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**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA**

**REPORT**

**ARAB REGIONAL CONFERENCE TEN YEARS AFTER BEIJING: CALL FOR PEACE  
BEIRUT, 8-10 JULY 2004**

**Summary**

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) held the Arab Regional Conference Ten Years After Beijing: Call for Peace at United Nations House in Beirut during the period 8-10 July 2004, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 58/148 of 22 December 2003 in which the General Assembly recognizes the importance attached to the regional and subregional monitoring of the global and subregional platforms for action and the implementation of the outcome of the twenty-third session by regional commissions and other regional or subregional structures.

The conference comprised three meetings, namely, the second session of the Committee on Women, the Expert Group Meeting to Follow Up on the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing + 10) and the second meeting of the Consultative Committee for Non-Governmental Organizations at ESCWA.

The conference was organized around four seminars on the role of women in Arab parliaments, women in executive and decision-making positions, women in civil society and women in the media and intellectual and cultural life. The seminar concerned with women in civil society constituted the second meeting of the Consultative Committee for Non-Governmental Organizations. The three other seminars constituted the Expert Group Meeting to Follow Up on the Fourth World Conference on Women. Each seminar resulted in a set of conclusions and recommendations that form the basis of the Beirut Declaration on Arab Women Ten Years After Beijing: Call for Peace.

The present report contains a review of the recommendations issued by the conference and the most important conclusions of the discussion of each agenda item.

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## I. RESOLUTIONS ISSUED BY THE CONFERENCE

1. The Committee on Women adopted the following two resolutions at its second session:

A. RESOLUTION ON THE ARAB REGIONAL CONFERENCE TEN YEARS AFTER BEIJING:  
CALL FOR PEACE

*The Committee on Women of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,*

*Recalling* Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/9 of 18 July 2003 on the establishment within the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) of a committee on women responsible, inter alia, for following up global and regional conferences and the participation of member countries therein and coordinating the endeavours of member countries and regional organizations with regard to implementation of the resolutions and recommendations adopted at such conferences,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 58/148 of 22 December 2003, in which the Assembly recognized the importance attached to the regional and subregional monitoring of the global and regional platforms for action and of the implementation of the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

*Noting with satisfaction* the progress achieved with regard to the advancement of Arab women and the narrowing of gender gaps in the fields of education and health as well as in the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and related legislation,

*Recognizing at the same time* that illiteracy and unemployment rates remain much higher among women than men and that women in some countries in the region suffer from poverty and recognizing also the participation of Arab women in decision-making remains limited at the local and municipal level and in the legislative, executive and judicial spheres,

*Deeply concerned* with regard to the adverse effects of wars, the occupation of Arab territories and political instability on the advancement of women and girls in the region,

1. *Endorses* the Beirut Declaration on Arab Women Ten Years After Beijing: Call for Peace issued by the Arab Regional Conference Ten Years After Beijing and attached as an annex to this resolution;

2. *Appeals to* the international community to take action to end the wars and find a just and lasting solution for the occupied territories in the Arab region so that security and peace prevail, so restoring prosperity and progress to the peoples of the region, including women;

3. *Calls on* all governments to implement the Beirut Declaration on “Arab Women Ten Years After Beijing: Call for Peace”;

4. *Urges* all governments to strengthen national machineries for women by the allocation of adequate human and financial resources;

5. *Requests* ESCWA to provide advisory services, at the request of national governments, in the area of the empowerment and advancement of women, with particular focus on the production of gender-disaggregated data, strengthening of national machineries and provision of support in the preparation of national reports on the implementation of CEDAW and mainstreaming gender in policies and programmes.

### Annex

#### **BEIRUT DECLARATION ON ARAB WOMEN TEN YEARS AFTER BEIJING: CALL FOR PEACE**

1. We, the participants in the Arab Regional Conference Ten Years After Beijing: Call for Peace, gathered at ESCWA headquarters in United Nations House in Beirut from 8 to 10 July 2004, recalling General Assembly resolutions 52/100 of 12 December 1997 and 52/231 of 4 June 1998 on follow-up to the

Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, 58/142 of 22 December 2003 on women and political participation and 58/148 of 22 December 2003 on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, in addition to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 on the role of women in peace-building and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in the year 2000, in particular the third goal, namely, to promote gender equality and empower women,

2. Note that the Arab Regional Conference “Ten Years After Beijing: Call for Peace” is convened pursuant to the United Nations resolutions that stipulate the need to assess the accomplishments achieved during the ten years following the Beijing Conference in order to present the findings to the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at its forty-ninth session, to be held in New York from 28 February to 11 March 2005, for their inclusion in the comprehensive document to be prepared by CSW and submitted to the General Assembly in order to provide information on the circumstances and needs of the region.

3. We also note the continuing instability in the Arab region, which has suffered for decades from conflicts and tensions and is one of the regions of the world most exposed to wars and armed conflicts. This situation not only slows the pace of economic and social development but, also, undermines the progress that has been achieved. There is evidence to indicate that the gravity of the regional dangers, the decrease in investment rates and the persistence of the disparity between physical and human capital are all factors that contribute to reducing levels of growth.

4. Our conference today is held in extremely difficult and intricate circumstances, at a time when the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, is experiencing a decline at all levels, including the political, social, economic and cultural levels, which has a negative impact on the living conditions of Palestinian women and the Palestinian people as a whole. The continuing occupation by Israel persists, with the confiscation and settlement of land, demolition of homes, razing of agricultural lands, partition of Palestinian territory and construction of the wall. Circumstances such as these are also being experienced by the people of Iraq, which now suffers from occupation as it suffered from repeated wars and lacks security and stability, as well as the peoples of the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon, parts of the territories of both of which remain under occupation.

5. The theme “Call for Peace”, chosen as the theme of the present conference, embodies the circumstances and particular conditions of the region and expresses the desire of its peoples to live in peace and stability and for a better life, in particular since emphasis in past years has been on equality and development while peace has not been accorded sufficient concern. In this regard, we consider that the action required for the achievement of equality and development cannot proceed without the establishment of peace based on the rule of law, justice and international legitimacy and, consequently, human security and social stability.

6. It is a cause for optimism that the status of women is a topic addressed by the majority of regional and national reform initiatives. At the Arab summit held recently in Tunis, the Arab States made a commitment to support the rights of women and broaden the scope of their participation in the political, social and economic spheres. During the deliberations and in the declarations of Alexandria, Sana’a, Doha and Beirut, representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) concerned with women, in addition to academics and representatives of various different political parties emphasized the importance of the empowerment of women, which demonstrates that this issue has become a fundamental element in the Arab vision of reform.

7. This conference has highlighted the progress achieved by the countries of the region towards implementation of the commitments made in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, according to the responses of those countries to the questionnaire sent by the United Nations to governments.

8. In this context, we note that these accomplishments have included the promulgation of new legislation for the benefit of women, the establishment of mechanisms concerned with women’s issues, including

ministries, councils, bodies and commissions, the attainment by women in some countries of their political rights, the allocation of quotas to women in the parliaments of some countries and the ratification by 17 countries of CEDAW.

9. We recognize that the findings of the questionnaire have also highlighted the existence of challenges that require further work and effort, including illiteracy, the school dropout rate of girls, violence against women including the negative impact of terrorism on the advancement of society in general and women in particular, discrimination in legislation with particular regard to penal codes, in addition to social traditions and customs. The findings have also made clear that women in the Arab region continue to suffer from the problems of poverty, unemployment, budget restrictions on programmes for their advancement and the absence of accurate, gender-disaggregated statistics.

In the light of this analysis, we consider that the vision that needs to be implemented in the coming ten years in order to empower women, improve their conditions and increase their participation in political, economic and social life requires the following:

10. Urging governments to formulate strategies and programmes for the empowerment of women in conjunction with public policy priorities and variables at the national level, in order to achieve MDGs during the coming ten years;

11. Action to increase budgets and human resources allocated to policies, programmes and national mechanisms concerned with women and linkage of these budgets to the public budget;

12. Analysis and treatment of the indicators that demonstrate the existence of a gap between equality under the law and actual equality with regard to parliamentary representation since, although the fundamental right of women and men to political participation is recognized, the representation of women in parliaments remains token or non-existent;

13. Continuous review and updating of national legislation and amendment of discriminatory legislation, action to invigorate and apply laws in force, review of laws and legislation on political parties and electoral systems in order to promote the role of women, in particular the requirement to assign a proportion of political party nomination lists for women, allocation of quotas for women in public institutions and, in particular, legislative institutions in order to guarantee an increase in their participation in political activity;

14. Establishment of a gender-disaggregated information and database covering projects and programmes concerned with women's issues in the Arab countries in order to facilitate the exchange of information and comparison with the situation of women in other countries;

15. Establishment of observatories and early-warning mechanisms for follow-up and analysis of the social phenomena particular to the situation of women and girls so that social problems can be remedied before they become severe;

16. Elimination of the political obstacles and security concerns that hinder the advancement of society and women in some areas through linkage of women's issues to public policy issues, the utilization of positive political rhetoric in favour of women and emphasis on clarification of the influence of these policies on their interests;

17. Emphasis on the role of women in strengthening the concepts of peace and dialogue to which the Arab countries aspire, since equality and development cannot be achieved in the absence of peace, and emphasis on the need of Arab women for peace, security and stability as the political obstacles before them are occupation, settlement and menace;

18. Interlinkage of the efforts of men and women to achieve democracy and human rights and mainstreaming gender in development policies;

19. According the necessary attention to the education of girls and women and encouraging them to enter the field of applied sciences, in addition to the removal of discriminatory pictures and ideas that endorse a negative image of women from schoolbooks;
20. Habilitation and training of women to assume positions of leadership and career advancement;
21. Finding solutions for the problems that cause girls to drop out of education, in order to eliminate the illiteracy, poverty and unemployment from which women continue to suffer;
22. According rural women the necessary concern through the provision of the basic services necessary for their lives, the formulation of health awareness, illiteracy eradication and vocational training programmes and the provision of soft loans in order to enable them to support themselves and their families;
23. Concern with the issues and needs of elderly and disabled women, changing their image in the eyes of society and encouraging their participation in development activity;
24. Formulation of awareness programmes in order to acquaint men, women and youth with the human, statutory and legal rights of women and the importance of the role that they play in society;
25. Continued action to increase awareness and change the prevailing mentality of different social groups, in particular youth, with regard to the necessity of achieving gender equality and causing change in cultural concepts, with the participation of all stakeholders and the assumption by NGOs of an important role in such action;
26. Strengthening the network of Arab women parliamentarians by the issuance of a publication for the exchange of experiences, facilitation of communication and achievement of solidarity between them and between them and their counterparts in other countries with the objective of raising awareness of Arab women's issues and achieving mutual support in this regard, in addition to action based on cooperation and constructive competition in an effort to improve participation in political life;
27. Encouraging women and women's unions to acquaint women with their rights and duties under the law, the constitution and relevant conventions and boldly pursue their cases before local courts in order to stop violations of women's rights;
28. Requiring professional unions, labour syndicates and other professional associations to ensure the involvement of women in their activities and assumption by women of positions in these institutions and urging women to participate in these institutions and make a positive and effective contribution;
29. Amendment of the existing laws and enactment of new laws regulating the work of NGOs in a manner that guarantees them freedom in their activities, provides the necessary political support and contributes to the creation of a climate of confidence between them and the government parties concerned;
30. Continued efforts to build confidence and partnership between NGOs and government institutions, based on integration, cooperation and statement of views with regard to strategies, plans, bills and programmes related to women and monitoring and following up on their implementation, calling on these organizations to participate as members of official delegations to regional and international conferences and in the preparation of reports and working papers for these conferences;
31. Support of NGOs, invigoration of their role in serving society and women and elimination of the administrative constraints that prevent them from assuming the role required of them, in order to achieve a qualitative shift in their activities so that their role is not confined to the provision of pastoral social services but includes missionary activities and awareness programmes in development projects;
32. Establishment of networks between NGOs concerned with women's affairs in order to exchange experiences, make Arab women's issues known at the local, national, regional and international levels, eliminate duplication and derive greater benefit from their work;

33. Change the negative image of Arab women in the media through the formulation of audio visual media programmes and direct means of communication;
34. Promote media coverage in order to raise awareness of the rights of women and rectify the flawed perceptions that distort the image of Arab women to the broadest audience, including rural and remote areas, and accord the necessary concern to the media rhetoric directed to the world at large in order to change this image;
35. Monitoring, highlighting and making accessible the successful experiences of women in the media and, in particular the difficulties encountered with regard to the experience of Arab women in satellite channels and coverage of armed conflict zones and wars and the allocation of the necessary resources;
36. Establishment of an association for Arab women in the media in order to facilitate communication among them and with other parties;
37. Establishment of media colleges and centres for training women in countries without such institutions;
38. Call on governments to formulate programmes for raising awareness in schools, media, public institutions and local administrations in order to eliminate wrongful customs and traditions and illegal practices and laws that hinder the advancement of women, prejudice their rights and equality with men and distort their image;
39. Holding workshops and seminars at ESCWA that bring together women in the media, women intellectuals and civil society organizations;
40. Undertaking by ESCWA to prepare a comprehensive directory of the names of women intellectuals, media figures and researchers, in order to improve media coverage of women's issues;
41. Coordination between ESCWA, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the League of Arab States, the Arab Women Organization (AWO) and the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR) with regard to the preparation of the report of NGOs on evaluation of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, for inclusion with the report of governments;
42. Undertaking by ESCWA to organize meetings with Arab parliaments, unions and national associations and organize an international Arab forum that includes Asian women, in order to benefit from their experiences and attainment of key positions, in addition to giving women the opportunity to make their viewpoint known at the hearings held in European parliaments.

B. RESOLUTION ON THE SUBPROGRAMME ON THE EMPOWERMENT AND ADVANCEMENT  
OF WOMEN WITHIN THE PROPOSED STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK  
FOR THE BIENNIUM 2006-2007

*The Committee on Women of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,*

*Recalling* the restructuring of the ESCWA programme of work that requires the review of its priorities,

*Recalling also* ESCWA resolution 240 (XXII) of 17 April 2003 on the establishment within ESCWA of a committee on women,

*Expressing its satisfaction* with the establishment of a centre for women within the secretariat with the responsibility for acting as the secretariat of the Committee on Women, pursuant to the above-mentioned resolution,

*Informed* that the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007 includes a special subprogramme on the empowerment and advancement of women,

*Convinced* of the importance of this subprogramme,

1. *Adopts* the subprogramme for the empowerment and advancement of women within the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to allocate the necessary human and material resources to the Centre for Women under the programme of work for the biennium 2006-2007, which will be prepared in view of the proposed strategic framework for the same period, in order to enable the Centre to assume the expanded tasks entrusted to it.

## II. DISCUSSION TOPICS

### A. GENERAL DISCUSSION (Agenda item 5)

2. The heads of the following delegations made contributions: Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Palestine, Qatar, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen. A representative of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the World Network for Literacy and Adult Education also spoke.

3. In addition to discussion of the possibility of the Arab North African countries becoming members of ESCWA, the following main points were raised:

(a) The important pioneering role played by women in areas damaged by war and conflicts;

(b) Intense unease with regard to the violence and danger present in the region;

(c) The need for political will to transcend social and cultural customs that prevent the full incorporation of women in public life and the need to facilitate their political participation at the local, legislative, executive and judiciary levels from the perspective of the achievement of human rights, including the right to development;

(d) The importance of affording women access to excellent health and culture so that they can contribute to sustainable growth and the importance of reproductive health, mother and child protection and family planning, which have a pivotal impact on the situation of women;

(e) The need to adopt legislative mechanisms in order to expand the participation of women in political, social and economic decision-making as a fundamental element of national advancement.

### B. THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN BUILDING SOCIETY: SEMINARS AND CONCLUSIONS (Agenda item 6)

4. During the conference, four seminars were held on the role of women in building society, addressing the role of women in legislation and political life, the role of women in public life, the role of women in civil society in the political, economic and social spheres and the role of women in culture and the media.

#### 1. *Seminar with Arab women parliamentarians to discuss the role of women in legislation and political life*

5. The seminar was chaired by Ms. Bahia Hariri, member of the Lebanese parliament. The main speakers were Ms. Salwa Masri, Member of the Senate in Jordan; Ms. Kawthar Aljouan, Director of the Women Development and Training Institute in Kuwait; Ms. Amal Osman, Deputy Speaker of the People's Assembly and member of the National Council for Women in Egypt; Ms. Bahiya al-Jishi, member of the Consultative Council in Bahrain; Ms. Yunsook Lee, Member of Parliament in Korea; Ms. Mona Makram-Ebeid, President of the Association for the Advancement of Education in Egypt; and Ms. Nayla Mouawad, Member of Parliament in Lebanon.



6. Ms. Bahia Hariri commended the theme of the conference, “Call for Peace”, in view of its significance for the Arab region and the impossibility of achieving development without stability. She also called on the international community to review the extent of its support to just Arab issues. Foremost among these issues was that of the Palestinian people, which was suffering from occupation and conflicts, in addition to the issue of those living in the Syrian territories in occupied Golan, Shebaa farms in Lebanon and the Iraqi people.

7. During the discussion, the following main points were raised and conclusions reached:

(a) The importance of the participation of women in all aspects of economic, social and political life for the achievement of comprehensive development;

(b) The linkage between the issue of the political participation of women and shortcomings with regard to the position adopted by political parties with regard to the participation of women in general and political activity in particular, in addition to the possibility of implementing a specific quota system for women in legislative councils;

(c) The importance of accepting the principle of the rotation of authority through electoral funds in a correct electoral process and encouragement of the formation of new political parties;

(d) The existence of a number of mechanisms for the empowerment of women, including consultation with civil society institutions, coordination with the concerned ministries and institutions, participation in all committees, assistance from experts and specialists and their involvement in the activities of the committees and other bodies;

(e) The need to implement compulsory education on a broad scale and eradicate illiteracy at all levels;

(f) Continued work on the modernization of legislation, including that related to electoral systems and emphasis on the importance of adopting national legislation in conformity with international criteria as set out in CEDAW, and establishment of the necessary mechanisms for the implementation of CEDAW;

(g) Focus on the means whereby women can gain access to parliaments and their performance within them, as well as invigoration of the role played by women parliamentarians in the call for peace in the region;

(h) Action to form women’s pressure blocs and set in motion an initiative for reform through this seminar;

(i) Preparation of a news publication for Arab women parliamentarians that would permit the exchange of information and news and communication with civil society organizations as an important point of access to the grass roots;

(j) Formulation of a practical motivation programme for Arab men and women parliamentarians that would lead to the desired positive change;

(k) Call on ESCWA to conduct studies on the obstacles and impediments faced by women parliamentarians and formulate a training programme in order to enhance the roles played by women in parliaments and, in particular, on dialogue and the use of political rhetoric.

*2. Seminar with Arab women ministers and executives to discuss the role of women in public life*

8. The seminar was chaired by Ms. Berglind Asgeirsdottir, Deputy Secretary-General of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The main speakers were Ms. Carolyn Hannan, Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women at the United Nations; Ms. Naziha Zarrouk, Ambassador of Tunisia in Lebanon; Ms. Fatimah Abdel Mahmoud, United Nations Educational, Scientific

and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Chair in Women, Science and Technology and Member of Parliament in Sudan; Ms. Habiba Sarabi, Minister of Women's Affairs in Afghanistan; Ms. Yasmina Baddou, Secretary of State responsible for Family, Solidarity and Social Action in Morocco; and Ms. Nesreen Berwari, Minister of Municipalities and Public Works in Iraq.

9. Ms. Asgeirsdottir opened the seminar by emphasizing the capacity of women to cause change in society and citing the experience of her country, Iceland, in this regard. She noted the importance of monitoring the implementation of the laws enacted by women in leadership positions and the need not only for the promulgation of these laws but, also, adherence to their correct application.

10. During the discussion, the following main points were raised and conclusions reached:

(a) The need for Arab women to possess administrative proficiency, knowledge and capacity for leadership in order to impose themselves at the centre of authority;

(b) The ministerial role of women should not be confined to ministries concerned with family, children and social affairs;

(c) The importance of strengthening the aspect of statistics and studies for the provision of accurate data on Arab women and drafting of future policies;

(d) The need to eliminate misconceptions with regard to gender issues in order to expedite development;

(e) Women ministers should be urged to adopt women's issues and maintain close contact with society and the grass roots in order to attract other women and sustain the support and backing of society. They should be encouraged to appear regularly in the media in order to familiarize the public with them and their capacity to develop society;

(f) Encouragement of women to join political parties in addition to their support for participation in those parties, preparatory strengthening their role in parliaments;

(g) Encouragement of women to form associations concerned with business and the private sector with the objective of increasing their participation in economic activity;

(h) Establishment of a forum for Arab women ministers for the exchange of knowledge and experiences and the identification of means for the advancement of women and to promote the political culture of women;

(i) Undertaking by ESCWA to conduct an analytical compendium study on the future of the situation of Arab women;

(j) Assistance from ESCWA in monitoring and following up the progress achieved by member countries in the application of international resolutions, treaties and agreements on women and indicating to Arab governments the need to facilitate the assumption by women of leadership positions.

*3. Seminar with civil society organizations including unions, syndicates and political parties to discuss the role of women in civil society in various political, economic and social spheres*

11. The seminar was chaired by Ms. Mahnaz Afkhami, President of the Women's Learning Partnership. The main speakers were Sheikha Hissa Khalifa Ahmad Al-Thani, Special Rapporteur on Disability to the United Nations Committee on Social Development; Ms. Mary Jean Eisenhower, President of People to People International in the United States of America; and Ms. Zahira Kamal, Minister of Women's Affairs in Palestine.

12. Ms. Afkhami opened the seminar with a summary of her experience with civil society organizations, during which she noted that opinion polls in the region indicated an aspiration towards democracy. She focused on the need to kindle awareness among youth and women of the issue of gender equality and cause change in cultural concepts. She emphasized the importance of cooperation and exchange of experiences between civil society organizations in the various Arab countries in order to replicate the successful experiences that produce the desired results.

13. During the discussion, the following points were raised and conclusions reached:

(a) Neglect of many of the ratified international conventions for the disabled who constitute 10 per cent of the total world population and, in particular, disabled women with special needs;

(b) Insufficiency of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, responsibility for which rests jointly with governments and civil society;

(c) Insufficiency of civil society action with regard to emergency aid services in a number of Arab countries because of political circumstances and instability, as in Palestine and Iraq;

(d) Absence of genuine, institutional democracy, existence of laws and legislation that restrict the freedom of action of NGOs and the need to create a climate of confidence for genuine, sound partnership between NGOs and governments;

(e) Lack of coordination between civil society organizations at the national, regional and international level;

(f) Absence of young leaderships;

(g) Lack and reduction of financial resources;

(h) Neglect of the private sector to assume its responsibilities with regard to implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;

(i) Indivisibility of assistance and provision of services on the one hand and contribution to the development process on the other hand, because of the overlap between all development activities;

(j) Importance of the utilization of micro-credit as a means to empower women and encourage them to undertake income generation projects;

(k) Strengthening the partnership between NGOs and governments and emphasizing the role of these organizations in monitoring and building bridges between peoples and governments;

(l) The need to amend the laws and legislation that protect the work of NGOs in the Arab countries;

(m) Urging civil society organizations to focus on comprehensive, sustainable development in addition to pastoral activities;

(n) Undertaking by ESCWA to conduct a comparative study on the situation of women in conflict zones and violent circumstances and those in countries that enjoy stability;

(o) Call on ESCWA to conduct a study on the role of NGOs in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the experience of Arab women, with emphasis on youth and the encouragement of young leaderships and highlighting the issue of women at the national, regional and international levels.

*4. Seminar with women intellectuals and media figures to discuss the role of women in cultural life and the media*

14. The seminar was chaired by Ms. Bouthaina Shaaban, Minister for Expatriates in the Syrian Arab Republic. The main speakers were Ms. Asma Khader, Minister of State and Government Spokesperson for

Media and Culture in Jordan, Mr. Hisham Sharabi, Chairman of the Center for Policy and Analysis on Palestine and Ms. Iqbal Barakah, Editor-in-Chief of Hawwa magazine, from Egypt.

15. Ms. Shaaban opened the seminar by emphasizing that the struggle today was taking place, above all, at the level of media and culture. She noted the issuance of the consultative opinion of the International Court of Justice ruling on the demolition of the wall in the West Bank and emphasized that this opinion indicated that the struggle would certainly lead to victory and that public opinion was in favour of Arab rights. She also noted that the balance of civilization, ethics and justice weighed in favour of the Arab world, even if the balance of force was against it. Therefore, it was the responsibility of every intellectual to convey Arab rights to public opinion. It was the duty of those working in the media to show world opinion that the weakness from which the Arab world suffers is procedural and organizational, not civilizational or ethical. She emphasized that the Arabs should coordinate their positions and speak with one voice and that men and women in the media and intellectuals should work to win over world opinion and present an intellectual position in the media that would bring Arab rights to the fore.

16. During the discussion, the following main points were raised and conclusions reached:

(a) The mission of the media in conveying the rights of women as human beings in conformity with international law without allowing room for hesitation or doubt in this regard and the joint role of journalists and political will in the accomplishment of this mission;

(b) The role of women in the media in defending women's issues;

(c) The need to mobilize women's organizations to put pressure on those media that convey a negative image of women;

(d) The need to move from an abstract, intellectual vision of women to realistic scenarios and achieve balance between resources spent in the gathering of information and that utilized in the implementation of projects;

(e) Utilization of information drawn equally from a variety of legal and cultural sources at the country level in order to confront reality;

(f) The role of the media in the reduction of the gap between theory and practice in the sphere of women's issues, in addition to support for dialogue and cohesion between peoples and politicians in order to empower the Arab peoples to express their position with regard to the significant developments taking place in the region;

(g) The need for the commitment of journalists and the media to bring out the accomplishments of women in the Arab world and the obstacles that continue to stand in their way;

(h) Establishment of media mechanisms in institutions and organizations concerned with women and strengthening media institutions;

(i) Establishment of an Arab association for women in the media and a specialized centre for women and media studies;

(j) Organization of training and professional skills programmes for Arab women in the media;

(k) Strengthening of direct media access to women in rural and remote areas;

(l) Enactment of advanced modern laws and legislation in order to protect Arab women in the media;

(m) Establishment of an Arab network for press monitoring and response to negative articles and programmes about women and addressing western media in order to rectify the negative image of Arab women;

(n) Kindling the awareness of media figures and intellectuals of women and gender issues;

(o) Call on ESCWA to cooperate with specialized Arab media institutions, the Arab Union of Journalists and the Council of Arab information ministers and Arab media institutions and prepare an Arab media strategy for women;

(p) Call on ESCWA to organize a special conference for Arab women in the media, hold workshops devoted to women in the media in order to study ways of promoting their role, allocate budgets for the preparation of television programmes on women and encourage good quality televisual and cultural activities in support of women's issues;

(q) Call on ESCWA to publish and promote websites dealing with Arab women's issues.

**C. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRE  
FOR WOMEN SINCE THE FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN  
(Agenda item 7)**

17. The Executive Secretary introduced this agenda item with reference to document E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/4/Rev.1. This document is in two chapters, the first of which reviews the activities of the Centre for Women since the first session of the Committee on Women while the second includes a summary of progress achieved in the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Committee on Women at its first session.

**D. PROPOSED STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE CENTRE FOR WOMEN  
FOR THE BIENNIUM 2006-2007  
(Agenda item 8)**

18. The Executive Secretary introduced this agenda item with reference to document E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/5, which contains a review of subprogramme 7 on the empowerment and advancement of women mentioned in document A/59/6(Prog.18) which includes the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007, in order to provide information on the above-mentioned subprogramme.

**E. DATE AND VENUE OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN  
(Agenda item 9)**

19. It was decided to hold the third session of the Committee on Women in Beirut in 2006.

**F. OTHER MATTERS  
(Agenda item 10)**

20. Under this agenda item, Ms. Noura Al Suweidi, Chairperson of the Second Session of the Committee on Women and representative of Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak Al Nahyan, President of the Women's Union in the United Arab Emirates, announced the establishment of the Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak Fund for Arab Women Development at ESCWA. A memorandum of understanding was being prepared between ESCWA and the Women's Union with regard to the operation and mechanism of the fund. Ms. Mervat Tallawy, the Executive Secretary of ESCWA, thanked Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak for this generous initiative, her confidence in ESCWA and her support for Arab women.

**III. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT  
(Agenda item 11)**

21. During the closing session, held on 10 July 2004, the Committee on Women adopted the draft report on its second session presented in document E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/L.6, with the agreed amendments.

## IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE

### A. DATE AND VENUE

22. The conference was held at ESCWA headquarters, United Nations House in Beirut during the period 8-10 July 2004 and covered the second session of the Committee on Women, the Expert Group Meeting to Follow Up on the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing + 10) and the second meeting of the Consultative Committee for NGOs at ESCWA.

### B. OPENING

23. The conference was opened by Ms. Mervat Tallawy, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCWA. She delivered the speech of Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, in which he focused on the importance of the role played by the empowerment of women in the resolution of conflicts and achievement of justice. He also noted the negative impact of the gravity of regional dangers on investment rates, which led to a reduction in levels of growth, and emphasized the need to deal with the disparity between the position of Arab women in political, social and economic life and that of women in other regions of the world.

24. The Executive Secretary then delivered her opening statement, in which she thanked the First Lady of Lebanon, Ms. Andrée Lahoud, represented by Ms. Randa Berri, for her patronage of the conference. She focused on concern for women and children in the wars in the region that led to an increase in the number of victims, most of which were women. The Executive Secretary spoke of the negative impact of the tensions in the Arab region, including the decline in the investment and growth rates, the reduction of national income in the region during the past twenty years and the rise in the unemployment rate. She noted the numerous positive measures that had been taken in the region for the benefit of women and also noted the obstacles that continued to confront the progress of women. She emphasized the need to provide education and housing services, ensure employment opportunities and combat poverty and unemployment among women and eradicate customs and traditions harmful to them.

25. Ms. Nana Rawlings, former First Lady of Ghana and President of the 31 December Women's Movement in Ghana, made a statement in which she encouraged women to have faith in their capacity to cause change with the objective of bringing about peace, growth and stability. She focused on the need to bring about social justice through the participation of women in political, economic and social life. She also spoke of the importance of the role of the United Nations in protecting the organizations that were concerned with the improvement of social and living conditions and, in particular, in Africa.

26. Ms. Randa Berri, representative of the First Lady of Lebanon, then made a statement in which she expressed her optimism with regard to the situation of Arab women. She emphasized that the recommendations of the Beijing Conference had had a positive impact on the role of Arab women during the past ten years. She expressed the view that women were building their presence and political participation based on the conviction that had been established in individual countries and the Arab region in recent years.

27. A representative of ESCWA, Ms. Fatima Sbaity Kassem, Director of the ESCWA Centre for Women, reviewed the content of the Arab Regional Ten-Year Review and Appraisal of Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action presented in document E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/3. She focused on the accomplishments that had been achieved by the Arab countries and the obstacles that confronted them with regard to the implementation of the Platform for Action, based on country responses to the questionnaire sent by the Secretariat of the United Nations to governments in this regard. The Commission had received full responses from 18 Arab countries.

28. At the end of the opening ceremony, the Executive Secretary of ESCWA presented a number of awards pursuant to the recommendation made by the Committee on Women at its first session to the following persons: Ms. Suzanne Mubarak, First Lady of Egypt, in recognition of her launching of the "Women for peace" initiative; Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak Al Nahyan of Kuwait, for her support of Arab

women's issues; the late Ms. Lour Mughayzal of Lebanon, for her defence of women's rights; Palestinian women, for their stand for the right to self-determination; and Morocco, for the issuance of the family code.

#### C. ATTENDANCE

29. Representatives of twelve ESCWA member countries attended the conference in addition to representatives of six other Arab States Members of the United Nations not members of the Commission and other States Members of the United Nations; representatives of United Nations programmes, bodies and organizations; and observers from other inter-governmental, governmental and NGOs. A large number of women ministers and parliamentarians also attended, bringing the total number of participants to 450. The list of participants is attached as annex I to this report.

#### D. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

30. Rule 18 of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of ESCWA stipulates that member countries shall assume the chairmanship of the sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on a rotating basis, in Arabic alphabetical order employed by the United Nations. In view of the absence of the United Arab Emirates from the first part of the meeting, Ms. Lulwa Al Awadhi, head of the delegation of Bahrain, which follows the United Arab Emirates in alphabetical order, assumed the chairmanship of the second session. Bahrain then handed chairmanship of the session to the United Arab Emirates, in the person of Ms. Noura Al Suweidi, Head of the United Arab Emirates delegation, who attended the second part of the meeting. Pursuant to the same rule, the Commission unanimously elected Ms. Bouthaina Shaaban, Head of the Syrian delegation and Ms. Mounira bint Nassir Al Missned, head of the Qatari delegation, as Vice Chairpersons and Ms. Intissar al-Wazir from Palestine as Rapporteur for the session.

#### E. AGENDA AND PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

31. During the first session, the Committee on Women adopted the agenda of its second session as presented in document E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/1, as follows:

1. Opening of the meeting:
  - Opening statements;
  - Presentation of the Arab Regional Ten-Year Review and Appraisal of Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;
  - Distribution of awards for outstanding work for the advancement of Arab women.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the provisional agenda.
4. Proposed organization of work.
5. General discussion.
6. The role of women in the call for peace: seminars and conclusions:
  - (a) Seminar with Arab women parliamentarians to discuss the role of women in legislation and political life;
  - (b) Seminar with Arab women ministers and executives to discuss the role of women in public life;

- (c) Seminar with Arab women civil society organizations, including syndicates, unions and political parties, to discuss the role of women in civil society in various political, economic and social spheres;
  - (d) Seminar with Arab women intellectuals and media figures to discuss the role of women in cultural life and the media.
7. Report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Centre for Women since the first session of the Committee on Women.
  8. Proposed strategic framework for the Centre for Women for the biennium 2006-2007.
  9. Date and venue of the third session of the Committee on Women.
  10. Other matters.
  11. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Women on its second session and the Beirut Declaration on Arab Women Ten Years After Beijing: Call for Peace.
32. During the same session, the Committee adopted the proposed organization of work presented in document E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/L.2.

#### F. DOCUMENTS

33. A list of the documents presented during the Arab Regional Conference Ten Years After Beijing: Call for Peace is attached as annex II to the present report.



## Annex I

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

#### A. ESCWA MEMBERS

##### **Bahrain**

Ms. Lulwa Al-Awadhi  
Secretary-General  
Supreme Council for Women

Ms. Bahiya Jawad Al-Jishi  
Member of Shura Council

Ms. Wedad Al-Maskati  
Member of the Supreme Council for Women

Sheikha Azza Bint Abdel Rahman al-Khalifa  
Chief of International Cooperation Section  
Supreme Council for Women

Ms. Soha Hassan Flamarzi  
Director of the Office of the Secretary-General  
Supreme Council for Women

Sheikha Lulwa Duaij Al-Khalifa  
Studies and Research Specialist  
General Secretariat  
Supreme Council for Women

Sheikha Hanan Hasan al-Khalifa  
Chief of Higher Studies Section  
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

Sheikha Sheikha Hasan al-Khalifa  
Assistant Principal of Elementary School

Mr. Adel Faisal  
Public Relations Staff  
General Secretariat  
Supreme Council for Women

##### Egypt

Ms. Amal Othman  
People's Assembly  
Member of the National Council for Women  
Professor, Cairo University Faculty of Law  
Lawyer

Ms. Farkhonda Hassan  
Secretary-General  
National Council for Women

Ms. Hanaiya Abbas El-Itriby  
Member of the National Council for Women  
Coordinator of the Non-Governmental  
Organizations Committee

Ms. Huda Rizkana  
Member of the People's Assembly  
Foreign Affairs Relations Committee

Ms. Reem Mehanna  
Programme Officer  
National Council for Women

Mr. Salama Abul-Futouh  
Technical Secretariat  
National Council for Women

##### **Iraq**

Mr. Barham Saleh  
Deputy Prime Minister

Ms. Nesreen Mustafa Berwari  
Minister of Municipalities and Public Works

Ms. Mishkat Moumin  
Minister of Environment

Ms. Sawsan al-Sharifi  
Minister of Agriculture

Ms. Layla Latif Mohamed  
Minister of Labour and Social Affairs

Mr. Ammar Mohammed Dawood  
Protocol Officer  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms. Rajaa Khuzai  
Member of High Commission of National  
Assembly

Ms. Songul Chapook  
Member of High Commission of National  
Assembly

Ms. Maysoon al-Damluji  
Deputy Minister of Culture

Mr. Hamed al-Bayati

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

**Iraq (continued)**

Mr. Abdel Baset Karim Mawlood  
Manager of the Office of the Deputy  
Prime  
Minister

Ms. Zanna Muhammad Amin al-Rawandoozi  
General Manager of the Ministry of  
Municipalities and Public Works

Mr. Essam Abdul Latif Mohammed  
Manager of the Office of the Minister of  
Labour  
and Social Affairs

Mr. Shalaw Hussein Karim  
Secretary to the Deputy Prime Minister

Mr. Muhammad Alan Weria  
Secretary to the Minister of  
Municipalities and  
Public Works

Ms. Maysoon Hussein Ahmed  
Third Secretary  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms. Ansam Tawfeek Abdul Hameed  
Director of Non-Governmental  
Organizations  
Centre, Ministry of Planning

Ms. Nada Khaled al-Shammari  
Diplomatic Attaché  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms. Lamia Lutfi Ali  
Archives Manager  
Ministry of Planning

Ms. Nesma Faek al-Attiya  
Secretary to the Minister of Planning

Ms. Hanan Abdulla Ahmed  
Diplomat  
Embassy of Iraq in Lebanon

**Jordan**

Ms. In'am Mufti  
Member of the House of Notables

Ms. Asma Khader  
Minister of State and Government Spokesperson

Ministry of Culture and Information

Ms. Laila Sharaf  
Member of the House of Notables

Ms. Salwa Al Masri  
Member of the House of Notables  
First Vice President of the Inter-  
Parliamentary  
Union Coordinating Committee of Women  
Parliamentarians

Ms. Ruwaidah Ma'aytah  
Member of the House of Notables  
Vice President of the National Council  
for Family  
Affairs

Ms. May Abu Samen  
Member of the House of Notables

Ms. Wejdan Al Saket  
Member of the House of Notables

Ms. Enssaf al-Khawaldeh  
Member of the House of Representatives

Ms. Hayat Musimi  
Member of the House of Representatives

Ms. Falak al-Jam'ani  
Member of the House of Representatives

Ms. Nariman Rousan  
Member of the House of Representatives

Ms. Zakieh Shamayleh  
Member of the House of Representatives

Ms. Adab Saud  
Member of the House of Representatives

Ms. Ibtissam al-Atiyat  
Programme Officer  
Jordanian National Commission for Women

Mr. Ali al-Zayood  
House of Notables Staff

Mr. Abdullah Bani Ali  
Department of Public Relations  
House of Representatives

## **Kuwait**

Sheikha Fadyah Saad Al Sabah  
General Coordinator  
Women's Affairs Committee

Ms. Salwa Mohammed Ajami  
Secretary to General Coordinator  
Women's Affairs Committee

## **Lebanon**

Ms. Randa Berry  
Vice-President  
National Commission for Lebanese Women  
Mr. Abdulla Bou Habib  
Representative of and Political Advisor to  
the  
Deputy Prime Minister

Ms. Nayla Mouawad  
Member of Parliament  
President of Woman and Child Committee

Ms. Bahia al-Hariri  
Member of Parliament  
President of Committee on Education,  
Higher  
Education and Culture

Ms. Najwa Ramadan  
Member of the Executive Bureau  
National Commission for Lebanese Women

Ms. Ghada Hamdan  
Member of the Executive Bureau  
National Commission for Lebanese Women

Ms. Leila Azouri  
Member of the Executive Bureau  
National Commission for Lebanese Women

Ms. Fadia Kiwan  
Representative of Lebanon to Arab  
Women  
Organization  
Member of the National Commission for  
Lebanese Women General Assembly

Ms. Viviane Abboud  
Member of the General Assembly  
National Commission for Lebanese Women

Ms. Azza Shrara Beydoun  
Member of the Executive Bureau

## **National Commission for Lebanese Women**

Ms. Joumana Abourousse Moufarej  
Administrative Director  
National Commission for Lebanese Women

Ms. Gladys Saadeh  
Manager of Information Center for  
Lebanese  
Women  
National Commission for Lebanese Women

Ms. Abeer Abdel Samad  
Director of Women's Affairs Section  
Ministry of Social Affairs

Ms. Rajaa el-Sayed  
Economist and Project Advisor

Ms. Layla Tahan Afeiche  
Social Helper  
**Ministry of Social Affairs**

## **Oman**

Ms. Lamees Abdullah bin Mohammad Al Taie  
Member of State Council

Ms. Muna Mahfoodh al-Manthary  
Member of State Council  
President of the Committee for Women's  
Voluntary Work

## **Palestine**

Ms. Intisar al Wazeer  
Minister of Social Affairs  
President of the Governmental  
Coordination  
Committee for Women's Advancement

Ms. Zuhira Kamal  
Minister of Women's Affairs

Ms. Jamileh Sydem  
Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council

Ms. Dalal Salameh  
Rapporteur of Member of the Palestinian  
Legislative Council  
Rapporteur of Foreign Relation  
Committee in  
Parliament  
Member of the Palestine National Council

Ms. Salwa Abu Khadra

Member of the Palestine National Council  
Secretary-General of the General Union  
of  
Palestinian Women

Ms. Nihaya Mohamed  
Member of the Palestine National Council  
General Union of Palestinian Women

Ms. Lucia Hijazi  
Member of the Palestine National Council  
General Union of Palestinian Women

Ms. Rabeeha Diab  
Member of the Palestine National Council  
General Union of Palestinian Women

Ms. Laila Khaled  
Member of the Palestine National Council  
General Union of Palestinian Women

**Palestine (continued)**

Ms. Obeida Kazemi  
Member of the Palestine National Council

Ms. Feryal Salim (Samira Salah)  
Member of the Palestine National Council  
Director of Refugee Affairs

Ms. Somaia Abdel Malik Barghouti  
First Counsellor  
Mission of Palestine to the United Nations

Ms. Salwa Kayed Hdeib  
Director-General  
Ministry of Women's Affairs

Ms. Khadijeh Habashneh  
General Manager  
Women Resource Centre

Ms. Samia Bamieh  
Member of Governmental Coordination  
Committee for Women's Advancement  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms. Elham Abdel Kader Mheisen  
General Director of General Education  
Ministry of Education and Higher Education  
Member of Governmental Coordination  
Committee for Women's Advancement

Ms. Khitam Ahmad Kayed  
General Director of Women's Education  
Ministry of Culture

Ms. Anita Anis Mansour  
General Director of Women's Development  
Ministry of Social Affairs

Ms. Maha Farid Ghannam  
Director-General of Personnel  
Ministry of Women Affairs

Ms. Nisreen Owais  
Public Relations Manager  
Palestinian Legislative Council

**Qatar**

Ms. Muneera bint Nasser al-Masnad  
Chairman and Member of Board of  
Directors of  
Women Affairs Council  
Supreme Council for Family Affairs

Ms. Juhaina Sultan al-Easa  
Vice Chairman of Women Affairs Council  
Supreme Council for Family Affairs

Ms. Wadha Hamad al-Attiya  
Director of Social Welfare Section  
Member of Women Affairs Council

Ms. Wadha Abdel Rahman al-Musulmani  
Social Researcher  
General Secretariat, Planning Council

Ms. Noor Abdulla al-Malki  
Women's Bureau  
Supreme Council for Family Affairs

Ms. Sahar Kiblawi  
Technical Cooperation Specialist  
Planning Council

Ms. Dalal Khalifeh  
Director of Social Welfare Section  
Publishing Division

**Syrian Arab Republic**

Ms. Bouthaina Shaaban  
Minister of Expatriates

Ms. Siham Dillo  
Minister of Social Affairs and Labour

Ms. Inaam Abbas  
Member and Secretary of Parliament

Ms. Josephine Nassar  
Member of Parliament

Ms. Maha Al Mahayni  
Member of Parliament

Ms. Hadia Abbas  
Member of Parliament

Ms. Ezdihar Maatouk  
Member of Parliament

Ms. Ibteessam Alsaid Suleiman  
Member of Parliament  
Member of Kuwaiti Friendship Committee  
Member of Environment and Population  
Committee

Ms. Sawsan Huzeifah  
Member of Constitution Committee in Parliament  
Member of Turkish Friendship Committee  
**Syrian Arab Republic (continued)**

Ms. Fatena Alahmad  
Member of Parliament  
Vice President of Environment and  
Population  
Committee  
Head of Syrian-Belarussian Parliament  
Friendship  
Committee  
Member of Executive Office of General  
Union for  
Population in Syria

Ms. Ghalia Shukri  
Director, Office of the Minister of Social  
Affairs and Labour

Ms. Doha Khaddam  
Director of Women's Development Role  
State Planning Commission

## **Yemen**

Ms. Hooriya Mashhour Ahmed  
Deputy President  
Women National Committee

Ms. Souad Anwer Mahmood Khan  
General Director for Women and Development  
International Expert in Gender and  
Development  
and Fisheries Sector

Ministry of Fish Wealth  
Ms. Bilquis Mohammed al-Jarmozi  
General Director of Women's Affairs  
Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources  
Member of the Women National Committee

Ms. Faeza Faraj Bamatraf  
President of the Women National Committee

## **United Arab Emirates**

Ms. Noura Khalifa Al-Suwaidi  
Director  
General Women's Union

Mr. Ibrahim Al Abed  
Director General  
Emirates News Agency

Ms. Fatima Salem al-Ameri  
Executive Director  
General Women's Union Centres

## **B. STATES MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS NOT MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION**

### **Afghanistan**

Ms. Habiba Sarabi  
Minister of Women Affairs

### **Algeria**

Ms. Nawara Saadia Jaafar  
Minister for Family and Women Issues

Ms. Zahra Zarif Bitat  
Deputy Head of the National People's Assembly  
Vice President of National Council

Ms. Laila Kherat al-Teeb  
Deputy to the National People's Assembly  
Member of the National Council

Ms. Dalila Babouche  
Deputy to the National People's Assembly

Ms. Khadija Atba Bin Atba  
Deputy to the National People's Assembly  
Ms. Fatima al-Zahra Falisi  
Deputy to the National People's Assembly

Ms. Zubaida Khorbash  
Deputy to the National People's Assembly

Ms. Halima Bouchagour  
Deputy to the National People's Assembly

Ms. Mimouna Nouar  
Deputy to the National People's Assembly

Ms. Aicha Bousbah  
Deputy to the National People's Assembly

Ms. Dalila Hleilo  
Deputy to the National People's Assembly

Mr. Benteboula Boudjema  
Ministerial Advisor, Embassy of Algeria in  
Lebanon

Mr. Nouredine Araybi  
Advisor, Embassy of Algeria in Lebanon  
Algeria (*continued*)

Ms. Nadia Khathiri  
Administrative Officer  
National People's Assembly

Ms. Nasira Ben Karna  
Administrative Officer, Manager of Studies

### **Djibouti**

Ms. Hawa Ahmed Youssouf  
Minister of Women Advancement and  
Social  
Affairs

Ms. Aisha Muhammad Rubla  
Member of Parliament

Ms. Asmahan Abdi Dixi  
Member of Parliament

Ms. Mariam Ibrahim Farah  
Member of Parliament

Mr. Omar Ahmed Ara  
Advisor on Women Advancement and  
Social  
Affairs

Ms. Fatouma Mohamed Robleh  
Representative of Djibouti National  
Union for  
Women

Ms. Roda Ali Osman  
Secretary  
Djibouti National Union for Women

### **Mauritania**

Ms. Aziza bint Didi Weld al-Meslim  
Senior Technical Director  
Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

### *Morocco*

Ms. Yasmina Baddou  
Secretary of State for the Family,  
Solidarity and  
Social Action

Ms. Fatima Belmouden  
Member of Parliament

Ms. Hafiza Jadli  
Member of Parliament

Ms. Fatima Mostagfer  
Member of Parliament  
Ms. Bassima Hakkaoui  
Member of Parliament

Ms. Souad Krafess  
Member of Parliament

Ms. Rashida Bin Masoud  
Member of Parliament

Ms. Bushra al-Khayari  
Member of Parliament  
National Coordinator for Women Sector  
National Democratic Party  
Head of Ofoq Association for Women  
Empowerment

Ms. Jamila al-Mosali  
Member of Parliament

Ms. Naziha Abu Ali  
Member of Parliament

Ms. Zahra Chagaf  
Member of Parliament

Ms. Zuhour al-Shakafi  
Member of Parliament

Ms. Zoubida Bouayad-El Mejjad  
Councillor, Second Chamber of the Moroccan  
Parliament  
Member of Casablanca City Council  
Counsellor for Anfa District

Ms. Naima Ben Yahia  
Minister for the Family, Solidarity and  
Social  
Action

Ms. Khadija al-Ghamiri  
Member of Parliament

Ms. Yunsook Lee  
Member of National Assembly

### **Sudan**

Ms. Kawthar Ahmed Saeed  
President of Parliamentary Committee on Culture  
and Information  
National Council

Ms. Badria Abderahman Yusuf  
Member of Parliament  
National Council  
Sudan (continued)

Ms. Ghalia Elhaj Abdo  
Member of Parliament  
National Council

Ms. Fathia Abdesalam Gholam  
Member of Parliament  
National Council

Ms. Fatima Abdel Mahmoud  
Director and Founder of UNESCO Chair for  
Woman, Science and Technology  
Member of Parliament  
Dean of Health, Women and Child Institute  
Head of Natural Sciences for UNESCO National  
Committee

### **Tunis**

Ms. Naziha Zarrouk  
Ambassador to Lebanon

Ms. Chedhlia Boukchina  
Vice President for Parliament

Ms. Habiba al-Majiri al-Sheikha  
Director of Communication and Media  
Ministry of Women Family and Children's Affairs

### **United States of America**

Ms. Patricia Karam  
Grant Program Officer, Iraq  
United States Institute of Peace

## C. UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMMES AND BODIES

United Nations Division for the Advancement of  
Women

Ms. Carolyn Hannan

Director of the Division for the  
Advancement of Women

Principal Officer for Gender Mainstreaming in the  
Office of the Special Advisor on Gender Issues  
New York, United States of America

United Nations Development Programme

Ms. Heba el-Kholy  
Country Director  
Khartoum, Sudan

Ms. Maha al-Nuaimy  
Programme Officer  
Baghdad, Iraq

ب.ب. MS. DIMA AL-AZEM  
Coordination Associate  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

United Nations Population Fund

Ms. Faiza Benhadid  
Regional Advisor  
Gender and Social Cultural  
Country Technical Services Team for Arab States  
Amman, Jordan

United Nations High Commission for Refugees

Ms. Carol el-Sayed  
National Community Services Officer  
Beirut, Lebanon

Office of the Special Rapporteur on Disability,  
Commission for Social Development

Sheikha Hissa Khalifa Ahmad al-Thani  
Special Rapporteur on Disability  
Doha, Qatar

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Mr. Amin Medani  
Regional Representative for the Arab Region  
Beirut, Lebanon

ب.ب. UNITED NATIONS  
DEVELOPMENT FUND  
FOR WOMEN

Ms. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh  
Arab States Regional Office Director  
Amman, Jordan

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for  
Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Ms. Afaf Younis  
Chief, Field Education Programme  
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Leila Kaissi  
Deputy Chief, Field Relief and Social  
Services  
Programme  
Beirut, Lebanon

World Food Programme

Ms. Rakhsanda Malik-Lali  
Senior Regional Programme Advisor for  
Middle East North Africa (MENA) Countries  
Cairo, Egypt

D. UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the  
United Nations**

Ms. Fatiha Bou-Salah  
Senior Officer, Regional Women in Development  
ب.ب. CAIRO, EGYPT

Ms. Solange Matta Saade  
Assistant Representative (Programme)  
ب.ب. BEIRUT, LEBANON

United Nations Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Ms. Nour Dajani  
Representative  
Regional Office for Education in the Arab States

Beirut, Lebanon

**World Health Organization**

Ms. Ghada Mohammed Hafez  
Special Advisor to the Regional Director  
of the World Health Organization on Gender  
Issues  
Cairo, Egypt

*Ms. Joanna Jessie Vogel*  
Technical Officer of Women in Health  
and Development  
Cairo, Egypt



Ms. Randa Akeel  
Consultant

E. INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND SPECIALIZED BODIES

The Intergovernmental Organization on  
Francophonie

Ms. Fadia Nassif  
Projects Officer  
Paris, France

League of Arab States

Ms. Abla Ibrahim  
Minister Plenipotentiary  
Director of Family, Childhood and Women  
Cairo, Egypt

Ms. Hanaa Sorour  
Head of Women's Division  
Department of Family, Childhood and Women  
Cairo, Egypt

Ms. Alyaa Ghanam  
Second Secretary  
Department of Family, Childhood and Women  
Cairo, Egypt

ع  
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF  
LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS IN  
GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL  
STATES

Mr. Othman bin Abdulla al-Tuwaijri  
General Director of the Executive Bureau  
Manama, Bahrain

Mr. Mahmood Ali Hafoze  
Chief of Social Affairs  
Manama, Bahrain  
Arab Women Organization

Ms. Wadouda Badran  
Director General  
Cairo, Egypt

ع  
ARAB LABOUR ORGANIZATION

Mr. Mahmoud Ibrahim  
Director-General of Institute OHS  
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Arab Organization for Agricultural Development

Ms. Naeema al-Rikbani  
Expert in Rural Women Development Affairs  
Khartoum, Sudan

Arab Union for Youth and Environment

Mr. Mamdouh Rashwan  
Secretary-General  
Cairo, Egypt

The Arab Center for the Study of Arid Zones and  
Dry Lands

Ms. Ibtissam Khalil Hamad  
Deputy Chief of the Association for  
Environmental Protection and  
Sustainable Development  
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic  
Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States

Mr. Saeed Bin Muhammad al-Mulase  
General Manager  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Organization for  
Economic Cooperation  
and  
Development

Ms. Berglind Asgeirsdottir  
Deputy-Secretary-General  
Paris, France

F. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

1. *International*

Inter-Parliamentary Union

Ms. Salwa Damen Masri

Member of Inter-Parliamentary Union  
Coordinating Committee of Women  
Parliamentarians

Amman, Jordan

**Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace**

Mr. Nicolas Mattar  
Ambassador for Peace  
Beirut, Lebanon

Mr. Ali Akil Khalil  
Representative  
Beirut, Lebanon

Heinrich Boll Foundation Middle East Office

Ms. Kirsten Maas  
Director  
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Layla al-Zubaidi  
Programme Manager  
Beirut, Lebanon

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization International Centre for Human Education

Ms. Elham Kallab-Bissat  
Assistant Manager  
Beirut, Lebanon

**Women Federation for World Peace**

Ms. Mirjana Abou Rahal  
President  
Bikfaya, Lebanon  
Ms. Suzanne Tabchori  
Member  
Bekfaya, Lebanon

Women's Learning Partnership for Rights, Development and Peace

Ms. Mahnaz Afkhami  
President  
United States of America

31<sup>st</sup> December Women's Movement

Ms. Nana Konadu Rawlings  
President of 31<sup>st</sup> December Women's Movement and Former First Lady  
Ghana

Mr. Victor Smith  
Director of Public Affairs  
Ghana

**People to People International**

Ms. Mary Jean Eisenhower  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
United States of America

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Ms. Anita Sharma  
Director of the Conflict Prevention Project  
United States of America

Ms. Haleh Esfandiari  
Director, Middle East Program  
United States of America

*2. Regional*

**World Family Organization - Arab Region**

Mr. Jamal Obeid Elbah  
President  
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Ms. Sawsan Othman  
Vice President  
Cairo, Egypt

Ms. Huda bin Yusuf  
Secretary-General

Tunis, Tunisia

Arab Network for Literacy and Adult Education

Ms. Ghada al-Jabi  
President  
Former Minister of Social Affairs and Labour and Vice President of the International Council for Adult Education  
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

ز.  
س. ARAB INTER-  
PARLIAMENTARY UNION

Mr. Nouredin Boushkouj  
Secretary-General  
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic  
Arab Writers' Union

Ms. Aneesa Abboud  
Board Member  
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Ms. Mary Rishou  
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

**Arab Network for Non-Governmental  
Organizations**

Ms. Amani Kandil  
Executive Director  
Cairo, Egypt

Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations  
Development Organizations

Mr. Nasser Bakr al-Kahtani  
Executive Director  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

The Arab Human Rights Commission

Ms. Violette Daguerre  
President  
Paris, France

3. *National*

Jordanian Women's Union

Ms. Nadia Kawasmeh  
Member of the Executive Committee  
Amman, Jordan

The General Federation of Jordanian Women

Ms. Anas Mousa al-Saket  
President  
Amman, Jordan

Ms. Nadia Kamel al-Dajani  
Secretary  
Amman, Jordan

**Women's Organization to Combat Illiteracy**

Ms. Asma Madanat  
Executive Director  
Amman, Jordan

Arab Women Organization of Jordan

Ms. Emily Naffa  
President of Advisory Committee  
Amman, Jordan

**Humanitarian Aid**

Ms. Dalal Otoum  
President  
Amman, Jordan

**Jurists Association**

Ms. Khairiya Hussein al-Wahidi  
Member of the Women's Committee  
Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

Mr. Badr Shuaib bin-Taher  
Member  
Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

ش. CONTEMPORARY WOMAN  
ASSOCIATION

Ms. Faeazh Ebrahim al-Zayani  
President  
Manama, Bahrain

Mr. Amal Ebrahim al-Zayani  
Minister Plenipotentiary for Civil Society  
and Political Studies  
Chairman of the Committee on the  
Empowerment  
of Women  
Researcher in International Relations  
Manama, Bahrain

Bahrain Young Ladies Association

Ms. Layla al-Bassam  
ص. MEMBER  
Manama, Bahrain

General Union of Syrian Women

Ms. Souad Bakkour  
President  
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

ض. SOCIAL INITIATIVE  
SOCIETY

Ms. Sawsan Raslan  
President  
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Fund for Integrated Rural Development of Syria

Ms. Nawar al-Sharaa  
Foreign Relations Officer  
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Bisan Association for Social Development

Ms. Intissar Mohammed Merei  
President  
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees

Ms. Fathieh Khashan  
Board Member  
Ramallah, Palestine

**General Union of Palestinian Women**

Ms. Mona al-Khalili  
Director of the General Secretariat  
Ramallah, Palestine

ط. MS. NADA TWEIR  
Member of the Administrative Committee  
Tulkarm, Palestine

Ms. Widad Aabed  
Director General of the General Secretariat  
Ramallah, Palestine

Ms. Khawla al-Azrak  
President  
Bethlehem, Palestine

Ms. Rima Izzat Nazzal  
Member of Palestinian National Council  
Nablus, Palestine

Ms. Dina Khodr  
Sidon, Lebanon

Ms. Amne Sulieman  
Sidon, Lebanon

Ms. Suheila Khatib  
Member of Preparatory Committee  
Sidon, Lebanon

Al Manhal Woman and Child Cultural Center

Ms. Huda Abdelhadi  
President  
Nablus, Palestine

**Hawa Association for Culture and Arts**

Ms. Ghada Abdul Hadi  
President  
Nablus, Palestine

**Family Consultation Center**

Ms. Haya Ali al-Ghanem  
Telephone Consultations Officer  
Doha, Qatar

Palestinian Women Democratic Organization

Ms. Khalidat Khalil Hussein  
President  
Tripoli, Lebanon

Ms. Mona Ibrahim al-Waked  
Member  
Tripoli, Lebanon

Ms. Saada Mousa  
Member of Administrative Committee  
Beirut, Lebanon

Palestinian Women Democratic Organization  
(continued)

Ms. Majeda Abdulla Bou-Hachem  
Member of Administrative Committee  
Beirut, Lebanon

Social Development Center

Ms. Amal Abdulatif al-Manaee  
General Manager  
Doha, Qatar

Ms. Wadha Saeed al-Rumaihi  
Manager of Services and Social Studies Division  
Doha, Qatar

Qatar Red Crescent Society

Mr. Mouhamed Ghanem al-Maadheed  
General Manager  
Doha, Qatar

### **Women Training and Development Institute**

Ms. Kawthar al-Jouan  
Director  
Kuwait City, Kuwait

Kuwaiti Women  
Voluntary Association for  
Society Welfare

Ms. Najat Abdulaziz al-Hashash  
Kuwait City, Kuwait

### **Islamic Welfare Association**

Ms. Nouriya Ali al-Dakheel  
Secretary  
ظ.ع.ع  
KUWAIT CITY, KUWAIT  
BAYADER AL-SALAM (WOMEN  
ASSOCIATION)

Ms. Huda Abdel Mohsen al-Kanaei  
Board Member  
Kuwait City, Kuwait

ف. تALA ESTABLISHMENT

Ms. Najla Bashour  
Director  
Beirut, Lebanon

ق. YOUNG WOMEN'S  
CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

Ms. Mona Khawli  
Executive Director  
Beirut, Lebanon  
Ms. Nadia Khalifeh  
Deputy Manager  
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Nadera Najm  
Member  
Beirut, Lebanon

ك. NATIONAL UNION FOR  
LEBANESE WOMEN

Ms. Amal Fawaz  
President  
Beirut, Lebanon

### **South Lebanon Women Home Association**

Ms. Souad Bahsoun Salloum  
President  
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Inaam Yusuf Ibrahim  
Activist  
Beirut, Lebanon

ل. SOCIAL RESCUE ASSOCIATION

Ms. Samira al-Katma  
President  
Beirut, Lebanon

م. NASRAT AL BAES  
ASSOCIATION

Ms. Samira Badr  
Board Member  
Beirut, Lebanon

### **Lebanese Management Association**

Ms. Siham Jubayli  
Committee Member  
Beirut, Lebanon

### **Lebanese Association of University Women**

Ms. Angele Khawand Zeeini  
Former President  
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Sonia Ibrahim Atiyah  
Lawyer  
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Rosette Attara-Bacha  
Information Committee Officer  
Beirut, Lebanon

### Lebanese Association for Human Rights

Ms. Norma Melhem  
Lebanon

Ms. Maha Nammour  
Lebanon

Mr. Ibrahim Ghosn  
Beirut, Lebanon

### **Children and Mothers Welfare Society**

Ms. Huda Sakakini Barbir  
Press Officer  
Beirut, Lebanon

Economic Development Association of Lebanese Ladies

Ms. Marwa Halawi  
Board Member  
Beirut, Lebanon

Lebanese Family Planning Association

Mr. Toufic Osseiran  
President  
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Batoul Yahfoufi  
Executive Director  
Beirut, Lebanon

Women Organization for Social Solidarity

Ms. Afaf Hakim  
President  
Beirut, Lebanon

LEBANESE CULTURAL LEAGUE

Ms. Mona Hijazi  
Administrative Board Member  
Beirut, Lebanon

AL NAJAT SOCIAL ASSOCIATION

Ms. Amal Itani  
Beirut, Lebanon

MUSLIM YOUNG WOMEN ASSOCIATION

Ms. Najat Shehab  
Deputy Chairman  
Beirut, Lebanon  
Ms. Najah al-Shaar  
Treasurer  
Beirut, Lebanon

Lebanese Council to Resist Violence Against Women

Ms. Brigitte Shelebian  
Founder and Public Relations Officer  
BEIRUT, LEBANON

**National Organization for the Lebanese Child**

Ms. Nour Salman  
President  
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Khanoum Khaddaj  
General Secretariat  
Beirut, Lebanon

**League of Lebanese Woman's Right**

Ms. Naheda Nsouli Labban  
Board Member  
Beirut, Lebanon

Non-Governmental  
National Committee for  
the Follow-up of  
Women's Issues (Post  
Beijing)

Ms. Aman Kabbara Shaarani  
President  
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Fahmia Sharaf Eddin  
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Wadad Chakhtoura  
President of The Lebanese Women  
Democratic  
Gathering  
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Lila el-Maamoun  
Member of the Seminar on Development Studies  
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Mona Nuwayhid  
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Carmen Bustani  
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Siham Fanous  
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Media Coordinator  
Beirut, Lebanon

Non-Governmental National Committee for the Follow-up of Women's Issues (Post Beijing)  
(continued)

Ms. Hind al-Masri  
Beirut, Lebanon

International Islamic  
Committee for Woman  
and

Child

Ms. Rana Saadah  
Delegate  
Beirut, Lebanon

**Lebanese Women's Rights Committee**

Ms. Hanan Karkouti  
Beirut, Lebanon

**Khawand Landscaping Office**

Ms. Nadia Khawand  
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Beirut, Lebanon

National Committee for the Elimination of  
Discrimination against Women

Ms. Lamia Osseiran  
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Human Rights Committee  
Economic and Social Council  
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Mary al-Rayess  
Press Officer  
Beirut, Lebanon

Cultural Council for South Lebanon

Ms. Samira al-Bayati  
Lebanon

Foundation for Human and Humanitarian Rights

Ms. Lina Osseiran Beydoun  
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Hariri Foundation

Ms. Rubina Abu Zeinab  
Director, Human Development Programme  
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Ms. Yasmine Ghazi El Chamaa  
Coordinator, Human Development Programme  
Beirut, Lebanon

Mr. Ahmad el-Ghoz  
Consultant  
Beirut, Lebanon

Imam Sadr Foundation

Ms. Rabab Sadr  
President  
Beirut, Lebanon

Mr. Mohammad Abdel Amir Bassam  
Studies and Research Officer  
Tyre, Lebanon

**Lebanese Women Council**

Ms. Faica Turkiieh  
President  
Tripoli, Lebanon

Arab Woman Forum

Ms. Carmen Antoine Zughuib  
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Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Therese Yusuf Naeem  
General Coordinator  
Beirut, Lebanon

**University Environmental Union**

Ms. Hanan Sleiman  
President  
Beirut, Lebanon

AMEL ASSOCIATION

Mr. Kamel Mhanna  
President  
Beirut, Lebanon

Mr. Jamal Ghibril  
Head of External Relations  
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Wafa Thaili  
Secretary  
Beirut, Lebanon  
ب.ب.

ISLAMIC CULTURAL  
CENTRE  
ت.ت.

Ms. Futnat Missaike Berr

Women's Council Representative  
Beirut, Lebanon

مستشفى  
سورسوك مUSEUM,  
مunicipality OF  
Beirut

Ms. Hind Kabbara Sinno  
Beirut, Lebanon

### **Lebanese Women Association**

Ms. Lubna Kalot  
President  
Beirut, Lebanon

### **Amateur Ladies Association**

Ms. Marcelle Abdelsamad  
President  
Beirut, Lebanon

جمعية  
LEBANESE FAMILY  
CONGREGATION

Ms. Maha Fatha  
Head  
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Taghareed Baydoun  
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Sana Katorji  
Member  
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Najwa Numaani  
Member  
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Rand Sakr  
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Abla Bsar Jumaa  
Beirut, Lebanon

منتدى  
FORUM FOR CHILD  
RIGHTS

Ms. Alice Kayrouz Sleiman  
President and Lawyer  
Beirut, Lebanon

### **Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering**

Ms. Hind Atwi  
Secretary

Beirut, Lebanon  
Ms. Jumana Merhi  
Treasurer  
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Caroline Sukkar  
Cultural and Media Affairs  
Beirut, Lebanon

### **Women Nahda Groupment**

Ms. Nidal Ashkar Naeem  
President  
Beirut, Lebanon

### **Egyptian Red Crescent**

Mr. Mamdouh Kamal Gabr  
Secretary-General  
Former Minister of Health  
Cairo, Egypt

### Association for the Development and Enhancement of Women

Ms. Iman Bibars  
Expert on Development and Gender Issues  
Cairo, Egypt

### **Alliance for Arab Women**

Ms. Hoda Badran  
Chairperson  
Cairo, Egypt

### Forum of Associations for Women's Development

Ms. Mervat Aboutig  
Lawyer  
Board Member  
Training Committee Officer  
Cairo, Egypt

### Association of Former International Civil Servants

Ms. Seheir Kansouh-Habib  
President  
Cairo, Egypt

### Center for Egyptian Women's Legal Assistance Foundation

Ms. Azza Soliman  
General Director



Cairo, Egypt  
ز. SAWIRIS FOUNDATION  
FOR SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Yousriya Loza-Sawiris  
Secretary-General  
Cairo, Egypt

س.س. EDUCATIONAL  
ADVANCEMENT  
ASSOCIATION

Ms. Mona Makram-Ebeid  
President  
Member of Parliament  
Cairo, Egypt

El-Gamal Law Office

Ms. Maisa El Gamal  
Managing Director  
Cairo, Egypt

Down's Syndrome Saudi Association

Ms. Suzanne Salman al-Ghanim  
Executive Director  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

ش.ش. YEMENI WOMEN'S UNION

Ms. Ramziya Abbas al-Aryani  
Chairman

G. RESEARCH CENTRES, UNIVERSITIES AND INSTITUTES

**Rawak Ousha Bin Hussein Cultural Centre**

Ms. Moza Obeid Ghobash  
Professor of Social Sciences  
Director of Centre  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

**University of Bahrain**

Ms. Munira Fakhro  
Professor  
Manama, Bahrain

Centre for Policy Analysis on Palestine

ص.ص. MR. HISHAM SHARABI  
Chief Executive Officer  
Beirut, Lebanon

**University of Qatar**

Sanaa, Yemen

Ms. Lutfiya Hamza  
Deputy Chairman  
Sanaa, Yemen

Ms. Wafa Ahmed Ali  
Director of Projects and Training Department  
Executive Office  
Sanaa, Yemen

Ms. Salma al-Musabi  
Director of Health and Social Department  
Sanaa, Yemen

Ms. Seeh Bakheta Saad  
Director of Al Muhra Branch  
Yemen

Ms. Subhia Rajeh  
Director of Al Hadida Branch  
Yemen

Ms. Faiza Malek al-Azzani  
Director of Buthmar Branch  
Yemen

**Sisters Arab Forum for Human Rights**

Ms. Amal Basha  
Chairperson  
Sana'a, Yemen

Ms. Kaltham Ali Ghanem al-Ghanem  
Head of Social Sciences Department.  
Doha, Qatar  
**Arab Open University**

Ms. Fairouz Farah Sarkis  
Director  
Beirut, Lebanon

Lebanese Association of Women Researchers

Ms. Noha Bayoumi  
**Member**  
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Nahawand el-Kadri  
Professor, Lebanese University  
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Fadia Hoteit

Professor, Lebanese University  
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Mary Rose Zalzal  
Lawyer  
Broumana, Lebanon  
Lebanese Association of Women Researchers  
(continued)

Ms. May Abdalla Sinno  
Member  
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Jean Makdisi  
Expert  
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Azza Baydoun  
Professor, Lebanese University  
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Najla Hmadeh  
Professor, American University of Beirut  
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Nada Mghaizel  
Professor, Saint Joseph University  
Beirut, Lebanon

#### **Lebanese University**

Ms. Khairiehe Kadouh  
Professor, Faculty of Education  
Beirut, Lebanon

#### Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World

Ms. Mona Khalaf  
Director  
Beirut, Lebanon

#### Centre for Research and Training for Development

Ms. Lina Abou-Habib  
Director  
Beirut, Lebanon  
. KING SAUD UNIVERSITY

Ms. Monera al-Nahedh  
Assistant Professor  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Ms. Hind Khalifa  
Assistant Professor  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia  
طط

Ms. Suaad al-Mana  
Professor  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

#### Women Studies and Development Centre

Ms. Husnia al-Kadri  
Director  
Sana'a University  
Sana'a, Yemen

Ms. Ishraq Ahmad al-Aryani  
Chief, Research Division  
Sana'a University  
Sana'a, Yemen

#### **Woman's Research and Training Centre**

Ms. Rokhsana Ismail  
Director  
Aden University  
Aden, Yemen

#### Layola Marymount University Centre for Women Studies

Ms. Nancy Jabbra  
Professor and Chair of Women's Studies  
Los Angeles, United States of America

#### H. EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS

Mr. Ahmad Abdelrhman Hammouda  
Advisor to the Higher Population Council  
Amman, Jordan

Ms. Zuka' al-Jabi  
Former Director, Office of Minister of  
Culture and Social Affairs  
Observer  
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Ms. Daad Mousa  
Lawyer  
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic  
Ms. Sabeeha Jalab  
President, Civil Appeal  
Judge to Advisor of Jury Director  
Ministry of Justice  
Edleb, Syrian Arab Republic

Ms. Fadwa al-Barghouti  
Lawyer

Ramallah, Palestine

Ms. Moza al-Malki  
Assistant Professor  
Qatar University  
Doha, Qatar  
Mr. Imad Duaij  
University Professor  
Kuwait City, Kuwait

Ms. Somaya Abdul Rahman al-Wilayati  
Translator  
Kuwait City, Kuwait

Ms. Rima Habib  
Assistant Professor  
American University of Beirut  
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Violette Majid Saad  
University Professor  
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Shahida al-Baz  
Expert, Political Economy  
Cairo, Egypt

Ms. Fatima Salem al-Khrejji  
Consultant in Educational Development  
Private Sector  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Ms. Aisha Almanaa  
Businesswoman  
Chamber of Commerce and Industry of East  
Region  
Al-Khobar, Saudi Arabia

Ms. Amal Mahmoud Fayed  
Expert, Woman's Development  
Cairo, Egypt

Ms. Hatoon Ajwad al-Fassi  
Assistant Professor/Writer at Al Iktisadiya  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Ms. Madeha Mohammad al-Ajrourh  
Psychotherapist  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Ms. Rasha Amir el-Hoshan  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Ms. Rida Afranji Ghazzawi  
Chief Executive Officer  
G-Design Group  
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Ms. Farida Allaghi  
Expert in Human Development and Civil Society  
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Ms. Farida al-Banani  
Professor of Law  
Mohammed V University  
Morocco

Ms. Karima el-Korri  
Consultant for United Nations Development  
Programme  
Casablanca, Morocco

Ms. Afaf Mahfouz  
Regional Advisor  
International Psychoanalytical Association  
Arab Lawyers' Union  
United States of America

Mr. Neshat Nateq  
University Lecturer  
Bahrain

Ms. Kelly Boucher-Dakroub  
Middle East Regional Director  
Tetra Pak - Food for Development Office  
Hazmieh, Lebanon

Ms. Shideh Shayani  
Al Azizya Schools  
Damam, Saudi Arabia

Ms. Syrill Wittington  
Export  
Australia

#### I. WRITERS, MEDIA FIGURES AND ARTISTS

##### Writers and media figures

Ms. Colette el-Khoury  
Former Member of Parliament and Novelist  
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Ms. Mai al-Sayegh  
Poet  
Amman, Jordan  
Ms. Bushra Kanafani  
Foreign Media Director

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Ms. Maha Nassif  
Writer - Arab and Foreign Agencies Section  
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Writers and media figures (continued)

Ms. Souad Zaher  
Director of Society, Education and Science  
Section  
Al-Thawra Newspaper  
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Ms. Salma Kamel  
Editor, Chief of Investigation Division  
Ministry of Information  
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Ms. Raghda Mardini  
Editor, Chief of Teshreen Newspaper  
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Ms. Salwa Sabri  
Reporter  
Ministry of Information  
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Ms. Badia Mohammed al-Kizawi  
Television Producer  
Ministry of Information  
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Ms. Fairouz Nasr  
Reporter, Syrian Television  
Broadcast and Television Committee  
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Ms. Mariam Mahrat  
Chief of Division  
Journalists' Union  
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Ms. Waha el-Raheb  
Cinema and Television Producer  
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Ms. Bassema Bint Mohammad al-Mouwali  
Television Presenter  
Ministry of Information  
Muscat, Oman

Ms. Bushra Khalfan al-Wohaibi  
Writer  
Muscat, Oman

Ms. Bassema Bint Mohammad Rashed  
Broadcaster  
Muscat, Oman

Ms. Hissa Yousef al-Awadi  
Staff, Children's Programme  
Qatar Broadcast  
Doha, Qatar  
Ms. Estobruk Ahmed  
Writer  
Kuwait City, Kuwait

Ms. Hanadi Ibraheem al-Ibraheem  
Television Programmes Producer  
Ministry of Information  
Kuwait City, Kuwait

Mr. Mohammad al-Asmi  
Reporter, An-Nahar newspaper  
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Sahar Taha  
Reporter  
Al-Mustaqbal newspaper  
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Sahar Nabih Haidar  
Researcher  
Heya Television  
Hazmieh, Lebanon

Ms. Jacqueline Rihana  
Press Attaché  
Non-Governmental National Committee for the  
Follow-up of Women's Issues  
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Neam Ahmad el-Baz  
Writer, Reporter for Akhbar El-Yawm  
Cairo, Egypt

Ms. Gillane Jabr  
Reporter, Presidential Media Director  
Cairo, Egypt

Ms. Ekbal Barakah  
Editor-in-Chief  
Cairo, Egypt

Ms. Fathiya al-Assal  
Writer  
President, Writers Association  
Cairo, Egypt

Ms. Tahani Ibrahim el-Kaie  
Reporter, Al-Ahram Newspaper

Cairo, Egypt

Ms. Nadia Shaikh  
Regional Director  
Intellect Media  
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Writers and media figures (continued)

Ms. Buthaina Jaffar al-Nasser  
ART News Channel  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Ms. Omeima Kamel  
Journalist  
Cairo, Egypt

Ms. Badreia Abdullah al-Beshir  
Writer, Reporter and Social Researcher  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Ms. Samira Abdulla al-Fheidi  
Editor of Al-Yamania  
Sana'a, Yemen

Ms. Rafea al-Ashwal  
Editor-in-Chief of Al-Yamania  
Sana'a, Yemen

Ms. Faeza Ali Ismail  
Reporter, Al-Qarn Newspaper  
Djibouti

Artists

Ms. Eman Fahd Ahmed  
Artist  
Cultural Foundation  
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Ms. Hanan al-Kahlifa  
Artist  
Bahrain Artist Association  
Manama, Bahrain

Ms. Sawsan Jalal  
Artist  
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Ms. Lujaina al-Aseel  
Artist  
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Ms. Haifa al-Kadi  
Artist  
Baghdad, Iraq

Ms. Souad al-Salem  
Artist  
National Council for Culture, Art and Heritage  
Doha, Qatar

Ms. Asia Abdel Salam al-Kahtani  
Artist  
Doha, Qatar

Ms. Amal Abdulla al-Athem  
Artist  
Doha, Qatar

Ms. Rasha al-Roumi  
Artist  
Kuwait City, Kuwait

Ms. Fawzia Abdel Aziz al-Issa  
Artist  
Kuwait Artist Association  
Kuwait City, Kuwait

Ms. May al-Saad  
Artist  
Kuwait City, Kuwait

Ms. Rose al-Husseini  
Artist  
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Souad al-Radhi  
Artist  
Beirut, Lebanon

Annex II

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS\***

Symbol	Title
E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/1	Provisional agenda
E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda
E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/2	Proposed organization of work
E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/3	Arab regional ten-year review and appraisal of implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action
E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/4	Report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Centre for Women since the first session of the Committee on Women
E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/5	Proposed strategic framework for the Centre for Women for the biennium 2006-2007
E/ESCWA/SD/2004/Booklet.1	Arab women in the development process: a gender-based statistical analysis (in Arabic)
E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/CRP	Country profiles on the situation of women in the Arab countries
E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/CP	Responses of Arab countries to the questionnaire directed to governments on implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action
E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/6	Report of the Arab Regional Conference Ten Years After Beijing: Call for Peace, 8-10 July 2004
E/ESCWA/SD/1994/9	Arab plan of action for the advancement of women to the year 2005
	Unified Arab programme of action and follow-up mechanism for the Fourth World Conference on Women, 28-29 September 1996 (in Arabic)
DPI/1766/Rev.1	Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action with the Beijing + 5 political declaration and outcome document
E/ESCWA/WOM/2003/IG.1/9	Report of the Committee on Women on its first session, Beirut, 4-5 December 2003
E/ESCWA/SDD/2003/WG.6/3	Report: Workshop on gender mainstreaming in the ESCWA region, Beirut, 6-7 December 2003
E/ESCWA/SDD/2003/WG.5/7	Report: The first session of the Consultative Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, Beirut, 1-2 December 2003
E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/INF.1	Information note (Arabic, English, French)
E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/INF.2	Information for participants
E/ESCWA/SDD/2003/Brochure/2/Rev.1	Leaflet on women and men in the Arab countries

\* The working documents were distributed in Arabic, English and French. Translations into French were generously funded by the Intergovernmental Agency of the Francophonie.

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	(Arabic, English)
E/ESCWA/SDD/2003/Brochure/3/Rev.1	Leaflet on ESCWA and Arab women (Arabic, English, French)
E/ESCWA/SDD/2003/Brochure/5/Rev.1	Leaflet on the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Arab Countries (Arabic, English)
	Brochure on the exhibition of selected art works and paintings by women artists from Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon and Syrian Arab Republic organized by ESCWA in collaboration with the Cultural Council of Southern Lebanon and the Iraqi Mothers' Association
	ESCWA resolution 240 (XXII) on the establishment of a committee on women
E/ESCWA/SDD/2003/Brochure/8	Resolution on the establishment of a consultative committee for non-governmental organizations
	The Arab Regional Conference Ten Years After Beijing: Call for Peace

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