



Statement

by

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**at the
Third Committee**

Item 27: Advancement of women

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Check Against Delivery

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Madam Chairperson,

Since this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor, allow me to congratulate you on your election and wish you and the other members of the bureau success in your work.

My delegation would like also to thank the OHCHR and UN Women for their reports under agenda item 27, and to express deep appreciation for the significant contribution of CEDAW as well as UNFPA, in the global efforts for gender equality.

Madam Chairperson,

“Leave no one behind” is the guiding principle for the post 2015 development agenda. Yet, it is clear that sustainable development will not be achievable if 50 % of the world population is still left behind.

Lebanon welcomes the inclusion of a stand-alone goal on women in the post 2015 development agenda and reiterates the importance of gender mainstreaming in all other goals.

Indeed discrimination against women and girls, and violence against them which continues unabated in several parts of the world impedes the realization of all other fundamental rights and firstly the right to life.

Violence against women and girls further affects every aspect of their basic rights from the social, economic, and political rights to the cultural, educational, financial, as well as sexual and reproductive rights, all of which are necessary for their participation as full and equal citizens in their societies and communities.

Moreover, it is outrageous to see that women and girls are often easy victims for abuse and sexual violence as a weapon of war in situations of armed conflicts leaving them and their communities for years on with indelible wounds.

Lebanon reiterates its support to Security Council resolution 1325 and all other subsequent resolutions on women, peace and security, and reaffirms its engagement to combat all forms of discrimination and achieve human rights for all women and girls.

Indeed, Lebanon with its diverse society deeply understands the difficulty sometimes to conciliate between cultural and religious beliefs and the full realization of human rights for all.

Therefore, Lebanon has enshrined its commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in its Constitution which states that "All Lebanese shall be equal before the law and shall enjoy civil and political rights without any distinction".

Last April, after more than three years of deliberations the Lebanese Parliament passed a law on the Protection of Women and other Family members from Domestic violence. The law provides for the establishment of temporary shelters for the survivors of abuse, the assignment of a public prosecutor in each governorate to receive complaints and investigate domestic violence, and the establishment of specialized family units within the Internal Security Forces to process complaints.

The adoption of this law represents a major advancement in Lebanon's efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls, most importantly in what went with it in moving the debate on violence against women and girls from the private sphere to the public sphere, transforming an alias taboo issue into a society battle.

Lebanon is also working in close collaboration with the civil society and numerous regional and international organizations, while engaging men and boys, and religious and community leaders in order to raise awareness and tackle violence against women and girls at its very social and cultural condoning roots.

Furthermore Lebanon is engaged with regional and international partners in combating human trafficking, mainly women and girls, and to mention but the most recent in this regard, a Handbook on Practical Indicators on the crime of trafficking in persons in Lebanon has been published earlier this month in cooperation between concerned Ministries and the Beirut Bar Association aiming at facilitating the prosecution of traffickers and raising public awareness on signs of abuse.

In conclusion, Madam Chairperson,

As Lebanon reaffirms its engagement to promote and protect human rights for all, we cannot but remind of the humanitarian crisis holding us, rather dragging us back on years and decades of development achievements: while hosting today more than 1.3 million Syrian refugees, most of whom are women and children, in what has been often described as the worst refugees situation in recent history, Lebanon, with its outstretched situation, stands as an example of a very willing state, but unable alone to face a humanitarian crises of such scope, and calls upon the international community to fulfill its burden sharing commitments in order for Lebanon to fully live up to its obligations and traditional legacy of human rights pioneer.

Thank you.