



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
5 December 2014
English
Original: Arabic

Commission on the Status of Women

Fifty-ninth session

9-20 March 2015

**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and
to the special session of the General Assembly entitled
“Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace
for the twenty-first century”**

Statement submitted by Association nationale Al Hidn, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

The 59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women is taking place at a time when the world is still feeling the effects of the economic crisis. People are demanding freedom, justice and equality, and that international organizations establish principles in support of human rights and freedoms, including the right to self-determination, women's right to equality and parity, the right to democracy at regional and national levels, the right to good governance and the right to sufficient opportunities. Despite the efforts that are being made to achieve these aims, and despite the work of civil society bodies to empower women by reconciling laws and constitutions with international charters, indicators showing that great progress has been made with regard to equality are not reliable for all geographic areas or for all groups of women. A large number of women are still victims of vulnerability, poverty and disease, in response to which many Arab nations and civil society organizations have made the combat against vulnerability a top priority, with a view to ensuring a minimum level of human dignity for all women. Despite the fact that the Millennium Development Goals specify the need for sufficient opportunities and equality, there are still not enough doctors and equipped hospitals to meet women's needs. The wars that have taken place in the Middle East and the Arab world, together with the reversal of democratic achievements and the violation of human rights organizations, have caused unparalleled setbacks to women's progress in the fields of education, society, the economy and the arts. A greater percentage of women are now victims of sexual exploitation, rape and homelessness.

- The Association nationale Al-Hidn is surprised that these contradictions are allowed to continue. We are saddened by the lack of engagement shown by the international community and its feeble attempts to protect women from war crimes.
- We ask the Commission on the Status of Women to protect women from vulnerability by allocating resources, according to cultural need, in order to achieve positive change and to protect women from war, armed conflict and murder.
- We ask that the charters and laws on aggressors' rights be applied to civilians, in particular women and children.