

**Statement by
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The report of the Secretary-General on the theme, Enhanced participation of women in development: an enabling environment for achieving gender equality and the advancement of women, taking into account, inter alia, the fields of education, health and work, contained in document E/CN.6/2006/12, provides an overview of challenges, opportunities and promising strategies for enhancing an enabling environment for gender equality and the advancement of women, with illustrative examples from the areas of education, health and work.

The Secretary-General's report on the theme Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels, before you in document E/CN.6/2006/13, analyses the current situation of women in decision-making processes and the conditions required for achieving their successful participation and leadership. The report also addresses the impact of women's participation and leadership on promoting gender equality.

Consideration of the two thematic issues will be further enriched by the two expert panel discussions scheduled for tomorrow, 28 February.

To support the consideration of the themes, the Division for the Advancement of Women organized two expert group meetings prior to the Commission. The expert group meeting on enhanced participation of women in development, was organized in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok, Thailand, from 8 to 11 November 2005. The expert group meeting on the equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 24 to 27 October 2005, was a collaborative effort with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). The reports from both expert group meeting have been disseminated through the DAW website and copies are available in the room for reference.

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appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and this meeting also provided inputs to the preparation of the work programme. The Division would like to

continued implementation of the project on “Enhancing the capacity of national machineries through the effective use of ICT” in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). A panel discussion organized during the World Summit on the Information Society in Tunis in November 2005 discussed the need for a regional e-network of national machineries in Africa and presented a framework for future action by national machineries to ensure effective utilization of ICT to advance their goals.

The Division's programme of technical support to States parties in implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women is increasingly important in ensuring that international human rights standards for women are translated into actual benefits at the national level. Our activities include sub-regional workshops on implementation and reporting under the Convention for government officials, and judicial colloquia on the application of the Convention in domestic courts. In the past year, together with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), a regional training workshop and judicial colloquium was held in Santiago, Chile, for nine countries in the Latin American region.

As part of our joint workplan with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, a sub-regional workshop on follow-up to concluding comments / observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was held in Cairo, Egypt, for six countries in the North African region. In addition, two missions to Sierra Leone were undertaken as part of our programme of sustained and comprehensive support to post-conflict countries to implement the Convention. Similar initiatives are planned for Afghanistan, Liberia and Timor-Leste. The workshop was held in 2005.

