



Statement

by

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at the

Commission on the Status of Women

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Check Against Delivery

*Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations
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Madam Chairperson,

I have the honour to welcome you and the members of the Bureau and to assure you of the Lebanese delegation's full support and cooperation during this session.

My delegation aligns itself to the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

We also thank the Secretary-General for his reports on the priority themes and we commend the contribution of UNWomen, and the excellent work Madam Bachelet and her team have been doing.

Madam Chairperson,

Gender equality is not a mere goal; it is a right, and a necessary precondition to achieve sustainable development, good governance, peace and stability.

My delegation strongly believes that gender equality should be in the core of the preparations for the post 2015 development agenda.

Significant progress has been achieved since Beijing. Yet, violence against women and girls is still occurring as a universal phenomenon, irrespective of income, class and culture.

Some situations further increase the vulnerability of women and girls, such as economic crises, armed conflicts and natural disasters.

Despite important efforts, the conditions that women and girls still face in situations of armed conflicts and under occupation continue to be abhorrent, and the benefits of Security Council resolution 1325 have yet to reach most women in conflict and fragile settings.

Sexual violence remains the least condemned war crime and rape continues to be used unabated as a weapon of war. The elimination of impunity is without a doubt the most effective preventive tool to fight such crimes.

Madam Chairperson,

Prevention of violence remains indeed a relatively new area. It requires identifying the underlying causes of violence against women and girls, through evidence-based and multi-sectoral strategies that, most importantly, should involve men and boys in order to address the social patterns that condone such violence.

In Lebanon, guided by the principle of equality of all citizens before the law, enshrined in the Constitution, the public agencies are working in close cooperation with civil society and international institutions in order to promote gender equality and raise awareness on women and girls' rights in all fields, and to combat violence against women and girls, address its causes and offer support to all victims without distinction. The priority fields of action include education, health services, and political participation ahead of next June's parliamentary elections.

Madam Chairperson,

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to the writing of which Lebanon had actively contributed states that " All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights". Lebanon, with its complex and diversified society, understands, more than any other country the challenge of finding the thin line between promoting social values, respecting religious beliefs and preserving cultural identities, while insuring the full respect of fundamental human rights for all. Human rights standards evolve along this same thin line. May today's discussions bring us closer to yesterday's blind points.
Thank you...