



CONCEPT NOTE

WORKSHOP ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OIC MEMBER STATES

ANKARA, TURKEY

03-04 October 2016

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1- Background

OIC, OIC institutions and Member States have shown during last years increasing interest in improving the status of women and their empowerment to enable them efficient participation in the development of OIC Member States. One of the most important initiatives in this domain was defined through the adoption of a resolution on “Muslim Women and their Role in the Development of Islamic Society” during the 32nd Session in Sanaa in 2005 calling for the convening of a Ministerial Conference to discuss the issues of women and study ways and means to explore opportunities with a view to taking active part in the development of Muslim societies and then the convening of five ministerial sessions up to today. Progress has also been marked by the political commitments through the adoption of OPAAW, the OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women document that articulates the OIC Member States’ commitment in addressing a range of challenges faced by women.

Achieving the empowerment of women in order to take active part in the development of Islamic Society is also essential for effective action on all aspects of sustainable development in the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. In this regard, urgent action is needed to empower women, enable them to benefit from development and remove the barriers that prevent them from being full participants in all spheres of society. Going forward, it will be necessary to draw on the lessons learned from the challenges faced during the implementation of OPAAW and propose solutions and recommendations for better implementation of OPAAW and SDGs by Member States.

The 6th Conference on the Role of Women in OIC Member States will be held on 01-02 November 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey. In this regard and in order to effectively deal with the challenges OIC Member States are facing, SESRIC in coordination with OIC will organise a preparatory workshop with a view to studying essential ways and means to improve the status and conditions of women to enable them effective participation in the political, economic, cultural and social spheres thereby bringing about sustainable peace, prosperity and well-being.

2- Objectives of the Workshop

The workshop on the Role of Women in the Development of OIC Member States will have as main objective to provide the representatives of the relevant ministries in the OIC Member States and those of relevant OIC and international institutions a distinct opportunity to discuss and deliberate on the recent developments in the domain of gender and women in OIC Member States. In this regard, the workshop through discussing possible contribution of women, will try to identify the major and common challenges and obstacles facing women in OIC Member States. The participants will further exchange views, knowledge and expertise to come up with concrete recommendations especially on the OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (OPAAW) document and its implementation matrix to be submitted to the 6th Ministerial Conference on the Role of Women in the Development of OIC Member States, which will take place on 1-2 November 2016 in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey. In particular, the workshop aims at:

- Examining and discussing the recent trends on the state of women empowerment and gender equality in OIC Member States with a view to evaluating the performance of these countries while comparing with the other groups of countries;
- Highlighting the challenges, policies and best practices as well as opportunities for women and their potential role for contributing to the development of OIC Member States;
- Exchanging and sharing knowledge, experiences, best practices and models for improving the well-being of women and addressing their common challenges;
- Recommending and proposing concrete and feasible ways and means for enhancing intra-OIC cooperation in this regard;
- Reviewing the proposed updates received from OIC Member States on the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (OPAAW) document and its implementation matrix;
- Facilitating the participants networking for future cooperation and exchanging of expertise.

3- Methodology

The workshop will be organized in two days. In addition to the opening session in the first day and the closing session in the second day, the workshop will include five working sessions (as mentioned in the tentative work programme in Annex I). During these working sessions, presentations and discussions will be held on the following sub-themes:

- State of Women in OIC Member States and OPAAW.
- Better Implementation of OPAAW and Sustainable Development Goals.
- Women's role in maintaining peace and security in OIC Member States.
- Best practices on national mechanisms for empowering women and OPAAW.

Furthermore, to achieve the goals determined by the workshop and in order to ensure effective work, delegates of OIC Member Countries will be requested to deliver presentations on their national experiences and best practices in the empowerment of women in OIC Member Countries.

4- Participants in the Workshop

The participants will include representatives at expert senior level of the following bodies:

- 1- National Higher Councils of Women in OIC Member States.
- 2- Relevant Ministries of OIC Member States, such as Ministries of family, women, social affairs.
- 3- Relevant OIC institutions: OIC General Secretariat, SESRIC, IDB, ISESCO, ICCIA.
- 4- Relevant regional and international institutions, such as UNDP and UN Women.
- 5- Individual international experts or academicians from local universities.

5- Time and Venue

The workshop will take place at SESRIC's headquarters in Ankara and will be held over two days on 03-04 October 2016.

6- Language

The workshop will proceed in English. Simultaneous translation to Arabic and French will be provided.

7- Expected Outcomes of the Workshop

The expected outcomes of the workshop are as follows:

- Identifying and addressing major challenges, obstacles and constraints related to gender equality and women empowerment as well as the implementation of the OPAAW document in OIC Member States;
- Mapping of best practices and successful experiences to share among OIC Member States on the participation of women in the development of Muslim society.
- Identifying and recommending concrete policies and measures at both the national and the OIC cooperation levels for empowerment of women to scale-up their contribution to the development of Member States; and
- Collecting feedback and comments of participants on the reviewed OPAAW document with its implementation matrix.