



Statement

by

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at the

Security Council **open debate**

“Strengthening women’s resilience and leadership as a path to peace in
regions plagued by armed groups: **Women and peace and security**”

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***Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations
866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 531, New York, NY 10017***

Merci Monsieur le Président,

Nous félicitons le Gabon pour sa présidence du Conseil ce mois-ci, et nous le remercions pour avoir organisé ce débat annuel tant chéri.

Nous saisissons cette opportunité pour féliciter également la France pour sa présidence avisée du Conseil le mois dernier.

Nous remercions de même les invités respectifs pour leurs interventions.

Mr. President,

We meet today at a very critical time for our world. Women's rights around the world have witnessed a clear deterioration, and gender equality seems to be out of reach, with UN Women affirming that "at the current rate of progress, it may take close to 300 years to achieve full gender equality".

Mr. President,

We cannot wait 300 years. Achieving gender equality, strengthening women's resilience and leadership and ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of all women, is needed today more than ever.

Mr. President,

Lebanon has kept the Women, Peace and Security agenda front and center. We have made progress in implementing our first National Action Plan on resolution 1325, and we are currently working on developing our second plan.

The Informal Expert Group on WPS was able to witness how we are implementing our Action Plan during its visit in June of this year to Lebanon.

We thank once again the group and its co-chairs Ireland and Mexico, and we look forward to continuing our collaboration.

Mr. President,

This year, Lebanon has made a breakthrough in enhancing women's participation in the defense sector. For the first time ever, around 50% of the Lebanese army cadets graduating in 2022 were women, with the first 3 positions taken by women.

Moreover, and while we still have a long way to go, there was "some momentum for increased participation of women in public life" as described by the Secretary General in his report on WPS. In fact, we witnessed lately a record number of women candidates during our last parliamentary elections.

Mr. President,

We strongly believe that when women are part of the solution, the latter is more effective, more durable, and more sustainable. When women are empowered, everyone benefits, as DSG Amina Mohamad said earlier today.

Mr. President,

It is of utmost importance to strengthen women participation, and leadership in UN Peacekeeping missions.

For Lebanon, women peacekeepers in UNIFIL play an important role, even though their number is still very low.

We salute UNIFIL for becoming the first UN peacekeeping mission to provide gender-sensitive housing and invest in better working conditions for women peacekeepers, therefore tackling challenges that impedes women peacekeepers' full, equal and meaningful participation in peacekeeping.

We hope that this step will “incentivize troop contributing countries to deploy more women”, as the Secretary General mentions in his report.

Mr. President,

While the world is still years away from achieving real gender equality, the WPS agenda offers itself as a guiding tool to strengthen women participation and leadership.

It is as the Secretary General puts it: WPS is “not just an answer to historic wrongs and marginalization, but an opportunity to do things differently.”

We must start doing things differently, we must do more and we must do it now.

I thank you Mr. President.