

EGYPT



مصر

The Permanent Mission of Egypt
to the United Nations
New York

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**Statement
of
H.E. Ambassador. Maged Abdelaziz
The Permanent Representative
of the Arab Republic of Egypt
To the United Nations in New York**

**On item 28: Advancement of Women
Third Committee**

New York, October 11, 2010

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, let me express the appreciation of the Egyptian delegation of the valuable briefings today by Ms. Zou Xiaoqiau, vice-Chair of CEDAW, and Ms. Rashida Manjoo, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences and to the other briefings, and start by aliening my remarks with the statement by the delegation of Yemen on behalf of G77 and china.

Mr. Chairman,

The year of 2010 is witnessing many significant achievements for the cause of women's rights, and undoubtedly deserves to be the year of women. The establishment of UN WOMEN, the launch of the global plan of action for combating trafficking in persons, and the global strategy for Women's and children's health, and recent report of the Secretary General generating extensive discussions about role of women in peace building. There is no doubt that the continuation of this international momentum is capable of making the desired fundamental changes in status of women around the world.

Mr. Chairman,

The United Nations and all its relevant entities have been so supportive to ensuring gender equality, women empowerment and guaranteeing their enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Egypt appreciates all efforts exerted by the UN organs and Member States for the advancement of women; particularly UNIFEM INSTRAW, DAW and the Office of the Special Advisor for gender issues and the advancement of women. We also appreciate the new policy followed by the Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon in enhancing women participation in leading UN senior officials structures.

After long negotiating process, the General Assembly established the new entity for women. The JCC, led by Egypt and Yemen played a significant role in negotiating and adopting the GA resolution 64/289 establishing the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, known as "UN Women ". The adoption of this resolution is a huge step in the long process of UN reform and one of the most significant achievements of the last decade towards the advancement and empowerment of all women.

Egypt looks forward to the new entity commencing its activities at the earliest. We also look forward to the election of the new executive board to make UN WOMEN a key international body for women. We also hope that the staff recruited in the entity represents all the regions of the world in an equitable manner, to empower the entity with a solid understanding of different cultural sensitivities and trust that necessary funding for this new organization will be up to the expectations that are coupled with its establishment.

In this vein, I would like to seize this opportunity to congratulate Former President. Michelle Bachelet, the Under Secretary General for UN WOMEN on the assumption of her responsibilities for all women of the world, wishing her every success, and pledging Egypt support to her work.

Mr. Chairman,

This year we also celebrate the 10th anniversary of the famous Security Council Resolution 1325 on "Women, peace and security" which affirms the responsibility of the international community to ensure women's rights in post conflict situations and in peace processes.

The set of indicators contained in the secretary General report designed to be used to track the implementation of the resolution in post conflict situations. Generalizing these indicators and allowing them to serve as a common basis for reporting by member states, UN agencies and institutions requires thorough analysis and approval by the General Assembly and not only the Security Council, particularly as the report presented by the Secretary General on the implementation of this important resolution last year (S/2009/465) reported major difficulties and differences in formulating these indicators. The methods followed by the secretariat to overcome those difficulties require consideration.

Egypt fully supports Resolution 1325 and invites for its full implementation. In this regard, the First Lady of Egypt, Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak is leading a campaign through the Suzanne Mubarak International Movement of Women for Peace to support fostering international and regional realization of the dangers to which women are exposed in situations of armed conflicts. The movement organized an international forum entitled "Towards Enforcing Security Council Resolution 1325" in 2006. Egypt stresses that the universality of the set of indicators to track the implementation of the resolution in post conflict situations, can be only achieved through the General Assembly not the Security Council.

Mr. Chairman,

The Egyptian Government puts women at the forefront of its agenda, with strong support from the First Lady of Egypt. Egypt has embarked on an ambitious course to enhance gender equality, eliminate all forms of discrimination against women providing women and girls with all necessary services, including education and health care, particularly in rural areas, and enhance women participation in political life and in leading developmental efforts. Providing opportunities and encouraging participation are essential in our national efforts.

Recently, various important steps have been taken in this regard. Among these steps; the constitutional amendments approved in a referendum to allocate 64 additional seats to women in the Parliament, in addition to enhancing their ability to compete with men on all other seats in the coming parliamentary elections to be held in November this year. This decision is a clear reflection of the public conviction of the need to create a societal change towards more involvement of women in public work; starting with political and legislative arena, in a manner that would reflect better on their ability in all political, economic and societal areas.

Furthermore, Egypt has adopted a comprehensive law for combating trafficking in persons in June 2010, which is one of the most comprehensive laws in the Arab World for protecting women and children from dangers of trafficking. A special fund for assisting victims is under establishment in order to provide victims with the support they require in all its aspects.

Many other programs and policies are in place now aiming at empowerment of Egyptian women and advancing their status; those efforts include:

- ***The girls education imitative***, a pioneer initiative in the Arab world to combat girls drop-outs from schools and encourage girls education.
- ***The gender budgeting initiative*** launched by the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank, in cooperation with the National Council for Women to allocate a part of the national budget to women issues to enhance equal opportunity.
- Enhancing women's representation in top positions including cabinet ministers, parliament members, ambassadors and other positions which also represents a manifestation of a real change in mentality that is being supported by the president, the government, the parliament and the society at large.

- ***Economic Empowerment:*** Our social fund for development plays a significant role to empower women economically as it launches programs such as House hold small- micro credit program designed to support women with families, aiming at granting micro- interest free loans to women heading households for the purpose of income generating projects that would improve standards of living.

On other levels, Egypt continued to play a significant role. The First NAM First Ladies Summit held in Sharm El Sheikh in July 2009 provided a good opportunity for a rich interactive debate on best practices and lessons learned in relation to gender equality and empowerment of women. The Second NAM first ladies Summit held on the margins of FAO Summit in Rome in November 2009 provided also an opportunity to identify concrete steps to be played by NAM first ladies to address issues of food security and support the role of women in agriculture.

Moreover, Egypt will be hosting the NAM office for the advancement of women for Africa and the Arab states members of the NAM, as well as the center for the advancement of women of the states members of the Organization of Islamic States.

Egypt also played an essential role for the establishment of the Arab Women Organization in March 2003 under the umbrella of the League of Arab States and fully supports the implementation of its mandate and enhancing its role to promote gender equality and the empowerment of Arab women.

As an example of the support by the Egyptian society to our national and regional efforts, the Suzanne Mubarak's International Movement of Women for Peace is the first women initiative for peace in the Middle East. It plays a significant role in guaranteeing women empowerment and promoting the culture of women participation. The Movement provides a vital example for the societal efforts that includes academic institutions, NGOs, private sector, mass media, artists, scientists and leading of the society. It also provides a vital example of cooperative relations with UN specialized agencies and organizations, in addition to peace institutions.

The movement is organizing an International forum against Human Trafficking in Luxor next December, with the aim to promote dialogue, highlight priority issues, and mobilize the highest level of political support to engage in

concrete actions that will assume complementarily between the legal and cooperation frameworks.

Mr. Chairman,

Egypt will continue to play an essential role for the advancement of women and the achievement of their full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.