



**PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**64<sup>th</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
THIRD COMMITTEE  
AGENDA ITEM: "ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN"**

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Mr. Chairman,

First of all allow me to express our appreciation for your able chairmanship at the Third Committee. We are confident that your efforts will continue to bring success to the work and deliberations of our Committee. I also want to extend my delegation's congratulations to the other members of the Bureau and would like to assure you of my delegation's full cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

Over the past decades, considerable progress has been achieved on a global scale, for the advancement of women, for the provision of gender equality and for the full protection of human rights of women. As a result of this progress, today we notice greater awareness towards the rights and needs of women. More equitable laws that protect women from discrimination were introduced, more commitments were voiced by States to repeal discriminatory laws and social practices and more women took their rightful place in the social, economic and political fabric of the societies they live in.

The international legal instruments such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), of which we celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the widespread efforts of the international community, including the Non-governmental organizations, have helped achieve progress towards eliminating barriers before the advancement of women and girls.

The inextricable link between women's security and the international peace and security has also begun to be acknowledged in greater terms. As such, the Security Council Resolutions 1325(2000), 1820(2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889(2009), to which Turkey lend its strong support, all underline the importance of empowering women as a key element for the international peace to sustain.

However, as the majority of speakers have mentioned, despite the progress, much needs to be done to ensure universal adherence to the rights of women, as well as to overcome remaining gaps and challenges including those related to Millennium Development Goals.

Turkey spares no effort to further advance the goals we set for ourselves.

I do not want to repeat what we have brought to the attention of the Committee in its previous meetings, on how Turkey enshrined the principle of gender equality in its Constitution and the supremacy given to international conventions on fundamental rights and freedoms, such as CEDAW, over all national laws. Turkey's reform efforts in collaboration with the civil society and the resulting substantial amendments in the administrative and the legislative field have all been brought to the public eye in several meetings and documents. We can proudly say without any hesitation that as a result of these reforms made in the last decade, no single legal barrier left against gender equality.

Instead, I would like to focus more on implementation, on our efforts to go beyond the legally provided gender equality in order to reach to "de facto" gender equality, in line with what we have been discussing today. We would like to do so, with the belief that sharing of experiences help achieve our common goal for the advancement of women.

On the implementation side, Turkey has recently made great strides to mainstream gender equality through collaboration between the national institutions such as the General Directorate for the Status of Women and that of the civil society; such as NGOs, trade unions, confederations of workers-employers, professional organizations, political parties and universities. In accordance with the “National Action Plan on Gender Equality 2008-2013”, action has been undertaken on a wide range of areas, from health to education, from economy to environment, and from poverty to the human rights of women. Bearing in mind the importance of monitoring, special Committees have been established for each of these aforementioned areas.

As another mechanism to oversee the implementation, a “Parliamentary Commission on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men” was set up at the Grand National Assembly of Turkey in March this year. The reflection of gender equality principle has started even within the composition of this Commission.

As for combating violence against women, which is one of the key areas stated in Beijing Platform for Action, again by the participation of all stakeholders a separate action plan has been prepared under the title of “National Action Plan on Combating Domestic Violence against Women” to be put into effect in 2010.

National Research on Domestic Violence Against Women in Turkey, conducted in 2008, has been one of the major researches conducted throughout the world on domestic violence. The research aimed at obtaining detailed information on the prevalence and types of domestic violence against women, as well as on its causes and consequences for the whole country.

Yet, apart from all these initiatives, the most note-worthy development during this process of reforms has been the increase in the public awareness, via the countless projects and campaigns.

on a wide range of topics mainly the empowerment of women, violence against women, honour crimes, reproductive health and education of girls. These projects were launched by several mass media organizations, universities, local administrations and civil society organizations.

In addition to the efforts at the national level, Turkey is also continuing her contribution to raise awareness at the international level. International conferences hosted by Turkey are vivid illustrations of this commitment. Hereby, we would like to reiterate our invitation to all interested parties to attend the “International Multidisciplinary Women’s Congress” which will be held between 13-16 October 2009, in Izmir, Turkey.

Mr.Chairman,

The months ahead of us provide ample opportunity to reaffirm our collective commitments for the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by women.

We will continue our support for the universal implementation of Millenium Development Goals, as well as the commitments in the context of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and to the efforts to fully utilize the opportunities provided in intergovernmental

bodies in 2010 to accelerate progress in the achievement of gender equality and empowerment of women.

I would like to conclude with a quote from Atatürk, the founder of the Republic of Turkey.  
*“If a society does not march towards its goal with all its women and men together, it is scientifically impossible for it to progress and to become civilized. It should be realized that everything we see on earth is the product of women”.*

Thank you Mr.Chairman.