

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA DELIVERED BY MR. ABDULLA EID AL-SULAITI, PERMANENT MISSION OF THE STATE OF QATAR TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK, AT THE FIFTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (THIRD COMMITTEE), ON AGENDA ITEM 98: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN AND AGENDA ITEM 99: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN AND OF THE TWENTY-THIRD SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ENTITLED "WOMEN 2000: GENDER EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY" (New York, 12 October 2004)



Mr. Chairman,

Allow me first to thank the Secretariat, the Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, and the Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women for their enlightening presentations.

The Universal declaration of human rights proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, including distinction between men and women.

The adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and of the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly constituted an overall process that allowed the international community to address various challenges, trends and patterns affecting the status of women whose causes and consequences are different and vary from region to region. During the Fourth World Conference on Women and its review process the improvement of the living conditions of women all over the world was the issue at the heart of the collective efforts of the international community.

In assessing and evaluating the achievements of the international community in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document of the 23rd Special Session, the Group of 77 and China is of the view that despite the progress made thus far on these endeavors, there are still serious challenges and obstacles that remain to be addressed and surmounted.

Among these challenges is poverty eradication. Globalization, as well as the transformations in the world economy associated with it, have had a deep impact on the livelihood of women and, in many instances, have worsened the conditions in which millions of people live around the world, particularly in developing countries. Unfortunately, women, particularly in rural areas, are the most affected by the consequences of poverty which leads to the feminization of poverty.

The Group 77 and China wholeheartedly believes that women, when using their full potential, would play a major role in supporting national and international efforts for the realization of the internationally agreed commitments towards poverty eradication, combating diseases and to stimulate sustainable development in general.

The Group of 77 and China also believes that equality between women and men is a necessary and basic pre-requisite for development and peace. Jobs and meaningful work and educational opportunities are essential for this equality. These two pillars ensure that both women and men can influence, participate in and benefit from development processes. It is in this sphere and context that there is a need for further investments in jobs and education.

Mr. Chairman,

Violence against women is one of the worst violations of their basic rights and fundamental freedoms. Fighting and eliminating such a degrading phenomenon which unfortunately exists in all societies under different forms, should be at the center of national and international efforts for the advancement and empowerment of women.

Multidimensional and multisectoral approaches and strategies should be adopted to this end at all levels with the participation of the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders. The Media and civil society among others have also an important role in this regard by raising awareness among the population as to the severe consequences of violence on the physical and mental health of women and on their capacity to participate positively in all activities of

the society and also by providing help and assistance to the victims.

Mr. Chairman,

While we recognize that the responsibility for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session rests primarily at the national level, we stress that enhanced international cooperation is also essential for the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session.

In this context, the Group of 77 and China emphasizes the need for adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels, as well as new and additional resources for the developing countries, including the least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources.

Mr. Chairman,

The Group of 77 and China notes with satisfaction the recent progress in the revitalization of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW). However, the full implementation and success of the revitalization process of INSTRAW is dependent on the broad support of Governments, including the availability of the necessary financial resources for the operation of INSTRAW. This is especially important now since the implementation of the Institute's work programme and strategic plan may contribute to the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman,

It is a great source of satisfaction to the Group of 77 and China that the recent UN Conferences and Summits such as the Millennium Summit, the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Second World Assembly on Ageing and the World Summit on Sustainable Development have integrated a gender perspective in their outcomes and have reaffirmed the necessity of gender equality and the imperative role of women in all developmental efforts. Such integration should be translated into action in the policies and programs at the national, regional and international levels. We would like to see these efforts reaffirmed and emphasized in the context of the high-level event planned for 2005, and in particular, in the context of the review of the implementation of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome of the twenty-third special session.

Thank you.