

**EGYPT**



**مصر**

The Permanent Mission of Egypt  
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نيويورك

**Statement by  
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**Before  
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**Check against delivery**



Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your re-election for this important position in the current session of the commission that discusses and follows up critical issues related to women, gender and their link to the situation of unemployment, training and labour. There is no doubt that your broad experience, as well as the bureau members qualifies you to lead the work of the Commission and our discussions, with the aim of reaching the best outcome. In this regard, Egypt pledges to exert each and every effort to ensure the success of this session.

Mr. Chairman,

Information technology and modern means of communication play a key role in motivating and organizing community-based movement, as well as their role in the formation of ideas, systems, policies and new structures that reflect the aspirations of all segments of society, particularly young people of both sexes. There is no doubt that the ongoing broad political and social mobility in our Arab countries did not take place by hazard rather than being a result of important qualitative shifts over the recent years , including the high level of awareness the citizens attained in general, and broader scope of freedoms of expression and association.

The most important impetus for the work of this commission is to discuss the actual impacts of women empowerment and liberation programs, as well as their high participation in political, economic and social development, including enacting and implementing legislations and policies to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, and their contribution to gender mainstreaming in all development programs, (including planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, the preparation of gender-responsive budgets), in addition to, reducing the disparities between males and females in, especially in primary education, with a focus on increasing political, economic and Social representation of women in leadership positions.

In the economic area, the past years witnessed a strong demand from Egyptian women to enter new areas in industry, electronics, information technology and communications, pharmaceuticals, drugs, and to be also engaged in investment projects, as well as establishing business women associations, which contributed to their economic empowerment and enhanced their participation to increase development revenues and to enjoy their benefits.

This progress was a result of increasing women's opportunities and capacities in education and training. The rates of females in basic education are higher than those of males in most governorates, including the rural areas. Girls also attained high grades in all stages of pre-university and university education, and consequently numbers of female graduates from more than 25 college specializing in science and technology increased, in addition to the females who are holding leadership positions in universities and research centers, including the Egyptian National Center for Social and Criminological Research, the Council for Scientific Research Ethics , and the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology.

Most of these qualitative developments that the Egyptian society witnessed, either in the field of women's liberation, gender mainstreaming, or empowerment of women in education, training, scientific research and technology, have been conducted by a number of national institutions and mechanisms that have combined their efforts and integrated programs in a manner that provided for a remarkable coherence and impact. On top of these national institutions, the National Council for Women, that was established in 2000 to serve as the comprehensive national mechanism for the advancement of Egyptian women in all its aspects. The Council is working in coordination with various government ministries, bodies, as well as local governments, and in close coordination with civil society organizations, research centers, universities, the media, the Ministry of Family and Population, which was established recently, and the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology, which established a national committee for women's affairs and its role in the field of science and technology.

In this regard, I wish to pay tribute to international cooperation programs that have been conducted for years between the National Council for Women and UNIFEM and the World Bank, for the implementation of many programs that have contributed to many of these goals including the recent program known as "the initiative of Social Gender equality". Egypt is confident that, these programs will continue and be extended through closer cooperation with the UN Women, I would also like to express our appreciation for all other aspects of international cooperation in fields of training and capacity-building, with other agencies, bodies, and stakeholders at the bilateral, regional and international, as well as in the framework of United Nations organizations and specialized agencies.

Mr. Chairman,

Egypt will continue its intensive efforts aimed at increasing women's access to education, training and employment, and to encourage them to break into the areas of scientific research and technology. However, many obstacles and challenges are to be faced and dealt with in the coming period. Among these most prominent challenges is to increase the economic development rates in order to address the high unemployment rates for both sexes, as well as to address some cultural traditions and social values, which still favor governmental work opportunities rather than the private sector, and promoting scientific and technological training programs in a manner that directs women's activities towards the maximum benefit of global technological and scientific progress in all areas, which should be boosted by the developed countries through programs to transfer technology and help developing countries to ensure women's full use of them.

In Egypt, we will have to deal more effectively with the issue of women's labour. One third of women, especially in rural areas, still work in low-productivity jobs, and they are mostly concentrated in agricultural sector without wages. The rising unemployment rates among women exceed those among men, and this requires a societal, cultural and economic confrontation in order to eliminate this waste of women's energy and directs it towards achieving what women deserve of active participation in the National Action in all branches, side by side with men, in order to ensure that they achieve better standard of living in a more open society based on equality and joint work.

Mr. Chairman

These were some facts about the Egyptian policies and efforts regarding empowerment of women and gender mainstreaming, as well as promoting the available opportunities for women in fields of education, scientific research and technology. We believe that the future holds for us of the opportunities and expectations as long as it carries the challenges and difficulties. We have great confidence that our country will pass over these difficulties, to be devoted to achieving sustainable development and the advancement of women for the Egyptian people, and for all other peoples and countries. Meanwhile, we have fervent hope that the international community in all its bodies and organizations will continue cooperation with us in this regard.

Thank you

