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Statement by Prof. Yakin ERTÜRK

**Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its
causes and consequences**

53rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women

**4 March 2009
New York**

Mr. Chairperson, distinguished delegates, representatives of the United Nations and the NGO community.

It is a great honour for me to address the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at its 53rd session. In 2008, for the first time since the creation of the position of Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences, the

oral presentation to the CSW. This is an acknowledgement of the intimate link between the overall efforts for the advancement of women and those for the elimination of violence against them. The opportunity for direct dialogue and engagement between the CSW and the violence against women mandate of the HRC is an important step towards the formation of a more comprehensive strategy for the UN gender agenda.

Mr. Chairperson,

As you know, these are my last months as Special Rapporteur, after six years of extraordinary endeavours which took me to some 18 countries and afforded me the privilege of meeting many remarkable women of great courage and resilience, both women's rights defenders and survivors of violence. I will be submitting my final mission reports to the 11th session of the HRC in June 2009 on my visits to Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan and Moldova, as well as my last country visit which will be to

Mr. Chairperson,

In my role as the Special Rapporteur I have found the Human Rights Council

women's rights violations across the globe can be brought to the attention of

Mr. Chairperson

In closing, I would like to affirm my deep conviction that the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women is indeed an invaluable instrument - more so than any other I have known. It can contribute positively to the betterment of women's lives everywhere and to the efforts of States to fulfill their human rights obligations. The common challenge we face today is to effectively exploit the potential of this mechanism to ensure that women globally enjoy their rights. In this