

Revised

Statement of Kenya
at the review of Lebanon
23rd Session of the UPR Working Group
Monday, 2nd November 2015
2.30 pm
Room XX
Palais des Nations
Geneva

Mr. /Ms. President,

Kenya extends a warm welcome to the delegation of Lebanon to this 2nd cycle of the UPR. We thank them for the comprehensive and thorough presentation of their national report.

My delegation has taken note of the ongoing positive efforts by the Government to implement recommendations of the last UPR cycle. We welcome the adoption of a national human rights plan; and measures to establish a national human rights institution. We encourage the Government to continue with these efforts.

We would also like to take note of concerns outlined in the report, among them, the plight of migrant domestic workers. Migrant domestic workers are currently excluded from the national Labor Code and are subjected to restrictive immigration rules based on the *kafala* system --- the visa sponsorship system that ties workers to their employers --- which makes it difficult for them to leave their employers and puts them at risk of exploitation and abuse.

We make the following recommendations to Lebanon:

1. To amend the labor code and the visa sponsorship system in order to accord the necessary legal protection to migrant domestic workers on an equal footing with other workers and in line with the ILO Domestic Workers Convention.
2. To reform the Lebanese nationality law, so as to give women the capacity to acquire, retain and transfer citizenship on an equal basis with men, and to bring the law into compliance with international human rights standards, including CRC Article 7 and CEDAW Article 9; and to ensure the effective implementation of the law.

I thank you.