

Country: The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan
Committee: The United Nations Programme for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UNWOMEN)

Agenda Item: Strengthening Protections Around Women's Fundamental Rights In The MENA Region

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The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan is located at the crossroads of Central and South Asia. It has borders with Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and China. Our country is mostly filled with mountains with plains in the north and the southwest, which are separated by the Hindu Kush mountain range. Kabul is the capital and our largest city. Our population is esteemed to be around 40 to 50 million. Human habitation in Afghanistan dates to the Middle Paleolithic era. It's popularly referred to as the graveyard of empires, the land has witnessed numerous military campaigns, including those by the Persians, Alexander the Great, the Maurya Empire, Arab Muslims, the Mongols, the British, the Soviet Union, and a US-led coalition. Because of the various conquests and periods in both the Iranian and Indian cultural spheres, the area was a center for Zoroastrianism, Buddhism, Hinduism, and later Islam. Islam is Afghanistan's official religion at the moment.

For decades, Afghan women have lived through conflict, economic hardship, and social uncertainty. These conditions have limited their access to education, healthcare, and employment, making daily life increasingly difficult. Similar challenges can also be seen in several parts of the MENA region, where women continue to face barriers despite global efforts toward gender equality.

Access to basic services remains one of our most urgent concerns. We as the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan are ready to put efforts that ensure women and girls can receive education, healthcare, and career opportunities.

We believe that making changes in women's rights, making community based education programs, skills training, and improving maternal healthcare and helping women integrate in the workforce can help women become more independent while also strengthening families and local communities, particularly in rural and conflict affected areas.

In conclusion, Afghanistan calls on UNWOMEN and the international community to approach women's rights with empathy and respect for national circumstances. With cooperation, sustained humanitarian support, and development-focused strategies, it is possible to improve the lives of women and girls in Afghanistan and across the MENA region.

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