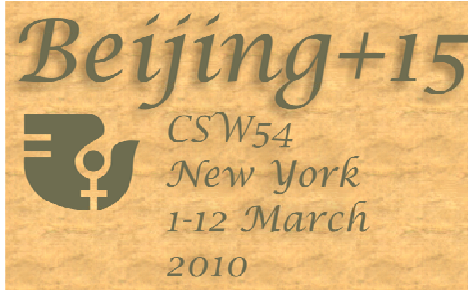


## PRESS RELEASE

### UN Armenia Office hosted a Panel Discussion on the Outcome of the 54th Session of the UN Commission On The Status of Women



**Yerevan, April 8, 2010** – Today, a Panel Discussion on the Outcome of the 54th Session of the UN Commission On The Status of Women was organized at the UN Armenia Office with support of the UNFPA “Combating Gender-Based Violence in the South Caucasus” project.

The 54th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), also known as Beijing+15 Assembly, was attended by the government delegations of the UN Member States, including Armenia, civil society and mass media representatives and the UN agencies working in the field of gender issues. The Beijing +15 Assembly focused on issues such as experience sharing and good practices between participating UN Member States, representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and UN agencies with a view to overcoming remaining obstacles and new challenges, including those related to the Millennium Development Goals.

At the opening of the Panel Discussion, Ms. Dafina Gercheva, the UN Resident Coordinator, welcomed the audience and stated: “*The Beijing Platform for Action is an agenda for women’s empowerment. It emphasizes that women share common concerns that can be addressed only by working together and in partnership with men towards the common goal of gender equality around the world*”.

Ms. Jemma Baghdasaryan, Deputy Minister of the RoA Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, and Ms. Karine Soudjian, Head of Human Rights Division of the RoA Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as Ms. Jemma Hasratyan, President of the “Armenian Association of Women with University Education” NGO, Mr. Vladimir Osipov, Fellow Researcher at the Institute of Philosophy, Sociology & Law/ Gender Expert and Ms. Tamara Hovnatanyan, Editor-in-chief of the “Women and Politics” monthly newspaper also took the floor and shared information on the Republic of Armenia government delegation and Armenian civil society participation in the process of the fifteen-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

The event was attended by the representatives of the government structures working in the field of women’s rights and gender issues, international community, foreign and local NGOs, and mass media.

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*UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.*

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