



Statement

by

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to the United Nations**

**at the
Economic and Social Council**

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Check Against Delivery

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Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me first to express my delegation's appreciation to the Secretary General for his reports and to thank UN Women for their relentless efforts and their valuable contribution. I also take this opportunity to praise the role of CEDAW and ILO in promoting the rights of women and girls in the changing world of work.

Mr. Chairperson,

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development can only be achieved by implementing all goals and targets in a comprehensive manner; hence the empowerment of women and girls should be mainstreamed in a gender perspective in all policies and programs at all levels in order to enhance economic growth and productivity and ensure no one is left behind.

Transforming the world of work for women requires the elimination of structural barriers and discriminatory laws and social stigmas to create equal economic opportunities and outcomes. It also requires the protection against discrimination and violence, including sexual harassment, in the workplace and in education, and enhancing and protecting women's health and reproductive rights as a fundamental prerequisite for their full economic empowerment.

In this regard, it is more urgent than ever to continue working for the total elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls in both the public and the private spheres.

Lebanon believes in the essential role of civil society, especially women's rights organizations, as well as the necessity for a full engagement of men and boys at all levels for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

There is still a long way to go to move from a "de jure" equality, often present in legislations, to a substantive equality. The social recognition of women's economic rights is indeed essential, as well as the spreading of this knowledge and the refuting of stereotyped attitudes and division of roles in both the private and the public spheres, such as the unpaid and informal care roles, still disproportionally performed mainly by women and girls.

Mr. Chairperson,

The world of work is also changing in significant ways especially with the digital and information and communications technologies. Education remains the key to leaving no one behind, with goals such as quality education, life-long training and digital literacy for women and girls to adapt to the new requirements and new opportunities of the changing world of work, and to break the cycle of the persistent feminization of poverty.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Lebanese Labor Law issued in 1946, and amended in 2000, prohibits all forms of discrimination between men and women in the workplace concerning employment, remuneration, promotions and raises, vocational training and attire.

There are no legal restrictions for women in Lebanon to set up their own business and engage in income-generating activities. 40% of Lebanese judges are women, and 60% of graduates in sciences are women. Most recently, a draft law on sexual harassment was introduced (last week) by Lebanon's first Minister of State for Women's Affairs.

While Lebanon has ratified relevant International Instruments, including ILO conventions, (such as No. 45 on the "Employment of women in underground work", No. 89 on "Night work for women", No. 100 on "Equal Remuneration", No. 111 on "Gender discrimination in employment and occupation" and No. 122 on Employment policy), the Lebanese Government has also committed in its policy statement to the promotion and protection of women and girl's rights; education for all, combatting discrimination and violence in all its forms, and political and economic full participation are among its priorities.

Needless to remind that the humanitarian crises Lebanon is hosting, with the presence of 1.5 million Syrian and Palestinian refugees remains a fundamental challenge to its efforts for social and economic growth.

Nevertheless, Lebanon continues to work in close collaboration with all regional and international partners to achieve these goals, based on its commitment to the Beijing Declaration and Plan of Action and its engagement to the 2030 Agenda, while firmly believing in equality, democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

Thank you.