



MAARIJ Foundation for Peace and Development
ITEM 6
UPR Lebanon

Mr. President,

We thank the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review for their report on Lebanon presented at this session.

Our NGO, MAARIJ Foundation for Peace and Development, would like to comment on the issues related to the elimination of discrimination against women.

We note that, to date, Lebanon has not withdrawn its reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, including paragraph 2 of Article 9 to grant women equal rights with men regarding the nationality of their children, Article 16-1 c), d), f) and g) concerning equality in the marriage and family relationships, to guarantee women's right to property and inheritance, and their right to freely dispose of their own financial resources.

Our NGO also noted that discriminatory provisions remain in the law on personal status and the Penal Code. The laws on the protection of women and of all family members against family violence contain a narrow definition of family violence and do not guarantee adequate protection against all forms of violence, including non-physical violence and marital rape.

We call on the Lebanese government to amend the legislative provisions concerned in order to criminalize marital rape.

Moreover, the blatant underrepresentation of women in public and political life reveals the lack of their empowerment, enabling women to be active in political parties and trade unions. We urge that Lebanon complies with Article 7 of the Convention by increasing the numbers of women who can be elected to public office including through temporary special measures in accordance with Article 4-1.

Finally, despite the fact that Lebanon has announced its commitment to intensify its efforts to eliminate discrimination against women, establish gender equality and combat gender violence, these pressing problems have still not been resolved.

Thank you.