



**Statement**

**by**

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

**at the  
Third Committee**

**Item 28: “Advancement of women”**

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*Check Against Delivery*

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Mr. Chairman,

Allow me first to congratulate you on your election and wish you and other members of the bureau every success in your work.

I would like to thank the Secretary General for the reports under agenda item 28, and to express my delegation's deep appreciation to UN Women and CEDAW for their contribution and their significant role in promoting the advancement of women and girls worldwide.

Mr. Chairman,

As we start our discussions under agenda item 28, we cannot but note with great satisfaction the efforts made during the past months to increase women's representation at all levels of the United Nations System and to promote gender perspective in all aspects of its work.

Today there is more and more global conviction that Planet 50-50 is not only the way for a better world. It is the only way to achieve planet 100: 100 in participation, 100 in productivity, and 100 in sustainability.

Yet, it is regretful to see that in many parts of the world, discrimination and violence against women and girls continue unabated, and that they are often the first victims in fragile situations of armed conflicts and forced displacements.

Violence against women and girls affects every aspect of their basic rights from the social, economic, and political rights to the cultural, educational, financial, as well as sexual and reproductive rights, all of which are necessary for their participation as full and equal citizens in their societies and communities.

Mr. Chairman,

Turning to our part of the world, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our fellow Arab friends in Saudi Arabia on a historic decision last week to wave restrictions on prohibiting women from driving.

Mr. Chairman,

In my country, Lebanon, the Government has committed in its policy statement to the promotion and protection of women and girls' rights; education for all, combatting discrimination and violence in all its forms, and political and economic participation are among its priorities.

To name but a few of the latest achievements on the legislative level during the past year, a draft law on sexual harassment was introduced by Lebanon's first Minister of State for Women's Affairs, and an amendment of the penal code was adopted abolishing law 522 which allowed rapists to avoid prosecution if they married their victims. Moreover, efforts in Lebanon continue in order to raise awareness against child early and forced marriage, and to promote economic and political participation of women especially in rural areas.

Moreover, 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.