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CANADA WELCOMES GAINS FOR WOMEN AT THE UNITED NATIONS WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN BEIJING

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet and Secretary of State (Status of Women and Multiculturalism) Sheila Finestone today stressed the importance of the gains made in the global plan of action for advancing women's equality agreed to by governments around the world at the closing of the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China.

"The World Conference on Women has refocussed global attention on the situation of women worldwide," said Mr. Ouellet. "The final document, the Platform for Action, contains significant gains for women around the world which build on progress made towards women's equality at recent world conferences and summits on children, the environment, human rights, population and social development."

Canada played a leading role in securing many of the major achievements for women reached in Beijing.

"The outcomes of this world conference are important to the women of Canada," said Mrs. Finestone. "Now is the time to turn our attention to the next steps. The Platform for Action, along with Canada's new federal Plan for Gender Equality will guide us in our next steps in advancing women's equality in Canada."

Both ministers expressed their appreciation for the support and dedication of the many women and men in Canada and in Beijing who worked towards the Conference's success.

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