

**59<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly  
Second Committee**

**Agenda item 89b  
Women in development**

**Statement by**

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**15 November 2004**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Colleagues.

I would like to extend my congratulations to you, Mr. Chairperson, on your election and also to the other members of the Bureau. I pledge my full support, and that of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women, for your work during this session.

I am happy to inform you, that the newly appointed Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, Ms. Rachel Mayanja, takes up her position this week.

It is my privilege to open the discussion of agenda item 89b, Women in Development, and to present the Secretary-General's report, prepared under this item: *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development (A/59/287)*. The present report is prepared in response to General Assembly resolutions 54/210 (1999) and 58/206 (2003) requesting the Secretary-General to update the *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development*, for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session. The report provides a summary of key elements in the full *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development*. It focuses on women and international migration and presents key issues on labour migration, family formation and reunification, rights of migrant women, refugees and displaced persons as well as trafficking of women and girls. The full report will be issued in December 2004 and will be available for broader distribution as a publication of the Division for the Advancement of Women at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women early next year.

Consideration of women in development within the framework of the General Assembly's work on economic and financial matters, on a biannual basis, provides an important opportunity to highlight gender perspectives in current and emerging economic issues, and to contribute to the formulation and implementation of gender-sensitive development policies and programmes. Earlier reports have focused on macro-economic policy-making and development planning (A/50/399 and A/52/345), access to financial resources (A/56/321) and gender mainstreaming in global policy-making through United

policies, trade policies and labour market policies. Income disparities, labour market discrimination, high unemployment and the high incidence of poverty among women hinder women's effective contributions to development and are obstacles to economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development.

Mr. Chairperson,

Since 1986, the *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development* has been prepared every five years and has focused on selected emerging development issues that impact on the role of women in the economy at national, regional and global levels. The most recent *World Survey* submitted to this Committee in 1999 covered the issue of globalization, women and work. This current *World Survey* before the Committee addresses women and international migration. The *World Economic and Social Survey 2004*, by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs,

urged governments to strengthen measures at the international and domestic levels to protect and empower women migrant workers.

Mr. Chairperson,

The migration of women has always been an important component of international migration. As of 2000, 49 percent of all international migrants were women or girls, and the proportion of women among international migrants had reached 51 percent in more developed regions.

prostitution, marriage, domestic work, sweatshops and other forms of exploitation that constitute a contemporary form of slavery. Preventive activities must include education about the dangers of trafficking, in combination with the provision of economic opportunities at home and legal channels of migration for women who might otherwise resort to utilizing smugglers and traffickers.

A number of international instruments outline the human rights of migrants. Despite this, many national laws include discriminatory provisions that negatively impact the human rights of migrant women. For example, laws may include provisions that bar or make it harder for female migrants to bring their husbands and children to join them. Women who are recruited as domestic workers or who enter countries as mail-order brides may have little legal protection from abuse.

*World Survey on the Role of Women in Development* makes a number of recommendations, for improving the situation of migrant, refugee and trafficked women. These include ratification and implementation of all international legal instruments that promote and protect the rights of migrating women and girls, review of national emigration and immigration laws and policies in order to identify discriminatory provisions, and legal literacy programmes to enhance the human rights of women; as well as development of policies, programmes, education and communication activities to enhance women's access to employment opportunities, safe housing, education and language training, health care and other services; and research and improved data collection activities to provide a more solid basis for the formulation of appropriate gender-sensitive migration policies and programmes.

HIV/AIDs and other diseases, environmental sustainability and partnerships for development.

The United Nations conferences and summits over the past decade have been instrumental in highlighting the cross-cutting nature of gender perspectives and their relevance for sustainable development, including the promotion of economic growth and poverty eradication, through incorporating attention to gender perspectives in policy recommendations. Greater attention has to be given to implementation strategies, including the establishment of targets and indicators, and to follow-up and reporting mechanisms. The work of the Second Committee provides an opportunity for broadening and strengthening the attention to the gender perspectives in the pursuit of economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development. The resolution on the Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system provides one such important opportunity. A strong recommendation should also be made on the incorporation of gender perspectives into the first comprehensive review of the follow-up to the Millennium Declaration and the Second High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, both of which are planned for 2005.

In closing, may I wish you and the Committee a productive outcome of your deliberations. We look forward to working with the Committee in moving towards our common goal of enhancing the role of women in development and promoting gender equality, particularly in the context of the important reviews to be carried out in 2005.

Thank you.