



**PERMANENT MISSION OF  
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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**Statement by  
Marian ter Haar  
Women's Representative  
of  
The Kingdom of the Netherlands**

**on the occasion of the 64<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, Third Committee  
under the agenda item 62 a) Advancement of Women.**

**New York, 12 October 2009**

**Please check against delivery**



**Bring the power of Sports to women**

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

I have the honour to speak as the representative of Dutch women,

**Nelson Mandela once said: 'Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire, it has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. Sport can awaken hope where there was previously only despair.'**

Today, I would like to focus on the importance of sport for the empowerment of women and gender equality.

Women and girls are the best strategic target group to focus on when it comes to achieving the

to put their passion into practice. It was wonderful to see them train with two of the Dutch national women's team and share their mutual love of football.

Mr Chairman,

Today, I would like to propose that we make the following commitments:

- we recognise the scale of insecurity in women's lives, and the need to enhance participation

- and integration through sport;
- we recognise the trauma and vulnerability to violence and conflict in women's lives, and the positive influence of sport;
- we work towards a practical solution for these problems, using sport

I also recommend that we recall CEDAW article 13 (c), The right to participate in recreational activities, sports and all aspects of cultural life and Resolution 63/135, Sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace.

I welcome the initiatives of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace. I recommend cooperation between this Special Adviser and the Special Representative on Women and Peace and Development. Practise based evidence shows that it is effective to use sport as a means for reconciliation and dealing with trauma.

We should also acknowledge the power of sport and the major role the Member States and the United Nations can play in promoting the empowerment of women and girls through sport and physical