

26 July 2013

**CEDAW STATEMENT ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE PROCESS OF POLITICAL  
TRANSITION IN EGYPT, LIBYA AND TUNISIA**

**Adopted by the CEDAW Committee at its fifty-fifth session  
8 – 26 July 2013, Geneva**

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women has been following with deep interest the process of political transition in three States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, namely Egypt, Libya and Tunisia, particularly in relation to the situation of women.

In this context, the Committee recalls that women's rights are fundamentally linked to peace, security and sustainable development. The Committee further reaffirms that the Convention and its Optional Protocol provide a comprehensive and overarching international legally binding framework for the prevention and elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, including violence against women, as a cross-cutting issue that is also addressed in other international human rights instruments.

The Committee is however distressed about attempts to discredit the Convention. It recalls that all States parties have the legal obligation to implement all the provisions of the Convention in all political, social or economic contexts, and to take all appropriate measures to prohibit and prevent violations of women's rights.

The Committee urges all States parties to strongly condemn all forms of violence against women and girls and to ensure that custom, tradition, and cultural or religious considerations are not invoked to justify non-compliance with their legal obligations under the Convention.

The Committee further expresses concern about the limited political participation of women and their risk of exclusion and marginalization, despite their active role during the transition processes in their respective countries.

The Committee urges concerned Governments, in cooperation with the relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, non-governmental organizations and all other relevant actors, to fully comply with their obligations to implement the Convention in order to enable women to enjoy all their human rights on an equal basis with men, and to enhance awareness of the fact that the Convention constitutes a common standard of humanity to which all civilizations and cultures contributed.

The Committee is at the disposal of concerned States parties to assist them in these efforts.

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