WILPF RESOLUTION
33rd Congress
Brisbane, Australia & online
24 July 2022

Breakdown Impacts on Women and Women’s Role in Governance

The 33rd International Congress of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), Recalling that participation in public and political life, including through elections, is a human right protected in international human rights law instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW);

Recalling also that Article 7 of CEDAW requires States parties to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country, and in particular, to ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right to vote in all elections and public referenda and to be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies; and to participate in the formulation of government policy and the implementation thereof and to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government; to participate in non-governmental organisations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country;

Recalling further that governments have made strong commitments to ensure the full participation of women and girls in public and political life in instruments such as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and that ensuring women’s participation in decision-making bodies is one of the pillars of the Women, Peace and Security agenda and ensuring youth’s participation in decision-making processes is one of the pillars of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda;

Deeply concerned at the extremely low level of representation of women in national and local governance in Lebanon, as described in WILPF Lebanon’s statement “Lebanon’s Breakdown: Impacts on Women and Women’s Political Participation” of 22 July.

Bearing in mind that the next municipal elections in Lebanon will take place in May 2023.

Consultative Status with UN ECOSOC, UNCTAD, UNESCO and UNEP.
Special Consultative Relations with FAO, ILO and UNICEF.
Fully supports WILPF Lebanon’s recommendations to:

- Lebanon to fulfil its human rights obligations and commitments and reform its electoral law (at the national and local levels) as follows:
  - Introduce quotas of at least 40 per cent for women candidates on electoral lists at national and local levels, and put lists at risk of not being registered if they fall below this percentage;
  - Allocate at least 33 per cent reserved seats for women candidates across all electoral constituencies;
  - Adopt a law to criminalise any act of violence against women in the context of political and public life, and raise awareness among the wider public;
  - Include the prevention of violence against women in politics in the mandate and competence of the Electoral Monitoring Body, so that it can monitor, prevent and respond to violence perpetrated against all women active in politics and adopt an efficient complaint and prosecution mechanism;
  - The Electoral Monitoring Body must ensure gender-balanced and fair media coverage during the electoral campaigns.

- Political parties in Lebanon to promote women’s representation without prejudice in the upcoming elections and adopt internal measures to reserve funding for women candidates.