



**Statement**

by

**H.E. Dr. Nawaf Salam Permanent  
Representative of Lebanon to the  
United Nations**

**at the  
Economic and Social Council  
Commission on the Status of Women**

**“Beijing +20: gender equality, development and  
peace for the twenty-first century”**

**New York, March 12, 2015**

*Check Against Delivery*

Thank you Madam Chairperson,

- Lebanon welcomes the adoption of the political declaration on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and takes this opportunity to praise the work of UNWomen, CSW, and CEDAW and all other partners.

Madam Chairperson,

- My government has been working in close cooperation with civil society and the private sector as well as with numerous regional and international actors, in order to meet the aspirations expressed in the Beijing's Declaration and Platform of Action in 1995 and beyond in view of today's changing world and the multiple new challenges rising at all levels.

Madam Chairperson,

- 2015 marks an important year for the UN. As we look back, we cannot but rejoice for all that has been achieved on gender equality since Beijing, especially with countries increasingly removing gender discrimination in their national legislation.

- A lot has been achieved indeed but progress has been slow, let alone the sad situations where we have witnessed retrogression. Much therefore remains to be done worldwide, in education, sexual and reproductive health and rights, economic and financial empowerment, political participation in representative bodies and in decision making at all levels including peace building negotiations and implementation, not to mention the need to address the hardships of displaced and refugee women and of those living under occupation as in the case of Syrian and Palestinian women and girls.

- One of the major challenges facing Lebanon today is the presence of over 1.2 million registered Syrian refugees which constitutes a serious threat to its stability and security and a burden on its development efforts.

- Lebanon reaffirms its commitment to Security Council resolution 1325 and all subsequent resolutions on women peace and security.

Madam Chairperson,

- In addition to armed conflicts and their humanitarian consequences, women and girls become also significantly vulnerable in situations of natural disasters, pandemic outbreaks, migration and poverty.

- Gender equality starts by recognizing women and girls as equal partners and active agents in achieving human rights for all, sustainable development, good governance and the rule of law.

- Lebanon welcomes the inclusion of a stand-alone goal on women in the post 2015 development agenda and reiterates the importance of gender mainstreaming through all other goals, targets and indicators.

- The world today is different from what it was in 1995. New challenges emerged but also new opportunities, new vulnerabilities and new potentials, new situations for discrimination and exclusion of women and girls and new means to empower them.

Madam Chairperson,

- Discrimination against women and girls remains significant in many areas and across all regions of the world. It is time to reflect on the root causes of such discrimination and violence against women and girls and to tackle them through multi-sectoral strategies that, most importantly, should involve men and boys, in order to address the social and cultural patterns that continue to condone such attitudes.

- For a long time women were almost alone in defending human rights for women and girls; it is time now for men and boys to increasingly share the responsibility, in order to achieve gender equality which is at the core of peaceful and sustainable societies.

- One significant evolution in this regard is violence against women and girls which moved from the private sphere of a taboo issue within the family or the community to the public sphere of a society concern and a reflection of its wellbeing, and the need to combat impunity.

- Finally, Madam Chairperson, we look forward to the fruitful discussions of this session and wish you and the members of the bureau full success in your work.