

EGYPT



مصر

The Permanent Mission of Egypt
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بعثة مصر الدائمة
لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

Statement delivered
By
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Egypt

During the 63rd session of the Third committee
On
The item of Advancement of Women

New York- 13 October 2008

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Mr. Chairman,

I would like to begin by thanking Ms Rachel Mayanja for a very informative presentation on the Secretary General's reports presented to the Committee under the item of Advancement of women, at the same time express Egypt's concern with the repeated dalliance of issuing the Secretary General's reports, specially the very important report we are missing today on "the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system", which we were very keen on studying and considering that report that serves as an indicator and assessment sheet on how far Women's equality and empowerment has been achieved within the UN System, and on the multilateral level. Egypt's alien its position with the statement delivered by Antigua & Barbuda on behalf of the Group of 77 & China.

Mr. Chairman,

The International community is currently providing a strong support to Women, with the aim of boosting her status and role on all levels, National, Regional & international; the UN Agencies, Funds & programs are exerting great efforts in this regard, particular mention should be given to the role of the UNIFEM, UNDP, UNFPA, a good effort is being exerted too by CEDAW, INSTRAW as well as CSW through their activities aiming at fostering advancement of women in all fields, political, social & economical.

Consultations on the System Wide Coherence have proved that there is an international consensus within the UN, on the importance of strengthening Gender Equality within the system, making it a priority issue with other important dimensions of SWC like funding & governance, Egypt is looking forward to progress made on Gender issues within that framework. Yet & despite all achievements, the CSW deliberations had shown a great amount of backwardness in the issues related to fulfilling international commitment towards achieving gender equality, which forced the committee to negotiate a very important document concentrating on the issue of gender equality and how to achieve it through funding, in relation to the on going process of reviewing the "Montreah Consensus" commitments which will take place in the Doha conference by the end of November 2008. And I like to thank the commission for the recommendations adopted on that matter, which assessed the role of Women in dealing with major economic challenges like climate change and its social impact.

It is in no doubt, that the consultations took place during the two high level meetings on Africa's needs & achieving MDG's have emphasized that women still suffer from poverty, discrimination, lack of services specially health and education, in addition to violence and, trafficking in persons, sexual and material abuse in armed conflicts and under foreign occupation. We have all felt concerned upon discovering, during the MDGs meeting that we are witnessing a serious slow in achieving MDG 3 and our commitment towards achieving gender equality by 2015. All the more, the reason why we should all... "developed and developing" countries ...join the Secretary General's Campaign which he launched last March that serves achieving this Goal by 2015.

However Global Crisis we are facing, including food crisis, energy, climate change & financial challenges, all of which will have a negatively impact on the ability of Member States to strengthen their development Agenda and push forward previous progress indicators. This will reflect too on the capabilities of Countries to achieve their obligations related to advancement of Women. The challenges that we need to tackle within a comprehensive developmental perspective that includes women's interests and does not lead to slowing of the process for achieving gender equality.

Mr. Chairman,

Egypt is determined to achieve full empowerment for Women in our society, politically, economically and socially, convinced that any development and advancement of any society cannot be achieved without the advancement of Women's and their conditions, the reason why we have established the necessary national machineries to achieve these goals. Especially the National council for Women, which, is implementing various programs and undergoing many activities –since the nineties- in different fields related to women's empowerment and achieving full equality with men. In all walks of national interests, whether legislative, judiciary or civic, to eliminate gradually any form of discrimination against women. And with the council's support women now are Ministers, Ambassadors, judges, and members of parliament, and a full partner in designing national strategies and in implementing them. The council has played a pivotal role in coming up with regional recommendations on the subject of financing for gender equality, through organizing a regional Arab ministerial meeting on the matter, sending the recommendations they came up with to that the CSW were they have been included on the CSW final agreed document on financing for Gender equality.

At the same time, the National Council for Motherhood and Childhood is adopting so many important national action plans, some of which led to establishing Girl Friendly Schools all over Egypt, that guaranteed achieving full equality between girls and boys in the field of education, until the percentage of girls to boys enrolling in schools have reached 53% to the advantage of girls in all levels of education up till high school education. The council have pushed for better health services to girls, with the aim of establishing preventive measures against any violence that she might face, including the fight against FGM, which the national campaign lead by the first lady of Egypt is nearly achieving its goals in completely ending this harmful social practice from Egypt.

With the conviction that empowerment of women needs full mobilization of all national systems and authorities, Governments and Civil Society. Egypt has decided to incorporate a gender perspective in all its policies and public related strategies. And worked towards expanding the scope of Women's political participation, through establishing the Women's political empowerment center that aims at training women and educating them on how to participate in political life, and to run for elections, whether parliamentary or for a political party . On the economical level it supported women entrepreneurship, through owning their own small and medium size enterprises , and making available necessary funding through the Social Development Fund & the

Ministry of Social solidarity, we have also worked hard to change stereotypical role of women in society through public statements and perspective presented about women through the media, school curricular, and amending national legislations, that several years ago granted Egyptian citizenship to the children of any Egyptian women married to a foreign husband without discrimination. And accordingly preserve the Egyptian identity of the children without stepping into the mother's freedom.

Convinced with the importance of gender budgeting, Egypt had incorporated a gender perspective to its 5 year plan for (2002-2007) in a way that would grant the necessary financial resources be made available without restrictions to their activities. The Government had adopted also a gender perspective and committed to gender development needs as a separate chapter to the 6 year economic & social development strategy of the country (2007-2012), which has been prepared and thoroughly discussed on a large scale with women in cities and rural areas, within a holistic participatory, bottom-up approach, which would grant women a priority in national development strategies, as well as cover any equality gaps, cultural, economical and social, in particular in rural areas.

Egypt is looking forward to intensifying international efforts to achieve our joint goal of advancement of women, granting women their deserved progress and achieve better participation in society and accordingly fulfilling our developmental goals.

Thank you Mr. Chairman

