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U.S. Federation for Middle East Peace  
777 United Nations Plaza, Suite 7H  
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To all the friends of the U.S Federation for Middle East Peace:

I am delighted to send my warmest wishes to the U.S. Federation for Middle East Peace (USFMEP) and the attendees of the 57<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women. Each year, Member States of the United Nations convene to discuss policies to combat violence against women and girls around the world and assess progress made toward achieving the goal of gender equality.

The USFMEP is a non-profit organization that promotes international peace through seminars and outreach programs that increase awareness of Middle Eastern history, religion and culture throughout the United States and Europe. Through meaningful community outreach, USFMEP seeks to inspire stability in the Middle East. Empowering women and girls and increasing their involvement in the political process are central to the USFMEP mission. These priorities are demonstrated in the two events hosted by USFMEP during this year's Commission: The Influence of Faith on the Elimination of Violence Against Women & Girls and Laws on Violence Against Women and Girls, presented by Women Judges. These important presentations will bring to light the various challenges of eliminating gender-based violence and discrimination. I commend USFMEP President and Co-Founder, Salwa "Sally" Kader for her many years of leadership promoting religious tolerance and female entrepreneurship around the world.

USFMEP has done extraordinary work to enhance the self-reliance and security of Middle Eastern women and women around the world. The organization truly recognizes that gender equality is essential to the peace process. I send my best wishes to the participants of the 57<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women for a productive session, and to all the friends of USFMEP, I wish you continued success!

Sincerely,

  
CAROLYN B. MALONEY  
Member of Congress

CBM/cp