

**EGYPT**



**مصر**

The Permanent Mission of Egypt  
to the United Nations  
New York

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لدى الأمم المتحدة  
نيويورك

**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 10, 2011

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to express the appreciation of my delegation to the valuable briefings today by Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN WOMEN, Ms. Silvia Pimentel, Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and Ms. Rashida Manjoo, the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences and to the other briefers, and associate my statement with the statement by the delegation of Argentina on behalf of G77 and china and, the delegation of Kenya on behalf of the African Group, and the delegation of Qatar on behalf of the Arab Group.

Mr. Chairman,

The world is witnessing this year huge changes that women were deeply involved in. As active agents for change, women in the Middle East and North Africa jointly with men made significant strikes towards democracy, social justice and integration, equality and equity. They didn't only achieve change in their countries but also inspired the others all over the world.

Mr. Chairman,

It has been one year since the establishment of UN WOMEN. Egypt expresses its appreciation to the activities conducted by the Entity to implement its strategic plan of action and translate its pillars into result-oriented efforts, attaching priority to areas that would include female education as a basis for empowerment of women, trafficking in women and girls as a brutal form of violence against women. There's also a need to assert the mandate of UN WOMEN in dealing with Sexual Violence, in order to avoid any overlaps with the UN special representative on sexual violence in conflict.

We express our appreciation to Madame. Bachelet's visits to Egypt last March with the Secretary General and during the first week of June jointly with UNDP, and particularly her interaction and support to women organizations that play an important role in encouraging women to promote participation in all areas of life, particularly in the political life; including by building their capacity in this regard. Egypt also appreciates the cooperation and support by UN WOMEN throughout the democratization process for

promoting women's political participation and economic empowerment, particularly in rural areas, as well as women social integration.

Mr. Chairman

Egypt stresses the vital role that women play in the advancement of peace and security, development and human rights, as indicated in the famous Security Council resolution 1325. Egypt also believe that member states should encourage equal, full and effective participation of women in all forums and at all levels of the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, particularly the decision making level. Awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to three women activists in light of their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work, is a clear testimony of the recognition by the international community of the role that women can play in advancing peace and security, boosting development and ensuring respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms around the globe.

As a state party to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and in light of our regional and national obligations, Egypt puts women's rights at the forefront of its national agenda as an urgent priority. In this regard, the Government took serious steps for empowering women, enhancing gender equality, and advancing women's status as a clear manifestation of political will supported by the society at large. Progress has been made in areas of economic empowerment, gender budgeting, education, reproductive health and health care, particularly in rural areas, women's representation in top positions, violence against women, as well as combating trafficking in persons for both sexual exploitation and domestic servitude purposes.

Mr. Chairman

In order to keep the momentous opportunity of keeping women enthusiasm and their inspirations towards enhancing their participation in the public affairs and preserving existing gains that women acquired over decades, a new approach is being studied in order to combine the economic empowerment as a conducive factor for enhancing their liberties and social integration as an equal partner to men and consequently, promoting their political participation.

In this regard, and while we continue to implement our existing programs, the road map of the new government for the forthcoming period to further promote women's rights shall include the following priorities:

- Harmonizing our international and regional obligations related to women's rights and gender equality with the national legislations, in order to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women in law and practice.
- Sensitizing the society (including women, men, families, political parties and the media) on the effects of gender-based discrimination therefore discouraging and eliminating negative cultural practices, stereotypes and traditional perceptions about women's capacities, their role and potential contribution to their community and society, as well as mainstreaming concepts and values of equality in all education curriculums.
- Developing the National Council for women in order to reflect the new political developments and to increase its capacity to implement government priorities and to establish a wider framework to deal with women issues, as a part of our intention to inject new blood to our human rights institutions.
- Adopting a positive attitude towards enhancing women's political participation in order to ensure access and guaranteeing women participation.
- Enhancing government efforts to eradicate female illiteracy, particularly in rural areas, and to prevent drop-outs by girls in primary, and secondary education, extending the literacy classes. Since the theme of women's day this year is improving women's access to technology, Egypt is stressing the importance of encouraging girls and women to utilize science and technology in education and labor market.
- Increasing the number of women in top management and political positions as a positive manifestation of our commitments towards gender equality and to inspire girls and other women to play a role in their societies, and maximize their interest in the political and economic life.
- Intensifying capacity-building training programs for women in order to raise their awareness of their significant role in their societies and enhance their ability to contribute in their local communities at all levels.

As the Chair of the Non- Aligned Movement Coordinating Bureau, Egypt is intensifying its efforts to launch the NAM regional office in Cairo and to commence its activities at the earliest possible date. We are working closely on the preparation for NAM third Ministerial Meeting on "the role of women in a challenging world" that will be held in Doha next month.

Mr. Chairman,

Implementing this road map requires strong support from the United Nations system and international community. Egypt looks forward to such support for its pursuit to promoting values of democracy, gender equality and social integration of women.

Egypt reiterates its commitments towards enhancing the advancement of women and women empowerment at all levels as a reflection to our strong political will and in light of our international obligations towards the achievement of their full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.