



Madam Chair

Distinguished Members of the Committee

Distinguished members of the UN Secretariat

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

I consider it an honor to be invited to

discuss with you today the initial report of the Syrian Arab Republic on the
implementation of the CEDAW and to reply to your questions

responsible of setting the national policies and strategies and also monitoring its implementation. In addition to its mission in monitoring and evaluating the women's status. The SCFA comes as an initiative to modernize the

process.

- Working under the umbrella of the Prime Ministry, the Syrian Commission for Family Affairs has access to other governmental bodies. It is also responsible of cooperation and coordination with women non governmental organizations. As it is believed that only through transparent and strong partnership between governmental bodies

reservation on article 2 of the CEDAW as an important step ahead. However

realize the spirit the convention in the national law.

- It is worth acknowledging the tremendous efforts invested in...

Family Affairs; in cooperation with the Syrian Bar Association, the Women Union, and legal persons from NGOs and Civil Society.

➤ In a matter of fact Syria is respecting its international obligations

that, for the first time in Syria, the International Day on Violence Against Women had been marked in 2004 -2007.

- Nonetheless, the civil society has been taking a leading role in securing services for victimized women. We owe Thanks to the Sisters of Good Shepherd for their

extremely valuable work in their shelters and help line. Recently the National Association for women's Progress started setting up a new shelter, funded by JICA, the Japanese Development Agency.

- Combating Gender-Based violence has become the main priority of the civil society

Following this, the Syrian Council of Ministers, in 1977, approved a

'The Political Empowerment of Syrian Women'. The Commission also executed
a training program about 'Leadership' in Political Parties.

presented to Parliament according to the formal processes. It is worth to mention that the state 10th Five Year Plan had devoted a specific chapter on women advancement and another chapter on civil society. In addition an amendment to

the honor killing law was also prepared and submitted to the concerned parties by the Syrian Commission for Family Affairs for review and consideration.

Advancement of Women for the years (2007-2011) is being taken in support of

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➤ After all these efforts to empower women, the State's Five Years Plan set specified intervention areas that are mentioned in the 'Strategy for Economic Empowerment of Women'.

➤ The State's Five Years Plan set

progressive sign is the special section of the State 10th Five Years Plan dedicated to Civil Society.

- Cooperative work between Civil society and the Syrian Commission for Family

in Syria. A partnership was created between the government and Civil society to advance women's issues and rights.

- Another clear success of Civil society and come into being by...

the country. Consequently, a draft law has been prepared concerning private companies and agencies that provide domestic helpers from outside Syria.

Government. Based on an exploratory study on foreign domestic work in Syria, conducted by the International Migration Organization (IOM) in 2000

- As a matter of fact, The increasing number of the refugees and refugee-seekers reflects negative impacts inside Iraq and in its neighbouring countries. Moreover, Syria is facing a huge mass of refugees with a significant number of them

- Bearing that in mind, the connection between a peaceful situation in the country on women's issues. Significant further international efforts should be exerted, regarding 'women and peace processes.

that democratic change should be a bottom-up- initiative and not imposed.