



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations

866 U.N. Plaza, Rm 304, New York, NY 10017

STATEMENT

BY

MRS. RACHEL B. DZOMBO, CBS
PERMANENT SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF GENDER, SPORTS, CULTURE AND SOCIAL
SERVICES OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

TO THE

FIFTY SECOND SESSION

OF THE

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW)

ON THE THEME:

***"FINANCING GENDER EQUALITY AND
EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN"***

25TH FEBRUARY – 7TH MARCH, 2008
UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

Chairperson,

Let me begin by congratulating you on your election as chairperson of this important Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Allow me also to convey my delegation's congratulations to your Bureau. May I also add that my delegation and I are proud to be associated with the deliberations of this meeting and we assure you of our full support. We align ourselves with the statement delivered by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Chairperson,

It is my great pleasure to present on behalf of my Government, key features of Kenya's report on the thematic area being deliberated on during this session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The detailed report is available at the back of the room.

The Government of Kenya remains committed to financing gender equality and empowerment of women and has taken several concrete steps which include the enactment of the National Policy on Gender and Development and budgetary reforms.

Chairperson,

In recognition of the key role played by Kenyan women in the country's economic development, the Government established a KShs. 2 billion (Approximately \$29 million) Women Enterprise Fund with an initial allocation of KShs. 1 Billion (approximately US\$14.5 million) in the 2007/08 national budget. The Fund will double in the next financial year. The purpose of the fund is to promote women's economic empowerment, poverty reduction and national development.

The Government has also established the Youth Enterprise Fund, whose objective is to facilitate youth employment through enterprise development and labor export. Over the last two financial years the Government has allocated a total budget of KShs. 1.750 billion to the Fund (approximately US\$25 million).

The Government also provides funds to promote gender equality and women's empowerment through Community Grants and Constituency Development Fund (CDF) among others.

Chairperson,

The Government recognizes the critical role of education in empowering women to participate in national development. Through *Gender Policy in Education* the Government of Kenya is implementing free primary and secondary education, affirmative action in public universities, and school boarding facilities in Arid and Semi-Arid parts of the country.

Chairperson,

We are committed to the provision of health services targeting women and children. This

commitment is reflected in budgetary allocations to Family planning, maternal and child health and Kenya Expanded Programme on Immunization which received KShs. 67. 4 million and KShs. 119.2 million (approximately US\$1.7 million) respectively out of the 32 billion allocated to the Ministry of Health in Financial Year 2007/8. Today, Kenya enjoys free health care facilities for children aged 0 – 5 years in all government health facilities, free deliveries, free pre- and post- natal care for women, free Anti-Retro Viral drugs and counseling of persons living with HIV/AIDS in all Government health facilities. The Government of Kenya has also set aside Kshs. 500 million to promote research in the treatment of Malaria, HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis to achieve the MDGs.

To eliminate sexual violence against women and girls, the Government has funded the establishment of a Task Force for the implementation of the *Sexual Offences Act, 2006*.

Similarly the Government has financed the establishment of the Family Division Court to address issues of empowerment of women through sharing of matrimonial property in situations of divorce and separation among others.

Chairperson,

The Government of Kenya enacted the Water Act, 2002 to underscore its commitment to the provision of clean and safe water closer to the community. In line with this commitment the Government of Kenya has, this financial year, allocated KShs. 8.4 billion (approximately US\$120 million) to be used in part for drilling boreholes in Arid and Semi – Arid Lands and the rehabilitation of rural water supply schemes.

Chairperson,

The Government of Kenya has a long standing partnership with multilateral and bilateral partners in financing for gender equality and empowerment of women.

Chairperson,

As I conclude allow me to reaffirm my Government's commitment to financing for gender equality and empowerment of women. Indeed, my Government will continue to intensify efforts towards gender Responsive Budgeting and strengthen partnerships with our development partners and regional blocks. I believe that through public-private partnerships, including the involvement of the Non-Governmental Organizations and Community Based Organizations, the Government of Kenya will continue its efforts to finance gender equality and women's empowerment initiatives in a peaceful and democratic environment.

I thank you!