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**STATEMENT  
BY**

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**Commission on the Status of Women  
Fifty-sixth session**

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”

United Nations, New York, 2012

Madam Chairperson,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me first to express Slovenia's full alignment with the statement delivered by Denmark on behalf of the European Union.

We are again together to review what we have accomplished since last session of the Commission on the Status of Women in our endeavours

and activities. The principle of gender equality is central also to the *Rural Development Programme 2007 – 2013*.

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Yet, Madam Chairperson, the results achieved continue to lag behind the ambitious commitments made in Beijing and standards that emanate from the CEDAW Convention, both, in my country and worldwide.

Hidebound and rigid views of women's and men's roles are one of the most potent actors inhibiting the achievement of gender equality goals, including with regard to the empowerment of rural women and enhancing their roles in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges.

I am confident that we will be able to close this session with a sense of satisfaction at having taken another important step forward towards our common goal (– the realization of gender equality and empowerment of women).

Thank you.