

# Canada

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**STATEMENT BY**

**THE DELEGATION OF CANADA**

**TO**

**THE 52<sup>nd</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

**NEW YORK, 28 FEBRUARY 2008**

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**DÉCLARATION DE**

**LA DÉLÉGATION CANADIENNE**

**LORS DE**

**LA 52<sup>ième</sup> SESSION DE LA COMMISSION DES NATIONS UNIES  
SUR LA CONDITION DE LA FEMME**

**NEW YORK, LE 28 FÉVRIER 2008**

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates

I am pleased to address the Commission as we consider the priority theme for this session, the review theme of women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building, and the emerging issue of gender perspectives on climate change. All three of these issues resonate with the people of Canada. Our commitments to accountability and results, our engagement in fragile states, and our commitment to the environment are at the forefront of national attention.

We welcome the Secretary General's report and appreciate that he has recognized the multiple dimensions of financing, as well as the essential role of national leadership in making progress and achieving results. Canada looks forward to making such tangible actions part of our deliberations at this session of the Commission.

Mr. Chair,

Canada's focus on results and accountability has a strong tie to this year's priority theme. We have learned that Gender-Based Analysis has a much greater impact when it is tied to a clear set of objectives, with anticipated outcomes that are concrete and measurable. Our experience in international development is the same, and our *Framework for Assessing Gender Equality Results* in our development cooperation is an important advance in this regard.

A focus on results must be accompanied by accountability mechanisms to ensure that results are achieved. In Canada all government departments are required to consider gender issues when seeking to obtain programming funds. The close collaboration between our central planning agency and our national women's machinery was critical to this success.

As a demonstration of Canada's commitment to funding women's equality and empowerment, in 2007 the Government of Canada increased funding to the Women's Program, administered by Status of Women Canada, bringing the total budget for the organization to its highest level ever. Over the next year, the Government will build on this achievement through the development of an Action Plan that will advance the equality of women across Canada through the improvement of their economic and social conditions and their participation in democratic life.

Mr. Chair,

As part of the international community, Canada is focused on closing the gaps and overcoming the barriers to human development with a global consensus for development: the Millennium Development Goals, the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development, and the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. This global consensus supports efforts to strengthen aid effectiveness and to mobilize resources to deliver concrete development results.

Canada is on track to meet its commitment to double international assistance by 2010–11 from 2001–02 levels. Part of this effort is the establishment of the Development Innovation Fund, which will support the best minds in the world as they search for breakthroughs in global health and other areas that have the potential to bring about enduring changes in the lives of millions of people in developing countries, including women and girls.

Achieving results for equality between women and men, girls and boys is an important focus in Canada's international development assistance. Equality between women and men and women's empowerment is not only a development goal in and of itself but is also, as we have recognized in this very forum, necessary to achieve all of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Progress in achieving the MDGs will be undermined, however, if we do not include consideration of equality between women and men and women's empowerment when implementing the Monterrey Consensus and the Paris Declaration. Canada supports the explicit and systematic integration of gender analysis, especially with regards to results, in the review of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus in Doha this year.

Mr. Chair,

Eight years after the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, its main tenets are yet to be systematically institutionalized. Canada strongly stresses the need for an effective Security Council monitoring mechanism to monitor its own actions in implementing 1325, including by integrating 1325 objectives throughout its work. We also stress that it is essential to undertake a systematic collection of data that is disaggregated by sex, presenting information separately for women and men, girls and boys, in order to make possible the proper functioning of such a monitoring mechanism. This Commission has a unique role to play, particularly at this session, in supporting the Security Council's implementation of its commitments under Resolution 1325.

Mr. Chair,

Today, the Government of Canada is taking a more focused approach, with the goal of making a direct impact on people's lives and achieving real, measurable results. The Government of Canada remains committed to achieving equality between women and men and addressing the barriers that inhibit women's full participation in the economic, social and democratic life of the country.

Canada supports strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to deliver results on equality between men and women. In their report, "Delivering as One," the High Level Panel on System-Wide Coherence recommended consolidation of the currently-fragmented system into a coherent and strengthened gender entity. We hope that member states will demonstrate a shared commitment to women's human rights, equality and sustainable poverty reduction by taking immediate action in support of enhanced coherence and coordination in this area.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.