



STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA
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REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON AN OFFICIAL LEVEL:
ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN, AT THE THIRD COMMITTEE OF THE 66TH
SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(New York, 10 October 2011)

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

1. - Firstly, I would like to express, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, our appreciation to the Secretary-General for the reports submitted.
2. - In the view of us, the Group of 77 and China, gender equality and empowerment of women are essential for sustainable development.
3. - In this regard, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action remains the most comprehensive and authoritative international instrument on women's rights and the empowerment of women and girls. Since the United Nations convened the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing sixteen years ago, Member States with the support of the international community, including the UN system, have developed and strengthened legal frameworks that promote women's rights and enhance gender equality. Women have increasingly gained access to education, health, jobs and social security nets.
4. - However, despite this encouraging evolution, there are still several problems facing women, such as poverty, violence, discrimination. We recognize an urgent need for further actions at all levels to address these problems and their root causes, which include unequal access to education, labour markets and women as well as conflicts and socio-economic constraints.
5. - In addition to these persistent problems, the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, new threats and challenges are emerging. The Group of 77 and China would like to stress the importance of addressing the are only exacerbated by global economic and financial crisis, world food crisis and continuing food insecurity, energy crisis and the challenges posed by climate change, particularly on women.
6. - The G-77 and China is also deeply concerned about the suffering of women and girls living under foreign occupation, and underlines the urgency for collective actions to remove the obstacles to their realization of their rights.
7. - In line with the Beijing Declaration, the Group of 77 and China is convinced that women's empowerment and their full participation in all spheres of society, including participation in the decision-making process and access to power, are fundamental for the achievement of equality, development and peace. To this end, it is necessary to continue to foster an increasing political participation of women at all levels of decision.



Mr. Chairman,

8. The United States supports the Millennium Development Goals, we must recognize the contribution of progress in gender equality and empowerment of women, to these goals. In doing so, my country must further mainstream the gender perspective into its development strategies and actions.

9. It is also important to enhance international cooperation and global partnership for achieving gender equality and empowerment for women, including the fulfilment of commitments on official development assistance, debt relief, market access, financial and technical assistance and capacity building in priority areas such as women's education, health and nutrition, in order to help eliminating gender disparities.

Mr. Chairman,

10. A process, the United Nations Entity on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), was established by the General Assembly. The Group of 77 and China is confident that UN Women will continue to make a relevant contribution to a world-wide commitment to gender equality and empowerment of women.

11. In closing, the Group of 77 and China reaffirms its commitment to the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and looks forward to working together towards the further advancement of women.

Thank you.