



**Global Leaders' Meeting
on
"Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment :
A Commitment to Action"**

" Statement of Commitment of the league of Arab States "

Submitted in the context of the Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, but not delivered in person.

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Conference Room (4)



Statement of Commitment

Honorable Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, honorable president of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Xi Jinping, honorable Executive Director of UN Women, Madame Phumzille Mlambo-Ngucka, Honorable Dignitaries, ladies and gentlemen.

The League of Arab States is honored to be part of the Global Leaders meeting on "**Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: A Commitment to Action**", and to speak to you today 20 years after the Beijing Platform of Action. On the eve of the SDG's, as we look back, not only on Beijing but also on the MDG's.

The Arab region is witnessing instability and conflicts where women, men, boys and girls are fleeing war in Syria, Yemen, Iraq, and Libya and where they have lived the reality of war and occupation in Palestine for decades, We see how women and girls are suffering early forced marriage, sexual violence and other health problems. I am proud that the Arab League Ministerial Council in its 144th session, has adopted a regional plan of Action on "**Protection of Arab Women :Peace and Security**". This Plan of Action calls for meaningful participation of women as leaders on all levels of decision- making to promote peace and contribute in negotiations and conflict resolution.



At this critical time in history, the adoption of new development framework and the SDG's, the League of Arab States has championed the most comprehensive document ever undertaken in the region to promote women's status on all political, economic and social levels, and to end violence against women in conflicts and instable situations, aiming to make a brighter future women and girls and to reach a full equality between men and women by 2030, This document is the "**Cairo Declaration**" "**The Post- 2015 Development Agenda for Arab Women : Opportunities and Challenges**".

I am pleased today to inform you that the Arab League member states, two weeks ago, during the 144th session of the ministerial council held on September 13th, have adopted the Cairo Declaration and its Strategic Plan of Action **as a "Post - 2015 Development Agenda for Women in the Arab Region"** to be submitted and adopted in the coming Arab summit planned to be convened in the Kingdom of Morocco, in 2016.

Here, from this place, the League of Arab States declares its commitment towards the implementation of the Cairo Declaration and its Strategic Plan of Action to push for stronger investment in gender equality, policies, gender responsive budgeting and allow new standards of gender responsive indicators and statistics.

it renew its commitment for full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and platform for action.



As we go forward, the League of Arab States is committed to continue to push its member states to develop strategies, action plans and policies that promote gender equality in the region and to enhance the private and public lives of women and girls.

I am inspired to see the strides made in the region, and the strong commitment to equality voiced by our member states. I am confident that as we go forward, we will see tremendous achievements and we will witness women leaders in our region, young and old, make the history.