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**Chairperson,**

Thank you for giving me the floor. I congratulate you on your election to chair the

Third Committee for the 67th Session. I also wish to extend my congratulations to

everyone on their election. I am proud of the members of the Committee.

establishment of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, known as "UN Women".

Despite these achievements, problems in the path towards empowerment of women abound. The disparity in education between women and men persists. Women continue to be unemployed in huge numbers, and many of those who have a job hold junior positions. Hence, they constitute the highest proportion of people living below the poverty line. Instances of violence against women

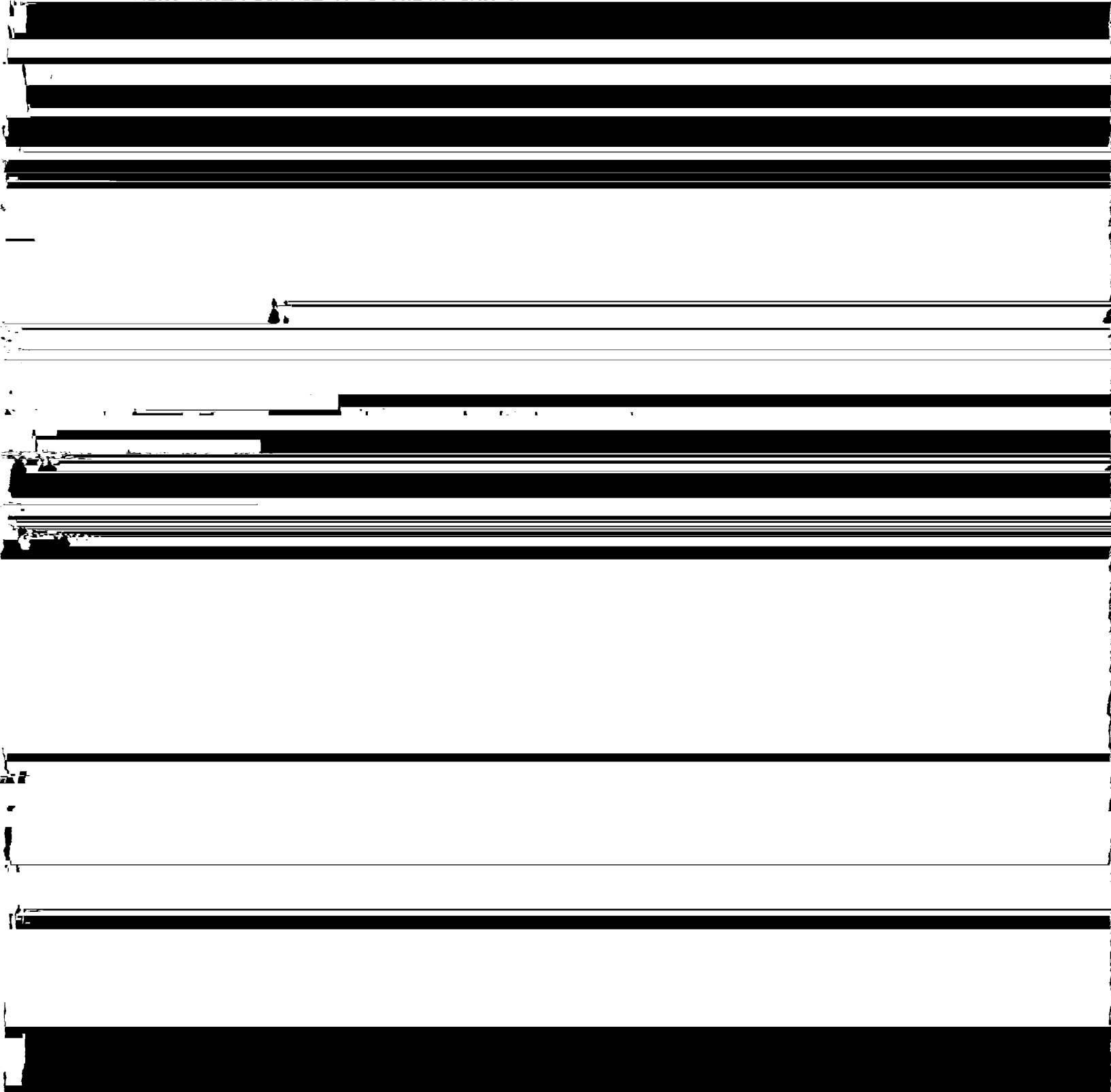
continue to be reported in many parts of the world. Needless to mention that the

rates at which women die during childbirth are still unacceptably high. We, therefore, have to redouble our efforts in working towards achieving our shared

objective of creating a world where women are equal citizens to men in all

**Chairperson,**

Allow me to share with you some of the strides my country has made in implementing the commitments aimed at the advancement of women. The Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho recognizes women as equal citizens and is committed to the promotion and protection of their human rights. Lesotho is



Furthermore the Government of Lesotho has remained steadfast in its

endeavours to combat violence against women, particularly sexual violence. The

Government of Lesotho has requested the United Nations Development

Programme (UNDP), resident in Lesotho, for support in the establishment of a  
"one-stop-shop" centre, which is meant to carry out a comprehensive study on  
violence against women, raise public awareness, as well as to establish a  
specialized service for victims of gender-based-violence.

It remains my Country's commitment to ensure that continuous efforts and  
initiatives are taken to promote equal opportunities and full participation of all  
segments of society in socio-economic development; while putting more  
emphasis on women and girls

Chairperson,