



Statement of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

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Advancement of Women

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Delivered by

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Mr. President

In the beginning, allow me to start by extending my sincere congratulations to you for your chairmanship of this Committee. I extend my sincere congratulations to you, your office and the esteemed members of the Committee wishing them the best. Moreover, my Country also supports the statement given by the Delegation of Yemen on behalf of the Group 677, and I hope

Mr. President

The Delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia commends the efforts of the United Nations in the empowerment and advancement of women, as well as the policy enforced by the Secretary General H.E. Ban Ki Moon to ensure the participation of women in the United Nations. The most important theme in witnessing in the present time about the advancement of women is the establishment of WFP which is clear evidence on the accomplishments reached in the field of equality and women empowerment. I would also like to congratulate Ms. Kohler-Prabhu for her new position as the Under-Secretary General of the United Nations wishing her the best.

Mr. President

My country is of the view of women participation in the society. The King as the King of Saudi Arabia has issued a royal decree with the woman issue, the section of women and development stipulated that full participation of Saudi women is an integral component of the general strategy for human development in accordance with Islamic SHARIA, especially in the field of economic and social

services and participation in social development. This is because women are half of the society, and their contribution in the advancement of the social, political and economic development is important and irreplaceable for the development process. Several resolutions were adopted to guarantee women's effective participation in prospective development plans and national strategies. Several units and departments were established in all governmental bodies to provide services related to women's empowerment and to prepare them for their anticipated role. In addition, several resolutions were adopted concerning their employment status on an equality basis in the career ladder and retirement as well as granting them rights in the fields of education, health, social services and social security benefits. Moreover, Saudi women participated in various fields with full support from the Kingdom's Government.

Mr. President

Lately, the Kingdom witnessed a positive development in terms of women's status, whether in the areas of education, employment or health. The Saudi Council of Ministers adopted a resolution that included a set of measures and procedures to strengthen the role of women in order to make a qualitative leap in their participation in the society. The Council instructed all governmental agencies to provide services related to women to establish women's empowerment in accordance with the requirements within a deadline not exceeding one year from the adoption of the aforementioned resolution.

The prominent role of the Saudi woman in the society was very well noted in many areas, namely:

- Appointment of women to high positions and their effective participation in political life;
- Participation of women in economic activities through their role as consultants in

the SAGRA Council. The women's Empowerment is participated in the Council.

- Participation of women in elite circles and Board membership at the Kingdom's Chambers of Commerce and Industry in the Kingdom. It may be noted that a woman was appointed as vice-Chairman of the Board of Chamber of Industry and Commerce (Jeddah, Kingdom). In addition to electing female engineers in the First Board of Directors of Saudi Engineers' Society (Jeddah, Kingdom) and in the Board of Directors of Saudi Engineers' Society (Riyadh, Kingdom).
- Participation of Saudi women in economic activities as entrepreneurs and businesswomen. Their role went beyond the national boundaries to reach the regional and international levels. The number of women who have been the foundation of a corporation, owned by Saudi women, increased from about 19,000 in 2007 to 27,000 in 2008, an increase of 37% higher than the year 2007 and is significantly increasing.
- Participation of the women in enriching the national dialogue side by side with men on women empowerment and their participation in social development.
- Participation of Saudi women in the field of journalism, journalism and writers. There are many women publications, some of which have been translated into other foreign languages, in addition to their participation in various cultural activities on the national and international levels.
- Participation of Saudi women in the Medical field. As doctors and nurses they represent the larger portion of the staff in the hospitals and health centers.
- Establishment of NGOs, successfully run by Saudi women, concerned with domestic violence and defending the rights of women and children.

Mr. President,

In the end I can only express my gratitude for giving me the opportunity to shed some light on some aspects of the Saudi women's life, as well as to commend the Government efforts to promote the principle of shared responsibility, to the development of women in all aspects of life, to ensure their rights and participation in decision-making at the political, social, cultural and economic levels.

Thank you, Mr. President.