

EGYPT



مصر

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Statement

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On the item 'Advancement of Women'

Third Committee

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New York, October-12, 2009

Mr. Chairman,

Let me at the outset express the appreciation of the delegation of Egypt to the Representatives of the Secretariat and the chairpersons of the treaty bodies for their valuable briefings delivered today under this item, in particular Ms Rachel Majenja, Ms Inas Elberdi and Ambassador Naela Gabr. Egypt also aligns herself with the statement delivered by Sudan on behalf of the G77 & China.

Mr. Chairman,

Our meeting today coincides with the commemoration of the fifteenth anniversary of adopting the ICPD and celebrating the World Conference on Population and Development, Cairo 1994, as well as the preparation of another very important occasion, that is the fifteenth anniversary of the Beijing declaration and Platform for Action of the World Conference on Women, adopted in 1995. The historical document that aimed at achieving full empowerment of Women and gender equality for the twenty first century. Despite all the achievements accomplished regarding the implementation of both documents, yet, we still have to renew all the commitments we undertook in 1994 and 1995, without any form of selectivity between their strategic goals. Commitments that guarantee the advancement of Women through developing her living conditions, alleviating poverty, continuous efforts for her better enjoyment of her right to education, training and health conditions, ending violence directed towards her, particularly in armed conflicts, enhancing her empowerment opportunities in all fields economically, politically, socially and environmentally.

In addition to renewing our commitments to implement previous pledges, further pledging should be undertaken to foster the capabilities of developing countries of implementing both Cairo and Beijing commitments, to help countries face the negative effects created by the consecutive, interlinked Global Crises we have experienced, latest of which was the Economic and the Financial Crises, climate change, the Food and Energy Crises, all of which are interlinked in a way that had negatively affected the status of Woman as an individual, also affected the family which woman considered to be its corner stone, this necessitates that developed countries double their assistances to developing countries to make it possible for them to encounter the negative effects and foster their efforts in fulfilling both old and new commitments.

It is of no doubt that the General Assembly by adopting its important resolution on System Wide Coherence 311/63, which mandated the Secretary General to prepare a comprehensive draft

proposal for a framework that consolidates all different entities dealing with gender issues within the organization in One Composite entity, to facilitate the start up of the intergovernmental negotiations regarding its establishment within the General Assembly during its current session, is considered an important achievement that enhances dealing with women's issues within the organization in a coherent and unified manner under the leadership of a new Under Secretary General, which necessitates further strengthening of efforts to be governmentally agreed on all related details regarding this important proposal, along with dealing in a coordinated manner with the other important files the SWC including, Finance, Governance and Business Practices.

With the establishment of the Unified Gender Entity, the CEDAW is considered a core player in the field of Gender issues, which spotlights the important role of the international Convention and further promotes along with its optional protocol the international visibility of gender discrimination issues and the opportunities related to the implementations of both the convention and its protocol, it helped to develop the reporting mechanism of member states. And today upon celebrating thirty years on the CEDAW entry into force, which is considered a nearly Universal treaty, we call upon all concerned parties to make available necessary sources for implementing the convention through its committee, in a way that would give possible opportunities for developing and least developed countries to fulfill their convention related commitments.

In parallel with the Committee's essential role, the UNIFEM is another entity that plays a very crucial part in this arena, that despite the drastic reduction of its budget which is based on voluntary contributions, caused by suspension of contributions and pledges for a number of donor countries to the fund, with the reason given by some of which that funds should be suspended until the establishment of the new Gender Entity and others who used the Financial and Economic Crises as an excuse, here we have to insist on the importance of donor countries fulfilling their pledges which is far more needed now in light of the Global consecutive Crises.

Within the same frame, we have to recognize the essential role of the UNFPA in enhancing and developing programs related to Women's health and well being, as well as the role of the INSTRAW under its new leadership particularly after the latest diversifying its activities.

Another mark is the international campaign which was launched by the Secretary General to end violence against women by 2015, including fighting negative social phenomena like FGM, ending all forms of gender based violence within the households and protecting women against violence in armed conflicts, particularly after the adoption of Security Council resolutions 1888 & 1889 which were adopted under the presidency of the Secretary of State of the USA and the Deputy Prime Minister of Viet Nam, and the provisions contained in both resolutions directing international community to pave the way for better opportunities that would support the widest protection for women in armed conflict as well as the widest enhancement of its role in establishing peace and security in their communities.

Mr. Chairman,

The First Lady of EGYPT has many accomplishments in the field of advancement of Women and All related gender issues, nationally, regionally and internationally; on the national level, and in cooperation with all relevant State Institutions and National Specialized Councils, the Government of Egypt paid additional attention to gender education, establishing and spreading more 'Girls Friendly Schools' nationwide, which gave Girls the opportunity to have an advantage edge over boys in different levels of education, specially compulsory-primary level. The issue of enhancing political empowerment of women, in a participatory bottom-up approach, that starts on the local level and grows up the highest ladder of decision making is another achievement, is another achievement that went hand in hand with specifying fifty six chairs for women in the national Parliament of Egypt, as well as enhancing State's role in ending violence against Women, through launching a nationwide campaign in July, 2008, which is considered a success story in Africa and the World, specially in ending Female Gentile mutilation, and in investing on women's issues through establishing complaint mechanisms and gender focal points in all government related institutions, agencies and ministries, with the task of looking into complaints raised by women in cases of gender discriminations at the work place, incorporating gender perspective in national developmental strategies and calculating national budget from gender and children rights perspective, granting equally, Egyptian nationality to a child if born to an Egyptian mother or father while the other parent is a foreigner. An increase in the number of women judges, particularly in family courts with the aim to enhance a quicker and more efficient pace for cases related to women's issues and gender equality.

The year 2009 was a year of regional and international achievements too, Egypt has made use of her NAM presidency, and hosted the Cairo Regional branch for the NAM Centre for the advancement of women to serve and support women from NAM countries in Africa and the Middle East. EGYPT is hosting also the premises of the new Women Agency for the OIC Countries, which indicates the respect Islam bestows upon women and accentuates its profound beliefs in supporting her achieve her rights. This in addition to the so many achievements that were accomplished by the Organization of Arab Women, which was established according to an initiative by the First Lady of EGYPT as well, most significant of which are programs related to gender equality of Arab women, through regional cooperation, as well as fighting trafficking in persons, particularly women and children. Building upon the international campaign "End Human Trafficking Now" which was established by the Suzan Mubarak Women for Peace Movement, which succeeded in attracting many civil society, private sector and business community members to assume their social responsibility in fighting trafficking in persons, in a effort endorsed by both the African Union as well as the Non aligned Movement.

Finally, Mr. Chairman,

Egypt will continue to play an essential role for the advancement of women and achievement of her full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and will benefit from her long experience in the Commission of the Status of Women to enhance that role as well as strengthening the role played by all other UN entities regarding this issue.

I thank you Mr. Chairman