

## STATEMENT ON THE PRESIDENT'S TEXT ON INSTITUTION BUILDING

Mr. President,

We support the comments made by Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Guatemala regarding the inclusion of the human rights of women and a gender perspective in the Program of Work.

**57 States**, in a joint statement delivered by Argentina at the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council, affirmed the need to integrate gender mainstreaming throughout the work of the Council. It was supported by States from all regions, including the **Coordinators of all 5 regional groups: Algeria, Azerbaijan, Brazil, the Netherlands and Sri Lanka.**

The President's text on institution-building makes important steps towards protection of women's rights and does recommend gender balance on various committees and in the selection of Special Procedures.

For example,

In the section on the UPR, the principles require that 'a gender perspective is fully integrated in the UPR'. In other sections on the Special Procedures, in the formation of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee and in the Working Groups on Communications and Situations due consideration to gender balance is recommended. This is simply not enough as gender balance on committees and among the Special Procedures on its own does not guarantee that a gender perspective will be integrated throughout the work of the Council.

It is therefore important to ensure that the two distinct issues of **both** the substantive human rights of women **and** of gender integration are reflected in the Council's Agenda and Programme of Work

To accomplish this it is necessary to explicitly include "**integration of a gender perspective throughout the work of the Council**" within **both the Agenda and Programme of Work.**

This is a separate institutional item distinct from the "**promotion and protection of the human rights of women**", which must also be included in the **Programme of Work.**

We recognise that many outstanding issues continue to demand the Council's attention. We feel nonetheless that the Agenda must reflect an important issue which is **forward-looking, affirms core UN commitments** and enjoys **broad support across all 5 regional groups.**

Thank you.

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This is a joint statement by Action Canada for Population and Development, The Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, Center for Women's Global Leadership, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era, Federation for Women and Family Planning, International Alliance of Women, International Service for Human Rights, International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific, and other partner NGOs engaged in human rights activism coming from Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America, North America and Europe.