



Dialogue of Arab National Human Rights Institutions on the Regional Review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 30 Years After Adoption

Thursday 27 June 2024, Zoom

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the League of Arab States, and the UN Women Regional Office for Arab States, in collaboration with the Danish Institute for Human Rights and Denmark's Knowledge Centre on Gender and Equality (KVINFO), organized a virtual dialogue for national human rights' institutions on the "Dialogue of Arab National Human Rights Institutions on the Regional Review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 30 Years After Adoption", on Thursday 27 June 2024 from 11:00 – 14:00 (Beirut time) on Zoom. Representatives of national institutions from nine Arab countries participated in the meeting, addressing issues related to the status of women and gender equality. During the meeting, they reviewed the measures taken by national institutions to address women's rights violations and promote gender equality. Participants exchanged experiences and best practices regarding the role of national human rights institutions and the challenges they face. The dialogue resulted in the following key recommendations and messages which will be submitted to the High-Level meeting to be held on 9 December in Muscat, Oman:

1. The National Human Rights Institutions condemn the human rights violations committed by the Israeli occupation against the people of Palestine and affirm that the double standards that have emerged on the international stage in condemning these violations have negatively affected the reality of human rights in the region. This has been accompanied by a need to work on restoring confidence in international standards that have been questioned by citizens level after the aggression on Gaza;
2. Emphasize the importance of providing National Human Rights Institutions and National Women's Machineries for the advancement of women and girls with financial and human resources, and necessary authorities, to enable them to effectively perform their role, especially with the growing importance of their duties;
3. Highlights the importance of supporting Human Rights Institutions' awareness raising role in coordination with national media and national mechanisms concerned with the advancement of the status of women and girls, to raise community awareness, and introduce women and girls to their rights which are guaranteed by national constitutions and legislation, and how to access and exercise their economic and social rights;

4. Due to the important role which national institutions play in monitoring violations, including the tracking and monitoring of violence against women and girls, it is essential to empower National Human Rights Institutions to perform their duties, including proposing measures such as laws related to combating and criminalizing violence against women;
5. National Human Rights Institutions emphasize the importance of paying attention to women deprived of their freedom as a group requiring special attention in the areas of reform and rehabilitation, and integration into society, as one of the future priorities of the countries;
6. The need to promote the involvement of National Human Rights institutions in peacebuilding efforts and negotiations to end conflicts and associated effects such as displacement and asylum at the national or regional levels. This is especially important as part of their duties relate to protecting the rights of women, girls, and minorities, to ensure the participation of all groups without marginalization;
7. The importance of adopting qualitative data and information from (complaints of violations) as official data relied upon by governments in their reports to treaty bodies;
8. Strengthening working mechanisms between National Human Rights Institutions and national mechanisms concerned with women and related issues, including the implementation of joint initiatives to promote women's rights and follow-up on international recommendations that contribute to the status of women.