

Madame Chairperson, Distinguished Experts

The Commission on the Status of Women will hold its 51st session in three weeks, and we look forward to welcoming you back, Mme Chairperson to speak at the opening meeting. The Commission will devote priority attention to the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child. Ministers and other high-level representatives from national capitals will contribute to a high-level roundtable on the topic on 26 February, followed by two interactive expert panel discussions on 27 February.

The Commission will also review the status of implementation of its agreed conclusions of 2004 on the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality through an interactive dialogue on 2 March. Under the agenda item “emerging issues”, there will be an interactive expert panel discussion on the elimination of all forms of violence against women in follow-up to the Secretary-General’s in-depth study at national and international levels.

The Committee pays significant attention to each of these topics. The question of violence against women, for example, is discussed with each reporting State. The Committee carefully examines progress, such as the adoption of comprehensive laws and policies, and identifies gaps and challenges, such as the fact that statistical data is lacking, services for victims are insufficient or absent, and/or public officials may not be trained to support victims of violence. The Committee has consistently noted in its concluding comments that much more work remains to be done as violence against women and girls persists in all parts of the world.

I am sure that the Commission will be enriched by your work in its deliberations on the themes under consideration at its forthcoming session. I am equally certain that the outcome of the Commission will provide valuable inputs to the future work of this Committee.

Madame Chairperson, Distinguished experts,

I extend the appreciation of myself and of the Division for the Advancement of Women for the hard work and dedication to the mandate entrusted to the members of this Committee during this session. We look forward to supporting those of you who will stay on for the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol and the pre-session working group next week.

I would also like to acknowledge the very hard work of the dedicated staff of the Women’s Rights Section, in particular the Chief of Section, Ms Christine Brautigam, and the Secretary of the Committee, Ms Philomena Kintu, as well as the other colleagues in the Division who have contributed to this session. I also wish to acknowledge th