time to achieve the goal of universal ratification of the Convention, which had 187 States parties. Information was requested on the value added of the cooperation with the Committee on the Rights of the Child to elaborate a general recommendation. Details were requested on the work to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of working methods and harmonize working methods and practices with other treaty bodies and on the follow-up procedure to concluding observations introduced during the current year.

49. **Mr. Saadi** (Algeria) asked how the Committee would solve the problem of accumulating reports. His country's report, submitted in April 2010, had yet to be introduced. Information in the report had become obsolete. New information could be submitted, but with time that information would also become dated.

50. **Ms. Leveaux** (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, requested information on strengthened cooperation with special procedures mandate holders. What measures could be taken to fully exploit the potential of the Convention and its Optional Protocol?

51. **Ms. Borges** (Timor-Leste) requested an update on collaboration between UN-Women and the Committee.

52. **Ms. Pimentel** (Chairperson, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women),

replying to delegates' questions, said that she appreciated the fact that the findings and recommendations of the Committee had been broadly publicized in Costa Rica. While she personally was pleased with the work conducted in parallel chambers, the Committee was still discussing its position on the matter. The Committee needed to reach an understanding with States about what was expected of them, to facilitate implementation. There were indeed countries with excellent laws that they were not enforcing. The general recommendation on harmful practices was pioneering work.

53. The importance of the relationship between the Committee and UN-Women had been clear even before Michelle Bachelet had become Executive Director. Areas of cooperation that had been discussed included dissemination of information on the work of the Committee in the Member States and the general recommendations on women in conflict and access to justice. UN-Women had recently released a study entitled *Progress of the World's Women: In Pursuit of Justice*, which would shed light on Committee deliberations. States parties must not only comply with Committee recommendations but also provide information on salient issues to ensure that justice was effective for women.

54. The Committee was proud of its working methods and had made a real effort to strengthen them. It always had contributions to make to discussions on strengthening the treaty bodies. Three human rights committees were already implementing measures with regard to the list of issues and questions prior to receiving States' reports, and reported that things were going smoothly. An improved format for final conclusions was being sought, including reductions in word count. Reporting States had been asked to highlight one or two questions to which the Committee must respond. To alleviate the problem of obsolete information in the reports, the Committee was making an effort to reduce the backlog. In her personal opinion, dual chambers were one way of resolving the situation.

55. **Ms. Puri** (Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)) said that the Committee and UN-Women were closely linked. The Convention was a fundamental instrument that served as the basis for UN-Women's pursuit of the gender equality and

women's empowerment agenda. The great strength of UN-Women was that it combined the normative and the operational. It helped Governments implement their commitments under the Convention and also assisted Governments and other stakeholders in reporting to the Committee.

56. **Mr. Cesa** (Argentina), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that despite encouraging developments since the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, progress had been uneven among States and regions. Women were still affected by poverty, violence and discrimination. In addition, new threats and challenges were emerging, including the economic, food and energy crises and climate change. The suffering of women and girls living under foreign occupation was also a source of deep concern.

57. Women's empowerment, access to power and full participation in all spheres of society, including decision-making, were fundamental for the achievement of equality, development and peace. Gender equality and empowerment of women contributed to progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. International cooperation to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women must be enhanced, including through fulfilment of official development assistance commitments, debt relief, market access, financial and technical support and capacity-building in education, health care and job creation for women.

58. **Mr. Kamau** (Kenya), speaking on behalf of the African Group, said that the slow progress in improving the situation of rural women was cause for concern. The decision of the Commission on the Status of Women to make empowerment of rural women its priority theme during its fifty-sixth session in 2012 was welcome.

59. Since the Fourth World Conference on Women, Africa had made great strides in promoting gender equality. In 2009, the African Union Gender Policy had been adopted, and the African Women's Decade had begun in October 2010. The Decade's objective was to accelerate realization of commitments to women's empowerment. The Fund for African Women had recently been launched to finance project proposals for the Decade's agreed priority themes. Nonetheless, implementation challenges owing to weak institutional capacities at the national and regional levels were great.

60. Rural women bore the main responsibility for cultivating food crops in Africa. Women's access to, control of and ownership of land must be improved. They needed training in improved farming methods and access to finance and credit facilities. Women also needed greater access to formal education in order to diversify household income through non-farming employment opportunities. Training in marketing, rural entrepreneurship and farm and household management were called for.

61. Access to health facilities was a great challenge for women in rural areas. Progress towards achievement of MDG 5, maternal health, was weak. Women's political activity was on the rise in some African countries, but was still hampered by their onerous responsibilities, as well as by discriminatory attitudes and lack of economic resources. The recent decision at the African Union Summit to support adoption of a General Assembly resolution during the sixty-sixth session of that body banning female genital mutilation was welcome, as were efforts by States and the United Nations to step up implementation of policies to eliminate violence against women, including migrant workers.

62. **Mr. Talbot** (Guyana), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that, according to the World Bank 2012 World Development Report on Gender Equality and Development, only 117 States had equal pay laws. Women represented 40 per cent of the world's labour force but held just 1 per cent of the world's wealth. Every year, 3.9 million women and girls went missing in developing countries. Greater attention by the international community was necessary for gender equality to become a reality.

63. Women in the Caribbean Community had made gains in education, outnumbering males at the secondary and tertiary levels. However, women's access to resources, services and economic opportunities was impeded by cultural and structural factors. A study by the CARICOM secretariat suggested links between gender inequalities and discrimination on the one hand, and economic vulnerability of female-headed households, the gendered burden of care and higher levels of unemployment among women, on the other.

64. CARICOM and UN-Women had recently held a workshop on gender-based violence, and CARICOM would soon release a report on gender-based violence



in the region. An effective response required greater advocacy and legislative, administrative and institutional measures. Despite high levels of educational attainment among women, men still dominated positions of power. There was no quota for the representation of women in parliament. The target of 30 per cent was a standard for achievement.

65. Gender mainstreaming measures had been adopted in national HIV/AIDS programmes, yielding positive results. A number of strategic plans had been developed to combat non-communicable diseases in CARICOM States. CARICOM women played a significant role in agriculture and food production and were directly affected by unfavourable terms of international trade in such areas. In that regard, CARICOM reiterated its call for an end to unfair competition and agricultural trade distortions.

66. **Ms. Simba** (United Republic of Tanzania), speaking on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), said that the Community had adopted the Protocol on Gender and Development, which enhanced gender equality commitments made in regional, continental and global instruments, addressing gaps and setting specific targets. All member States had ratified the Addendum to the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development on Violence against Women. All member States had either a draft or a national action plan to end violence against women. Nine member States had legislation on domestic violence, seven on sexual offences and five on trafficking.

67. The Community had developed a strategy to address sexual violence, particularly in conflict and post-conflict situations. Progress had been made in capacity-building for gender-mainstreaming trainers. A strategy on informal cross-border trade provided action areas for creating a conducive and enabling environment for women engaged in trade. New business opportunities were being created for women.

68. The member States of the Community fully acknowledged the vital role of rural women in development. Their power and creativity must be recognized and invested in to promote women's empowerment. Support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for agricultural extension training for women in Mozambique, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia was appreciated. The Community

expected that UN-Women would have a strong presence at the field level and complement the efforts of national Governments and regional gender units.

*The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.*