



**EGYPT**

**مصر**

The Permanent Mission of Egypt  
to the United Nations  
New York

مبعوث مصر للجنة  
لدى الأمم المتحدة  
نيويورك

**Statement**

by

**H.E. Minister Mervat Taha**

**President of The National Council For Women**

**EGYPT**

Before The 55<sup>th</sup> Session of

the Commission on the Status of Women.

New York, February 29, 2014

Under against delivery



Madame Chair,

Ladies and Gentlemen, Heads of Delegations

Allow me to congratulate you and members of the Bureau for the chairmanship of the Committee, I would also like to express my appreciation to the United Nations Commission for introducing the issue of "rural women" as a priority on the agenda of this session. The Delegation of Egypt of the Group of 77 and China and the African Group

Madame. Chair,

Last month, Egypt celebrated the 40th anniversary of its 23 January revolution, in which Egyptian women played a key role as they sacrificed their lives to realize the aspiration of the Egyptians, men and women for freedom, dignity and social justice as well as their role in shaping the nation's future. There had been difficult moments last year, which was expected in light of the transitional period in Egypt, and the country determined to build a new Egypt in the near future.

The National Council for Women has been recently revised and has the honour to be elected as its president. New members representing various social, political, cultural, and religious backgrounds have joined the council. The focus of the Council's new policy will be on development and empowerment of poor women and rural areas, in order to conform with the requirements of the Egyptians for freedom and social justice.

... promote women's rights for many decades. For example, since the establishment of the National Council of Women in 2000, a special focus has been given to rural women. Among the activities carried out in this context:

Assigning rural women ID issue identity cards to enable them to have an access to government services, including loans and credit facilities. In this context, I would like to express our gratitude to Mme Michelle Bachelet for her leading reading program in her inaugural statement.

... women's skills in establishing small businesses and provide banking counseling.

The launch of women-headed households' small micro credit programs and providing them with new opportunities for marketing their products.

"Madame Chair,

... rural women in providing food for the family and ensuring food security at the national level, they still face multifaceted discrimination, in terms of less access to productive assets necessary for agriculture and food security, limited access to training opportunities, non-recognition of their rights to their own land, as well as the 'double burden', consisting of their involvement in income-generating activities, in addition to their household responsibilities.

Therefore, there is still much to be done in order to enhance self-sufficiency for rural populations, and access to the same services in their areas, in order to a decent life for people in rural areas. This requires the United Nations to compile successful experiences in the field of supporting and strengthening of

rural women, so as to guide other strategies implemented in developing programs for the advancement of rural women.

In addition to the problems of the past, and in light of the rapid pace of change, the emergence of global crises related to climate change, natural resources, volatile markets, as well as the financial and economic downturns, have had a significant impact on women, particularly rural women, leading to increased unemployment, marginalization, and social exclusion.

According to the outcome document of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals of 2010, which called for the agricultural priority to the empowerment of rural women, as well as to accelerate progress towards women's empowerment and their participation as critical agents in enhancing agricultural and rural development and food security, which will inevitably lead to the eradication of poverty and hunger and contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. This will be a high value-added added the preparatory process of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20) and beyond.

Madame. Chair,

On the regional level, Egypt, in its role as the host of the Arab League Movement, Egypt reaffirms its strong commitment to promote economic empowerment for women especially in rural areas, as an appropriate response to what has been outlined in the Millennium Development Goals. The commitment was reaffirmed weeks ago during NAM's third ministerial meeting, the advancement of women. Moreover, Egypt presides over the Afro-Asian Rural Development Organization which forthcoming meeting to be held in New Delhi next month, will focus on

supporting efforts to reduce poverty, in particular in rural areas and ensuring the development of rural women, and the intensification of international and regional cooperation, especially with the United Nations specialized agencies and organizations.

Lastly, despite the difficult conditions experienced, it does not forget to support Palestinian women in the occupied territories. Egypt's efforts in the region resulted in the release of a number of Palestinian women detainees in Israeli prisons. Egypt will continue its historic support to brothers in Palestine, so that they can get their right to establish an independent state with its capital in East Jerusalem.

Madame Chair,

Egypt is a strong committed towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and ensure their employment, their rights and fundamental freedoms, which can not be attained without the eradication of poverty, illiteracy and cultural prejudices, as well as the need to raise the awareness among decision makers of the close relationship between sustainable development and a standard of living of the poorest in the society namely, women who are the poorest of the poor.

In the near future the return of the Egyptian women to their society and in their region. I am convinced that women will overcome the difficulties they faced after the revolution and ensure the attainment of the revolution's slogans, "freedom, dignity and social justice."

Thank you, Madame Chair.



PERMANENT MISSION  
 OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN  
 TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
 NEW YORK

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

NEW YORK, 29 FEBRUARY 2012

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN, 50<sup>TH</sup> SESSION

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Chairperson,

We welcome the focus of this year's session on the situation of rural women. Their particular needs as well as the risks and challenges they face, including multiple forms of discrimination, must be addressed urgently as they revolve around poverty, marginalization and violence. Rural women encounter numerous challenges, for instance deprivation from access to economic, legal and political services, as well as poor access to education, health systems and the judiciary. As pointed out by the Women's Rights and Gender Equality Commission, States have an obligation to end all forms of discrimination and address all human rights violations against women and girls. A key challenge on the agenda of the advancement of women and gender equality is a key enabler of sustainable and equitable economic growth and the overall development of a country. Studies have shown that rural women's participation and active engagement of women in agriculture, politics, health and business are crucial to the economic performance, stability and well-being of a country. In view of their talent and productive potential rural women are important agents of development. For too long, however, their potential has gone unacknowledged and unmapped. Therefore, the empowerment of rural women and girls, their participation in societal and political decision making, their access and control of resources, need to be strengthened with a view to eliminate discrimination and inequalities between genders.

...with a view to increasing the economic empowerment and independence of rural women, the  
Lichtenstein Development Agency supports projects such as the Lupeza Women's Centre  
for sustainable livelihoods in rural areas. The center gives 90% of its  
budget to help rural women to get an income, support their  
families and decrease their dependence on subsistence economy, through the  
manufacturing of baskets, goat breeding or creating vegetable gardens...

Chairperson,

Gender based violence, in particular domestic and sexual violence as well as harmful  
practices such as female genital mutilation, cuttings, violates fundamental human  
rights and is a barrier to development. Ending discrimination and violence against  
women and girls is a key priority for sustainable development and violence against  
women and girls have a negative impact on national development and the human rights of all their  
citizens and to prevent, especially the most vulnerable groups, from violations of their basic  
rights. Rural women are particularly vulnerable in this regard. They often face even more  
obstacles in their access to judicial services than their urban counterparts. Ending  
impunity is crucial to avoid re-victimization and future acts of violence and therefore  
important in breaking the vicious circle impacting many women on a daily basis. The  
collection of more data on violence against women in rural areas can support accountability and tailored protection  
policies. In order to address the current lack of data on violence against women in rural  
areas, access to legal services should be improved. Promoting women's participation in judiciary  
processes and gender-sensitive law reforms need to be promoted.  
Lichtenstein welcomes pioneer projects in this field, such as the UN Police Vulnerable  
Persons Unit in Timor-Leste.

Chairperson,

In order to achieve peace and stability, women's meaningful participation should get  
priority at all levels and in all contexts. Rural women continue to be marginalized from the political sphere, particularly in political  
participation at grassroots level, where they face discriminatory practices  
that exclude them when laws are drafted and constitutions are written. States must do  
more to ensure that rural women's voices are carried to capitals. They should also be  
obliged to protect the rights of women to participate on equal terms throughout all phases  
of political transition, to guarantee their right to speak their minds, and to assemble freely.  
The UN must support these efforts and in this regard we welcome UN Women's focus in  
2012 on women's political participation.

Despite the significant normative progress made in the Women, Peace and Security (WPS)  
agenda in the Security Council over the past years, consistent implementation and in the  
country-specific work of the Council remains a challenge. Women continue to be  
underrepresented as stakeholders in peace processes in various conflict affected regions



throughout the globe, leading to a demand for their rights in peace accords and in transition arrangements. Women have not been involved in peace processes from the beginning of a conflict, their interests and protection needs, risks being unaddressed at later stages. In addition, sexual and gender violence must be addressed throughout all stages of conflict resolution processes, starting with cease-fire agreements, and the presence of women's groups and activists remains a pre-condition for a sustainable peace. Here, we believe that the Security Council has a crucial responsibility to support the Council's efforts in mainstreaming its thematic agenda. In the Women, Peace and Security theme, the Liechtenstein delegation held a workshop, from 28 to 30 January, 2012, in Vienna, Austria, hosted by H.E. Foreign Minister Andrea Fick. An effective implementation of the WPS agenda in Afghanistan... The workshop had been organized in a close partnership with the Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination at Princeton University (LISD) and was supported by the delegations of Afghanistan and Canada. The workshop was followed by a presentation of the main findings of the workshop on 29 March at 3:00 PM in Conference room 5.

Thank you.

through the process of a range of 17 other areas of work and implementation arrangements. The work has to be divided in several phases from the beginning of their findings and project on ways that being undertaken in their target. In addition, social values that of education through the target with the target areas with a strong will cover a spectrum and the process to educate gender expertise at the level of the target and to ensure that the Strategy Council for a total responsibility. To ensure the Council's role in monitoring its thematic agenda on We can, Peace and Justice. The Council's agenda will be a workshop from 28 to 30 January 2015 in Berlin/edwards. In fact by the High Minister Anita Jelic, on the implementation of the WP2 agenda in Albania. The workshop has been organized in close partnership with the Institute on the Determination of European University (IODE) and was supported by the delegation of German and German state with our Albanian partners we invite all delegates to a program of dialogue.

Thank you,

Thank you