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53rd Session of the
Commission on the Status of Women

*The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and
men, including care-giving in the context of HIV/AIDS*

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2-13 March, 2009

Ms./Mr. Chair

1. Thank you. It is an honour and a privilege to address the opening session of the 53rd Commission on the Status of Women. The UK aligns itself with the statement

2. earlier this week by the Czech Republic on behalf of the European Union. We would like to make some additional comments focussing on our national priorities.
2. I wish to start by saying how much the UK Government welcomes this important dialogue on the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care-giving in the context of HIV/AIDS. The priority theme of this Commission gives us an opportunity to discuss how to best reduce gender inequalities and to empower women, specifically in the context of care-giving, including HIV/AIDS. We also welcome the review theme, equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels, and the emerging theme, gender perspectives of the financial crisis. The emerging theme is highly topical and deserving of discussion in a global

children living with HIV and AIDS. Internationally, the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) supports programmes to achieve Universal Access to comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. These programmes are designed in a way that recognizes the need to address gender inequality and women's and girl's rights – in particular sexual and reproductive rights as one of the key drivers of HIV infection. The UK estimates that 10 million people are living with HIV.