

ROUND TABLE GENERAL REPORT

“NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS I

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

1. Opening session:

In his welcoming speech, Mr. Omar AZZIMAN, head of the Advisory Council of Human Rights (ACHR) - Morocco, recalled the crux that underlies the organization of the meeting, that is the fact that women rights are an integral and indissociable part of Universal Human Rights as recognized by major reference texts, especially the Declaration of Vienna and the Beijing Platform for Action.

On the one hand, the OHCHR representative has insisted on the necessity to put into practice the existing partnership between the two aforementioned types of institutions and the actions to be taken as part of national measures to advance and protect women's rights as well as human rights national institutions in order to combat jointly all forms of discrimination against women.

On the other hand, the representative of the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) has recalled the DAW mandate and its action in favor of equality, and also stressed the specific and joint role of the two institutions in terms of protecting and advancing women rights.

2. Session dedicated to identifying challenges:

Headed by Mr. Albert SASSON (ACHR), this session was devoted – following the presentation of the schedule and participants – to the introductory theme of the round table, that is "National Institutions and National Mechanisms for Woman Empowerment and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women: Overview".

Within this framework, representatives of the OHCHR, the DAW, and the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) have opened the debate by statements on the role and functions of their respective structures as regards the protection and advancement of women's rights.

Subsequently, participants were invited to talk about the "major challenges" they are facing in their countries, be it at the level of mechanisms for the advancement of women or at the level of human rights national institutions. Participants from different nationalities, each one on his/her turn, took stock of the situation in their respective countries in terms of assets and constraints in addition to short-term and long-term perspectives.

The major challenges identified revolve around the following aspects:

- Cases of discrimination against women are still widespread despite the progress achieved in many countries;
- National mechanisms and national institutions lack resources in most countries, including rich ones;

- Mechanisms o

In this respect, an assessment could be made regarding the situation o

- Resources allowing to see the implementation of plans of action through, once elaborated.

8. strategies for a future cooperation and interactivity:

This session was essentially devoted to cooperation between national mechanisms for the advancement of women's rights and national human rights institutions.

The debate dealt, in particular, with: