

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKSHOP ON  
THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OIC MEMBER STATES**

03-04 October 2016, Ankara, Republic of Turkey

***A. Report of the Workshop***

1. The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) organized in collaboration with the OIC General Secretariat a workshop on “The Role of Women in the Development of OIC Member States” on 03-04 October 2016 in Ankara, Republic of Turkey as a preparatory event for the Senior Official Meetings of the Sixth Session of the Ministerial Conference on the Role of Women in the Development of OIC Member States to be held on 01-03 November 2016 in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey.
  
2. Representatives from the relevant national institutions and ministries in the following Member States attended the Workshop:
  1. Arab Republic of Egypt
  2. Islamic Republic of Iran
  3. Islamic Republic of Mauritania
  4. Islamic Republic of Pakistan
  5. Republic of Azerbaijan
  6. Republic of Benin
  7. Republic of Djibouti
  8. Republic of Turkey
  9. State of Palestine
  10. Union of the Comoros
  
3. In addition, representatives of the OIC General Secretariat, Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group, Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), OIC Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture

(IRCICA), Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade (ICDT), The Permanent Delegation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to the United Nations Office in Geneva and Permanent Observer Mission of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to the United Nations Office in New York joined the Workshop. Representatives from KADEM in Turkey and Zenab for Women in Development from Sudan participated in the workshop as well. Prof. Dr. Nurşin Ateşoğlu Güney from Yıldız Technical University and Dr Zahera Harb from City University of London attended the workshop as presenters while Ms. Tubanur Sönmez from Turkish Presidency and Ms. Nur Özkan Erbay from TRT World attended as moderators of session 3 and 6 respectively.

### **Opening Session**

4. Following the recitation from the Holy Koran, H.E. Amb. Musa Kulaklıkaya, Director General of SESRIC, delivered an opening speech in which he welcomed the participants, expressing his delight at the convening of the workshop on “The Role of Women in the Development of OIC Member States”. H.E. Amb. Kulaklıkaya briefed the august audience on SESRIC’s activities in the domain of gender and women empowerment in line with its mandate. He also highlighted the importance of the workshop’s discussions in helping OIC Member States to better addressing the women and gender equality issues and wrapped up his speech by mentioning that the outcome of this workshop will be presented as an input during the Senior Official Meeting of the Sixth Session of the Ministerial Conference on the Role of Women in the Development of OIC Member States.
5. Ms. Gülser Ustaoglu, Director General of the Status of Women Directorate of the Ministry of Family and Social Policies of Republic of Turkey, presented during her opening speech the activities carried out by its directorate to empower women in the Republic of Turkey. In this regard, Ms. Ustaoglu briefed the participants on the policies and practices in place in several domains such as education, health, employment and combating violence against women. Ms. Ustaoglu also mentioned the legislative

amendments and governmental policies about women empowerment and their role in the decision-making process.

6. H.E. Ms. Mehla Ahmed Talebna, Director General of Cultural, Social and Family Affairs at the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) welcomed the participants and underlined the vital role of the OIC towards gender equality and women rights in the Islamic world. She also expressed the support of OIC to Member States and OIC institutions in their efforts towards empowering and advancing women.

### **Working Session I**

7. During the Working Session 1, representatives from OIC and SESRIC delivered presentations on the State of Women in OIC Member States and OPAAW. Dr. Cem Tintin, Researcher at SESRIC, presented the 2016 version of SESRIC's report on the 'State of Gender in OIC Countries: Prospects and Challenges' (Presentation 1). Dr. Tintin also briefed the participants on the process of updating the OPAAW document, which involves subsections on OPAAW Principles, Assessments, Meetings as well as OIC Member Countries' Contributions (Presentation 2).
8. Ms. Suzan Mohamed, Professional Officer at the General Directorate of Cultural, Social and Family Affairs in OIC General Secretariat, presented a summary of OPAAW's history and updates. She briefly mentioned the OIC's most important activities on issues related to women empowerment. After referring to the precedent OIC Ministerial Conferences on Women, Ms. Suzan Mohamed gave more details on the OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (OPAAW) document and its updates, advancements, challenges and related recommendations (Presentation 3).

### **Working Session II**

9. Under the Working Session II, a general debate and discussion was held among participants on the current situation of women in OIC member states as well as the faced challenges for a better implementation of OPAAW and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The participants further discussed that every country may establish mechanisms

on women's issues in line with the OPAAW. It was also elaborated that identifying national focal points would facilitate the implementation of the OPAAW in OIC member states.

### **Working Session III**

10. During the Working Session 3, Prof. Dr. Nurşin Ateşoğlu Güney, Head of Department of Political Science and International Relations at Yıldız Technical University, delivered a presentation on women's role in maintaining peace and security in OIC Member States. Prof. Dr. Güney highlighted women's participation and role in resolving and preventing conflict as essential ingredient of peace-building, peace-keeping and reconstruction process. She also underlined that sustainable peace requires including women and all segments of society as politically viable citizens. Furthermore, Prof. Dr. Güney highlighted women's leadership in changing the international system particularly in the conflict areas and the war zones where the role of women is vital in solving different kind of problems.

### **Working Session IV**

11. During the Working Session 4, representatives of the relevant national institutions of OIC member states (Benin, Comoros, Mauritania, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Palestine, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Pakistan) as well as representatives of relevant OIC institutions (IDB, ISESCO, ICDT) and NGOs (KADEM and Zenab) delivered presentations to share their experiences and best practices towards women empowerment and the implementation of OPAAW. The main idea of this session was to share best practices about policies and initiatives of member states as well as OIC institutions in the domain of empowerment of women and gender equality.

### **Working Session V**

12. The Working Session 5 was devoted to discuss and finalize the draft recommendations of the Workshop. As all sub-sectoral recommendations and action points were already

included in the updated OPAAW, it was agreed to focus on the recommendations aiming to facilitate the implementation of the OPAAW.

### **Working Session VI**

13. During the Working Session 6 on Women in Media, Dr. Zahera Harb, Senior Lecturer in International Journalism at City University in London delivered a presentation on the challenges facing the representation of women in both western and eastern media. In this regard, Dr. Harb highlighted the media coverage on women by using the example of British press coverage about Lebanese women (Presentation 4). During the same session, Ms. Maha Akeel, Director of Information Department at OIC presented an overview of “The Global Media Monitoring Project”, its main goals, findings and implications. She also discussed the significant role of the media for empowering women in the political, economic and social fields (Presentation 5).

### ***B. Recommendations of the Workshop***

14. In the light of the presentations, deliberations and discussions, the participants of this workshop made a set of policy recommendations that would lead to the effective implementation of OPAAW in view to create a favorable environment where women and men are treated equally in various aspects of life. The main goal is that both can reach socio-economic public services fairly, and women and men are considered to be equal partners in the development of OIC member countries. Furthermore, as Palestine is the *raison d'être* for establishing OIC, the workshop addressed the issues of women in occupied Palestine.

The following recommendations were made at both the national and OIC cooperation levels:

1. Inviting the 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference to adopt the updated OPAAW document as well as its implementation matrix;

2. Reiterating its call upon OIC Member States, which are yet to do so, to sign and/or ratify the statute of the OIC Organisation for the Development of Women, to be based in Cairo, Egypt;
3. Inviting OIC Member States to identify focal points at the institutions in charge of women affairs or in line with their national mechanisms; develop guidelines; and build capacity for effective implementation of the updated OPAAW document;
4. Establishing a framework for OIC cooperation with nongovernmental organizations and civil society institutions related to women and the family in accordance with the OIC rules and regulations;
5. Considering the establishment of an OIC Women Media Monitoring Centre;
6. Reiterating adoption of effective policies to address the actual situation of many women in the Muslim world who are affected by the armed conflicts, foreign occupation, violent extremism and other forms of abuse.

### *C. Vote of Thanks*

15. The Participants expressed strong satisfaction with the successful organization of the Workshop and appreciation to SESRIC and OIC General Secretariat for their efforts towards the empowerment of women in OIC Member Countries.

**04 October 2016, Ankara, Republic of Turkey**

### *D. Annexes*

Annex I: List of Participants

Annex II: Final Programme

Annex III: Presentations and Photos

### Annex I: List of Participants

Amb. Musa Kulaklıkaya	Director General, SESRIC
Amb. Mehla Talebna	Director General of Cultural, Social & Family Affairs Directorate, OIC
Ms. Gülser Ustaoglu	Director General of the Status of Women Directorate, Ministry of Family and Social Affairs of Turkey
Mhoudine Sitti Farouata	Comoros/ National gender promotion Commissariat
Zahra Seddigh	Iran/ Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Amierah Ismail	Permanent Observer Mission of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to the United Nations Office in New York
Amb. Aissata Kane	The Permanent Delegation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to the United Nations Office in Geneva
Fatima Ahmed	Zenab for Women in Development/Sudan
Mariama Ndiave Niang	ISESCO
Abdelaziz Alami	ICDT
Dr Zahera Harb	City University of London
Tubanur Sönmez	Turkish Presidency
Kristonia Lockhart	IDB
Dr. Lamy Badri	IDB
Fatima Radaydeh	Palestine / Ministry of Women Affairs
Mona Abdallah Mohamed Salem	Egypt / National Council for women
Elgun Safarov	Azerbaijan / State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs
Prof. Najat M. Sayem Khalil	IRCICA
Prof. Dr. Nurşin Ateşoğlu Güney	Yıldız Technical University

Maha Akeel	OIC GS
Dr. Boubakari Maiga	OIC GS
Suzan Mohamed	OIC GS
Umer Siddique	Embassy of Pakistan
Izbath Djaboutouboutou	Benin / Ministry in charge of Family and Social Affaires
Rabia Öter Candan	KADEM
Mariem Hemah	Mauritania/ Ministry of Social Issues
Süreyya Erkan	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs of Turkey
Göknur Akçadağ	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs of Turkey
Mustafa Çadır	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs of Turkey
Akın Yumuş	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs of Turkey
Meryem Meltem Tatlıer Baş	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs of Turkey
Neşe Ünal Sülekli	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs of Turkey
Onur Engin Var	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs of Turkey
Ayşe Betül Çapcı	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs of Turkey
Roukiya Ahmed Toubet	Djibouti / Ministry of Women and Family
Nur Özkan Erbay	TRT World
Dr. Cem Tintin	SESRIC
Fatima Zahra Kamal	SESRIC
Cihat Battaloglu	SESRIC

## Annex II: Final Programme

### WORKSHOP ON “THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OIC MEMBER STATES” 03 - 04 October 2016, Ankara, Republic of Turkey

#### **Day 1: 03 October 2016**

08.30 - 09.00 Registration

09.00 - 10.00 ***OPENING SESSION***

Recitation from the Holy Quran

Welcoming and opening remarks

- H.E. Amb. Musa Kulaklıkaya, Director General, SESRIC
- H.E. Ms. Mehla Talebna, Director General of Family & Social Affairs Department, OIC
- Ms. Gülser Ustaoglu, Director General, Ministry of Family and Social Affairs of Republic of Turkey

*Family Photo*

10.00-10.30 *Coffee Break*

10.30-12.00 ***Working Session 1: State of Women in OIC Member States and OPAAW (OIC PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN)***

- *State of Women in OIC Member Countries, SESRIC*
- *OPAAW, OIC GS & SESRIC*
- *General debate and discussion*

*Moderator: Amb. Aissata Kane, Delegation of the OIC to the UN in Geneva*

12.00 - 13.30 *Lunch and prayer break*

13.30 - 15.00 ***Working Session 2: Faced Challenges and Way forward for a Better Implementation of OPAAW and Sustainable Development Goals***

- Member States interventions and recommendations
- *General debate and discussion*

*Moderator: Ms. Maha Akeel, OIC General Secretariat*

- 15.00 - 15.30 *Coffee Break*
- 15.30 - 17.00 ***Working Session 3: Women's role in maintaining peace and security in OIC Member States***
- Keynote Presentation, Prof. Dr. Nurşin Ateşoğlu Güney, Yıldız Technical University
  - *General debate and discussion*
- Moderator : Ms. Tuba Nur Sönmez, Turkish Presidency*

**Day 2: 04 October 2016**

- 09.30 - 11.30 ***Working Session 4: Best practices on national, regional and international mechanisms for empowering women and OPAAW (I)***
- Member States, OIC institutions and NGOs presentations
- Moderator : Dr. Cem Tintin, SESRIC*
- 11.30 - 11.45 *Coffee Break*
- 11.45 – 13.15 ***Working Session 5: Drafting Recommendations***
- Moderator : Dr. Cem Tintin, SESRIC*
- 13.15 - 14.15 *Lunch and prayer*
- 14.15 – 15.45 ***Working Session 6: Women in Media***
- Keynote Presentation, Dr. Zahera Harb, City University of London
  - Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP), Ms Maha Mostafa Akeel, Director of Information Department , OIC
- Moderator: Ms. Nur Özkan Erbay, TRT World*

15.45 - 16.15 *Coffee Break*

16.15 - 17.45 ***Outcome of the workshop and closing***

### **Annex III: Presentations and Photos**

The workshop's presentations and photos are available in the link below:

<http://www.sesric.org/event-detail.php?id=1532>