

Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia on Item VI

In Arabic.

Thank you Madam for this opportunity to speak. I would like to talk about practices and experiences from Saudi Arabia with regards to affirmative action. Women in Saudi Arabia have found themselves in an evolving situation in terms of their status education and access to politics and this is thanks to the aid by the government and thanks to the promotion of equality of opportunity. Efforts have been made to help women reach the highest posts. In order to achieve this an incentive program is needed to help women who are unemployed. In addition, it is important to make sure that women are given jobs on a daily basis of their merit. Furthermore, issues such as access to credit and human resources need to ensure that women have appropriate access to such programs. Moreover it is important the women have access to administrative posts in addition there are women lawyers, women employees in the custom services and other such points. When it comes to economic opportunities they are made available to all women without any distinction. Let me give you an example, 2007 statistics mention that a very large number of women have been able to set up businesses and women are making a huge contribution to economic growth in the country. Furthermore, women have the opportunity to have two-year maternity leave. A further point, in order to bring up her family women are allowed to have three years away from work without salary. All of these measures are designed to encourage women's access to the labour market. On this basis I would particularly like to stress that we take all groups into consideration and society and we try to make sure the right are available for all people and women in the society without any distinction. Thank you.