

Committee: United Nations Human Rights Council

Topic: Promoting women's rights and equality in the Maghreb region

Main Submitter: Germany

Co-submitters: Portugal, Austria, Côte d'Ivoire, United Kingdom, Brazil, Tunisia, Russian Federation, France, Switzerland, Sweden, United States of America

Signatories: Canada, Costa Rica, Norway, Egypt, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Ukraine, Nigeria, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Tasmania, Myanmar, Ecuador, Belgium, Turkey, India

The United Nations Human Rights Council,

Noting, the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW),

Reaffirming, the commitment of Member States to the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 5, which aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls,

Alarmed by the persistent challenges faced by women in the Maghreb region regarding unequal access to opportunities, exacerbated by deeply rooted societal norms and discriminatory practices,

Commending efforts by regional states in the Maghreb region that actively contribute to inclusive policies aimed at supporting and accepting refugees, particularly women, fleeing conflict and persecution,

Expressing, the need for a collaborative and multi-dimensional approach involving governments, civil society, the private sector, and the international community to address women's rights in the Maghreb region,

1. *Encourages* MEDC member states, NGOs and IGOs to establish a dedicated fund for gender equality and women's rights initiatives in the Maghreb region, with a commitment to annual contributions in order to;
 - a. collaborating with local organisations in the Maghreb region, providing financial assistance for grassroots projects and programs addressing the specific needs of women,
 - b. provision of technical assistance and capacity-building programs to strengthen the effectiveness of local initiatives,
 - c. establishment of regular site visits and progress reports, with an annual summit bringing together stakeholders to review achievements, address challenges, and strategize for the upcoming year;

2. *Expresses* concern over the abrupt displacement of women refugees who, find themselves repudiated and without adequate housing, and so calling for the governments of Member States of the EU and neighbouring countries to:
 - a. revise the bilateral conventions in order to guarantee the principles included in the European Convention of Human Rights,
 - b. authorise consulates to draw up individual visas for women even if their passport has been drawn up for the whole family,
 - c. grant individual residence permits for women,
 - d. ensure equality of treatment in respect of applications for work and residence permits and improve immigrants' legal status;

3. *Urges* Member States in the Maghreb region to allocate a minimum of 6% of their national education budget for the implementation of gender equality education programs in schools and universities:
 - a. with the integration of gender equality education into national and local curricula, emphasising mutual respect from an early age,
 - b. implement teacher training programs focused on gender-sensitive teaching,
 - c. provide financial support to families who encourage equal education for both their daughters and sons,
 - i. offer subsidies for school uniforms, books, and educational materials, particularly to economically disadvantaged families and families in rural areas,
 - d. establishment of a "Equity in Education Monitoring and Accountability System" (EEMAS) to track the implementation education programs and to ensure accountability in resource allocation;

4. *Calls upon* Member States in the Maghreb region and other states accepting Maghrebi immigrants to improve Maghrebi women's access to employment by:
 - a. providing women with job listing platforms where they can search for jobs,
 - b. providing loans and grants to corporations founded by women,
 - c. integration of vocational training opportunities into formal education systems,
 - d. advocating for increased representation of women in political and decision-making processes,
 - i. by setting a clear target for Maghrebi Member States to achieve a minimum of 20% representation of women in their national parliament by 2025;

5. *Urges* the countries in the Maghreb region to enact and enforce legislation ensuring that women have the right to marry and divorce at their own will:
 - a. establishing legal frameworks that grant women the autonomy to enter into marriage based on their free and informed consent,
 - b. prohibit any control over a woman's reproductive functions by family, domestic legislation, and/or religious heads,
 - c. abolish practices of polygamy, recognizing them as a violation of human dignity,
 - d. immediate removal of harmful traditional practices including the outlaw of female genital mutilation (FGM),

- i. launch public awareness programs nation-wide to raise awareness to communities on the physical and physiological consequences of FGM,
 - ii. train health care providers, law enforcement and community leaders to recognize and respond to FGM cases,
 - e. eliminate discriminatory practices that restrict or impede women's ability to initiate divorce proceedings,
 - f. ensure that enforcement of the above laws are in place through oversight from NGOs;
6. *Calls* upon Member States in the Maghreb region to take decisive steps in criminalising domestic violence and implementing comprehensive measures to address this issue:
 - a. Enforce legislation that criminalises all forms of domestic violence, including physical, emotional, economic, and psychological abuse, irrespective of the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim,
 - b. Establish specialised domestic violence units within law enforcement agencies to ensure effective response to reported cases,
 - c. Allocate resources for the establishment and maintenance of shelters and safe houses for victims of domestic violence,
 - d. providing legal resources in every library and publishing ads that advertise legal resources, to facilitate women in danger to speak up,
 - i. by allowing for more educational programs for parents to attend educational institutions such as libraries;
7. *Encourages* the establishment of a 24/7 regional hotline “HERConnectMaghreb” for women's rights and equality in the Maghreb region:
 - a. provide immediate assistance, counselling, and referrals to support services for women experiencing discrimination, violence, or seeking information on their rights,
 - b. require the hotline to have a multilingual capability, in all official languages of Member States,
 - c. set up hotspots in local NGOs equipped with phones to make confidential calls,
 - d. gather information on domestic violence instances to handle individual cases and be used in national reports of Member States from but not limited to,
 - i. healthcare professionals and facilities
 - ii. hotline staff members
 - iii. police officials;
8. *Decides* to remain seized on the matter.