



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

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 ...

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 ~~the population with public administration and variables at the national level, in order to~~

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. Strengthening the network of Arab women parliamentarians by the issuance of a

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

33. Change the negative image of Arab women in the media through the formulation of audio visual media programmes and direct means of communication;

Achievements

1. Laws and Legislation
2. Accession to International Conventions
3. National Strategies and Plan of Action
4. Political Participation
5. Institutional Development

6. Education, Health, and Employment

Laws and Legislation

- Amending and Issuing Family Law (Morocco);
- Modernizing Personal Status Code, including divorce and nationality (Tunisia);
- Employment Laws in favour of women;
- Amending Social Security nets and benefits to include women;
- Reviewing Penal Code relating to Honor Crime;
- Implementing Compulsory Primary Education Act for boys and girls (most of Arab countries)

Arab Countries that Ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of
Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
As of December 2004

Algeria	22 May 1996
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Djibouti	21 December 1998	
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Parliamentary Seats Occupied by Women in the Arab Countries in 2005

Country	Total Number of Seats	Women in Parliaments
Algeria	389	24

Djibouti	65	7
Egypt	454	11

Kuwait	65	0
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Mauritania	181	3
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- Women's national machineries are not allocated adequate human and financial resources;
- Coordination, observation, monitoring and accountability mechanisms are weak, not to say non-existent;

Need to provide gender-disaggregated statistics needed for gender planning and policy

formulation

Gender equality mechanisms still weak at both official and grassroots levels;

- Continuous review and updating of national legislation and amendment of

- Establishment of a gender-disaggregated information and database covering projects and programmes concerned with women's issues;
- Establishment of observatories and early-warning mechanisms for follow-up and analysis of the social phenomena particular to the situation of women;

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