



Letter/3C/24-165

April 19, 2024

Dear Reverend,

I would like to thank you for your letter received on April 4, 2024, and for your congratulations on the election of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as Chair of the UN Commission on the Status of Women for its 69th session.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia looks ambitiously towards chairing the UN Commission on the Status of Women for its 69th session, and is willing to engage constructively and actively with all relevant stakeholders in order to further advance the empowerment of women and girls not just within our region, but around the world, especially amid the multiple and compounding crises the world is facing today which are affecting mostly women and girls.

Furthermore, I would like to seize this opportunity to inform you that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has taken major steps and has made a great progress in advancing women's rights since the launch of the Kingdom's Vision 2030, which took place 8 years ago, in particular April 2016. Today, Saudi women own more than 300,000 businesses, and roughly 25 percent of small and mid-size start-up companies, which is about the same percentage as in the United States. Every door is open to women, including the traditionally male-dominated sectors, such as the military, firefighting, law and law enforcement. There are even Saudi women astronauts. Women in Saudi Arabia enjoy an equal pay leading the way towards something that should be universal. While there is still work to be done, the recent progress for women, the engagement of women in the workforce, and the social and cultural opportunities being created for women are truly profound, and should not be overlooked.

As the current chair of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia welcomes any productive engagement that aims to advance women's rights and empowerment, and to collectively drive a transformational change in all women and girls' lives all over the world.

Please accept, Reverend, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Abdulaziz ALWASIL
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

The Rev. Susan H. Lee, PhD
President
US Women's Caucus