

**Comprehensive National Review of the Progress Made
in Implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action+30***

Republic of Lebanon

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Introduction

The National Commission for Lebanese Women is honoured to present this comprehensive national review report, which assesses the progress made over thirty years in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, with a special focus on the recent period (2019–2020), which witnessed major challenges and fundamental changes at the national and international levels.

Over the past five years, Lebanon has experienced difficult political, economic, health and security conditions. This period witnessed a series of successive events, from the outbreak of large-scale popular protests to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the explosion of the port of Beirut, coinciding with an unprecedented collapse of the national currency, the detention of depositors' funds in banks, a sharp deterioration in the living conditions of citizens, the crisis of the Syrian displacement to Lebanon and the outbreak of war in southern Lebanon late last year.

Despite these challenges, Lebanon remained committed to respecting international treaties, conventions and covenants, and to working to implement them in accordance with the principles of human rights, social justice and equality between female and male citizens, as stipulated in the Lebanese Constitution.

This report was prepared in cooperation between the National Commission for Lebanese Women and all concerned ministries, government bodies and civil society organizations, with a participatory and interactive approach and with the support of UN-Women and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). The review was conducted in accordance with the *Guidance note for comprehensive national-level reviews*.

Despite the difficulties encountered in preparing the report, the National Commission, along with its partners, was able to produce a realistic picture of the progress made and the challenges that hinder the achievement of gender equality and the advancement of women's issues. The report aims to provide a comprehensive picture of the reality of women in Lebanon, highlighting achievements, analyzing challenges in various fields and identifying priorities for the next phase, all within the framework of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In conclusion, the National Commission for Lebanese Women thanks all parties involved in the preparation of this report, including ministries and official departments, civil society organizations, trade unions and academic institutions, for their contribution in providing the necessary information and data.

Section 1: Takeaways

Lebanon adheres to international covenants and treaties related to human rights and submits periodic reports on progress made, especially in the areas of human rights, elimination of discrimination against women and girls and achievement of the SDGs.

The National Commission for Lebanese Women, in accordance with the tasks entrusted thereto by its founding law, communicates and coordinates among all entities concerned with women's issues in Lebanon, and is considered the national focal point for various issues related to women. In the implementation of its tasks, the National Commission, together with its partners, prepared this report.

This report aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the progress, challenges and obstacles faced in the implementation process of the Beijing Platform for Action in Lebanon. The comprehensive national review process of the Platform focused mainly on evaluating performance at the national level comprehensively and on analyzing its linkage with the SDGs.

This report was prepared in a participatory approach represented by a series of steps and stages. Female and male gender-focused officers in ministries, official departments and focal points in civil society organizations were trained on how to prepare the report through a workshop organized by the National Authority in partnership with ESCWA and UN-Women. More than 100 concerned parties were then contacted to answer the questions of the report. The National Commission for Lebanese Women periodically used information from these bodies through its electronic monitoring platform.

The key challenges faced in preparing this report are the lack of available time, the slow response from some parties in providing data due to the lack of human resources and the lack of some data in some departments.

Progress made

Despite the challenges and circumstances, Lebanon has achieved remarkable progress in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action in recent years, particularly with regard to the adoption of Law No. 204 issued on 30 December 2020, which amends the Law on the

Protection of Women and Other Family Members from Domestic Violence to provide greater protection for victims of violence and their children. Law No. 205/2020, issued on 30 December 2020, was also approved regarding the criminalization of sexual harassment and the rehabilitation of its victims. It aims to protect persons subjected to sexual harassment and punish their perpetrators. In addition, there was the approval of Law No. 319 issued on 22 November 2023, on amending some provisions of the Social Security Law and establishing the retirement and social protection system, which aims to achieve equality between men and women in terms of social security contributions.

In parallel with these legislative amendments, the National Commission for Lebanese Women launched the National Strategy for Women in Lebanon 2022–2030 and its Implementation Action Plan for the years 2024–2026, which it prepared in a participatory approach with the public and private sectors and concluded the process of implementing the first national action plan for Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. The Council of Ministers also approved the first national strategy for social protection, and the Ministry of Public Health launched the national strategy for clinical care for survivors of rape. The Ministry of Social Affairs also launched the document on standard operating procedures to address social role-based violence in Lebanon.

Government ministries and departments, as well as civil society organizations, have committed to implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Awareness campaigns have been launched, and training has been organized to raise awareness of gender equality issues and promote women's rights. Action plans and policies have been developed in this regard, including a policy for preventing, responding to and punishing sexual harassment in the workplace in both the public and private sectors, and an action plan for the prevention of child marriage.

Challenges

The various crises Lebanon has faced over the past five years – such as the war in Syria, the influx of Syrian refugees, the popular movements of October 2019, the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent quarantine measures, the Beirut port explosion in August 2020, along with ongoing economic, political and social challenges, and the outbreak of conflict in southern Lebanon in October 2023 – alongside a prevailing culture that does not fully recognize women's citizenship rights, have hindered the complete implementation of the

Beijing Platform for Action. These crises have led to the deterioration of infrastructure and have left the vast majority of Lebanon's population living in poverty. The shortage of financial resources and the collapse of the national currency have had a direct impact on individuals – particularly women. Institutional work has been hindered, especially in areas related to social affairs and gender equality, affecting both public sector and civil society organizations. This disruption has been further compounded by the absence of a President since 2022. Moreover, the worsening phenomenon of domestic violence against women and girls has negatively affected their status in society and limited their ability to participate in political and economic life.

Among the obstacles to implementing the Beijing Platform for Action are the lack of funding and resources necessary to implement programmes and projects that promote gender equality and women's rights. These challenges are compounded by the absence of gender-disaggregated statistics across various sectors.

Conclusion

To advance the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, achieve the SDGs and promote women's rights, focus should be placed on the following areas:

- **Funding and capacity building:** Providing financial and technical support for programmes and projects concerned with promoting women's rights and building the capacity of relevant bodies and institutions in Lebanon to implement these programmes.
- **Policies, data collection and analysis:** Providing support to develop data collection and analysis mechanisms to measure progress and identify areas of intervention, and to develop, update and implement policies that contribute to the promotion of women's rights.
- **Technology:** Provide support in the use of technology and digital solutions to facilitate access, exchange and analysis of information.
- **Partnerships:** Promote cooperation between the public and private sectors, civil society and international organizations to promote the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, including the exchange of knowledge and experiences and the promotion of effective partnerships.