



**Statement of the
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

Before the Third Committee

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Advancement of Women

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Mr. President,

On behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, I have the honor to congratulate Your Excellency on your re-election as President of the Third Committee.

Mr. President,

The Delegation of my country supports the statements delivered by the Delegation of Qatar on behalf of the Arab Group and by the Delegation of Argentina on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on Women Advancement.

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was keen to implement many procedures and steps to the advancement of Saudi women through the inclusion of these procedures in the Kingdom's strategic and development plans starting from primary education to reach the highest degrees in all fields (medical, academic research, technical, economic etc...) as well as reaching the highest ranks and positions in government agencies (such as minister rank). In addition, the Kingdom adopted several decisions and procedures that ensure the effective participation of women in other economic, social and health fields such as:

- The national integrated plan for Saudi women workforce that identify the actual need in various specialized fields;
- Encouraging civil and private sector to create work and jobs for women;
- Creating women's units and divisions in all government agencies which provide services related to women.

In addition, the Kingdom implemented many other important decisions and initiatives that stress on equality between men and women in several fields; most notably, the recent speech of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques before the SHURA Council, which included the decision of women participation in the SHURA Council membership as of the next session; in addition to women's right to run for municipal councils and the election of candidates.

As a result of the attention given to Saudi women, their role has emerged in many areas, including for example:

- Appointment of women in the diplomatic corps and their effective participation in the political field.
- Parliamentary participation in decision-making through their appointment in the highest Saudi legislative authority (the SHURA Council) which include eleven 11 women (Counsellor Rank) consultant.
- Playing an important and effective role in economic activities that are not limited to local participation, but went further to reach regional and international levels. This

is shown by the remarkable and steady increase of business records and corporations owned by Saudi businesswomen.

- Playing a prominent role in the national dialogue activities side by side with men.
- Playing a prominent role in media and culture through authoring and journalism.
- Playing a prominent role in medicine at national and international level; and their many remarkable international achievements.
- Managing efficiently and effectively many non-governmental organizations concerned with the rights of women and children, domestic violence and social services.
- Women prominent role in volunteer work within and outside the Kingdom providing logistical and material support during the pilgrimage seasons and during crises; which resulted in the recognition of the President of the Women's High Committee for Humanitarian and Social Services – Makkah Branch as a pioneer in the field of volunteer work and a role-model for dedication and leadership.

Mr. President,

The Saudi women succeeded in accessing the highest ranks at the local and international levels; notably,

- Holding the post of president of an international organization (the United Nations Population Fund which plays an important role in addressing family and population issues in the world)
- In education field, reaching Minister Rank and holding the post of Deputy Minister of Education, the post of Dean of University (Excellent Rank) and the post of Under-Secretary for Educational Affairs in the Ministry of Education (Excellent Rank)
- In economy, CEO of Olayan (one of the major companies with global activities).
- Under the wise leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, who continuously supports the Saudi woman, the Kingdom – represented by a Saudi woman - was elected for the membership of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) which emanated from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- The Kingdom – represented by a Saudi woman - was chosen as a member in the new UN organ (UN WOMEN) which was established in 2010.
- The United Nations honored a Saudi Woman with an award in the field of human rights for her remarkable efforts in empowering women and maternal health.

Mr. President,

We all aspire and hope that the work and meetings of the Third Committee would be crowned with success and the achievement of positive and concrete results that will satisfy all of us.

Thank you Mr. President.