



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



The Arab parliaments Dialogue on the Regional Review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action after 30 Years

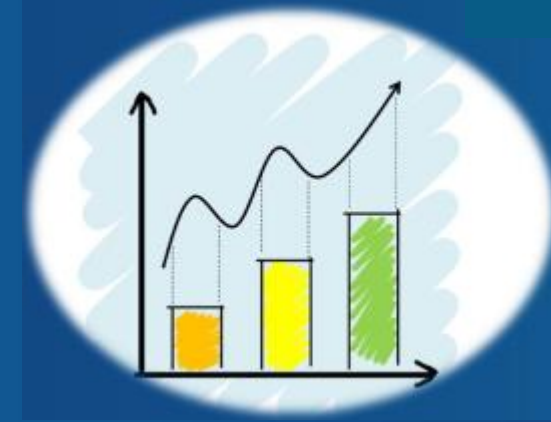
29 - 30 May 2024
Kempinski Hotel - Amman, Jordan



Presentation on the Results of the Political Track of the First Regional Review of the Women's Development Agenda in the Arab Region 2030 in five years

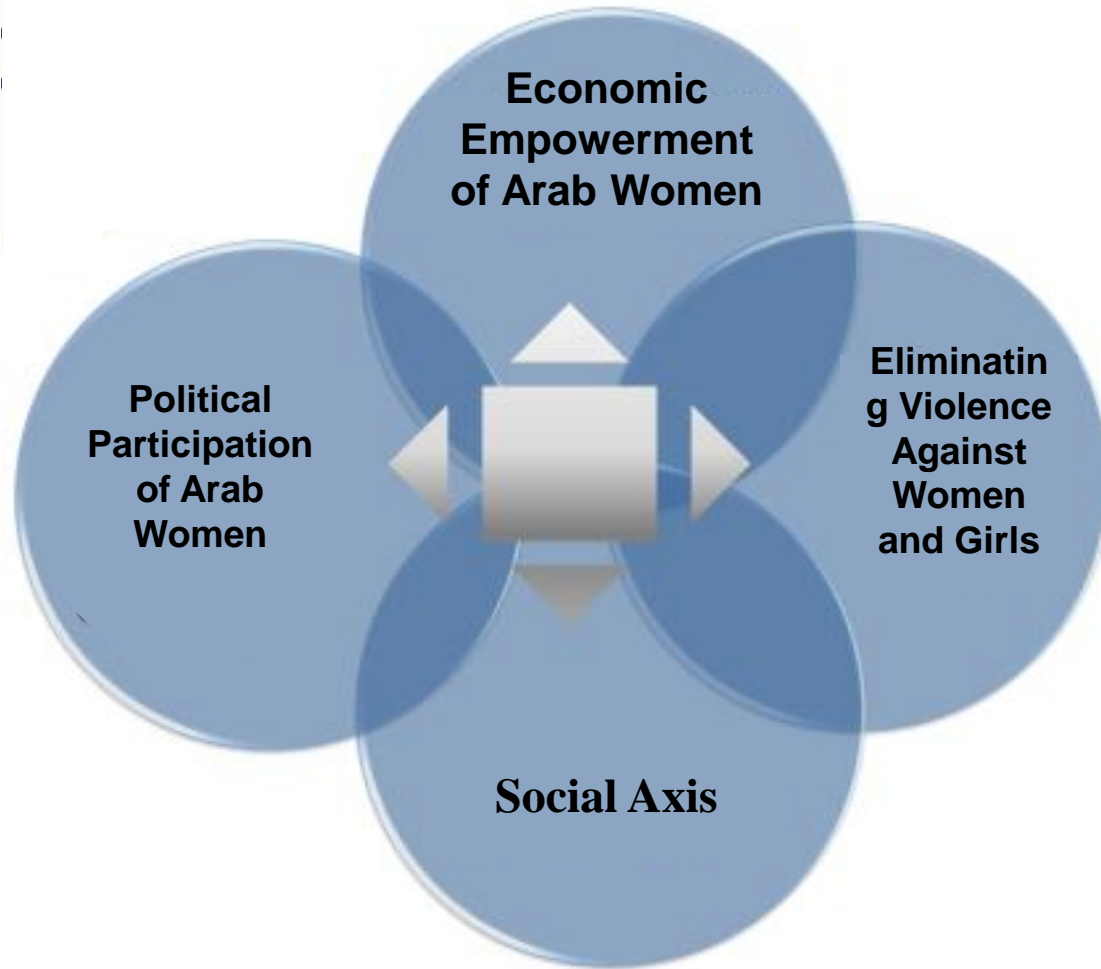


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The Timeline Leading to the First Regional Review (+5)





2017



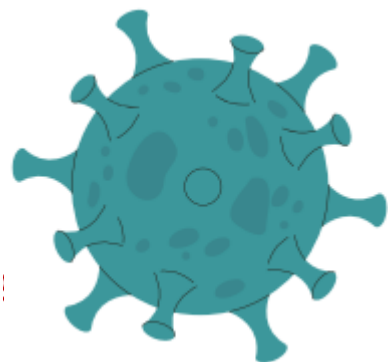


Climate change and environmental adaptation issues

Emergence of New Issues, Emerging Challenges, and Developments at the International and Regional Levels, Intersecting with the Goal of Achieving Gender Equality and Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.



Transition to a green economy

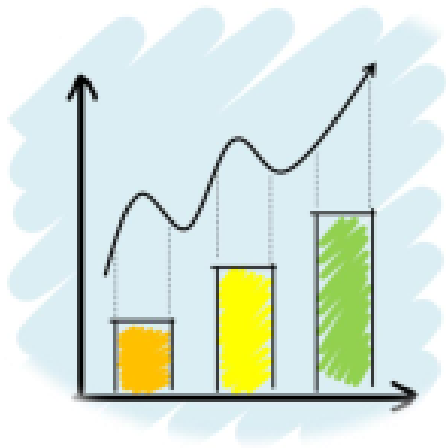


Covid -19

Challenges arising from rapid technological advancements and the global digital agreement



Updating the Peace and Security Agenda



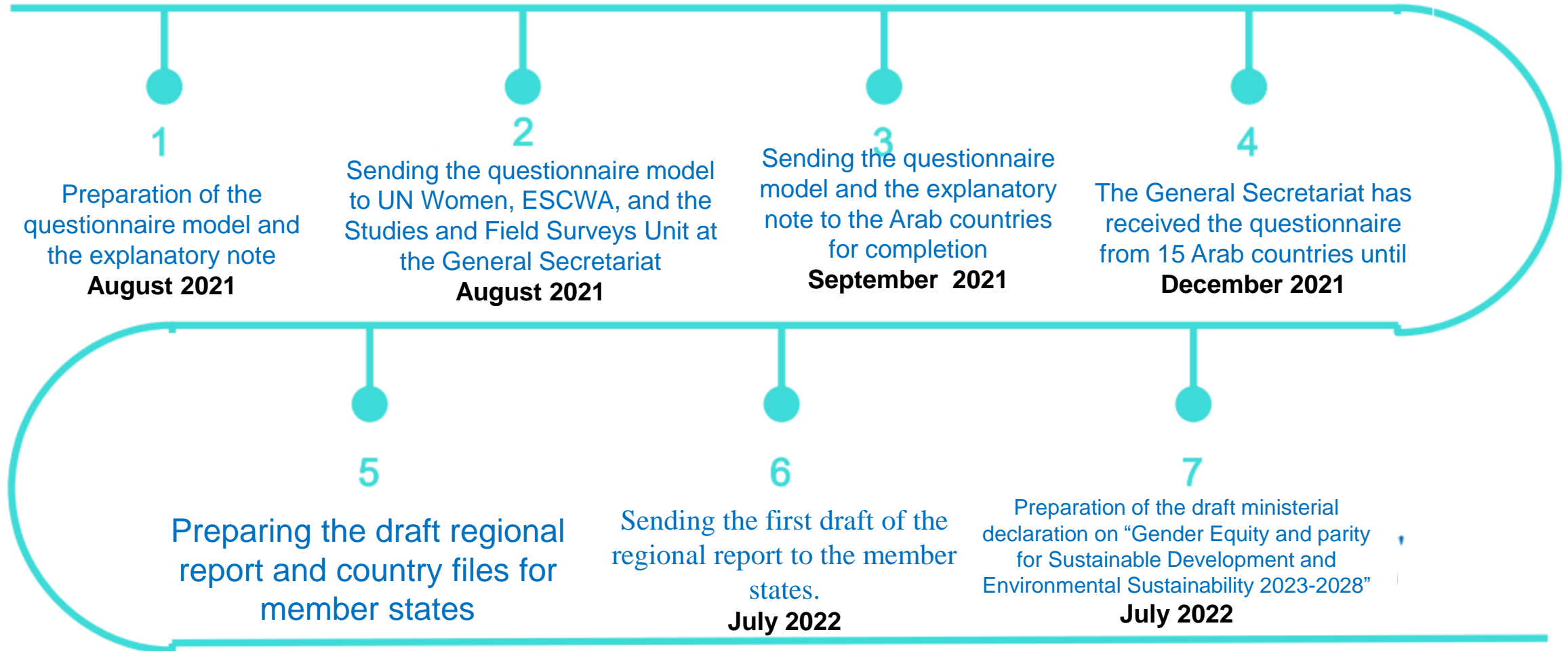
Gender and the Environment

1- A new axis was added focusing on gender, the environment, and related indicators at the national level of the member states.

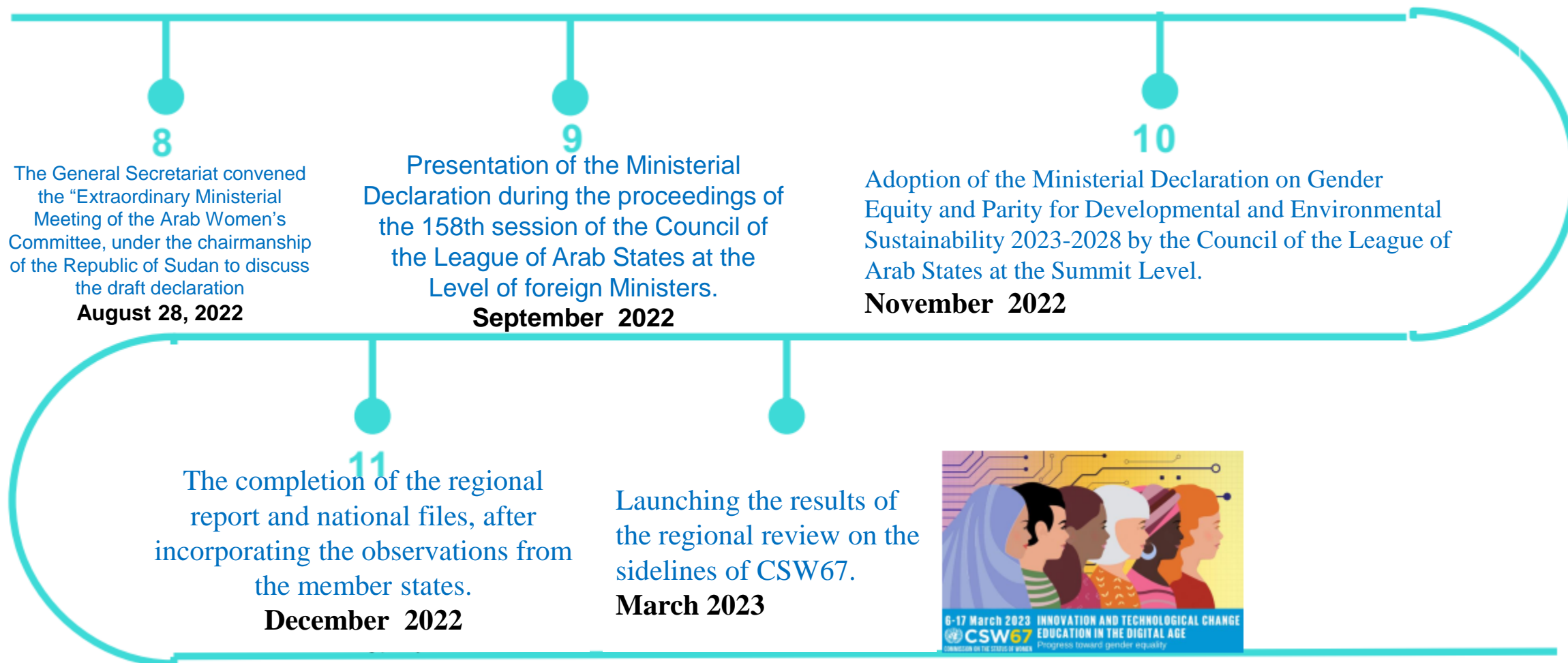
2- Indicators have been added to monitor developments and emerging issues and their intersection with achieving gender equality in various fields.



The Steps Taken in Preparing the First Regional Review: +5 Key Stages



The Methodology Followed in Preparing the First Regional Review: 5+



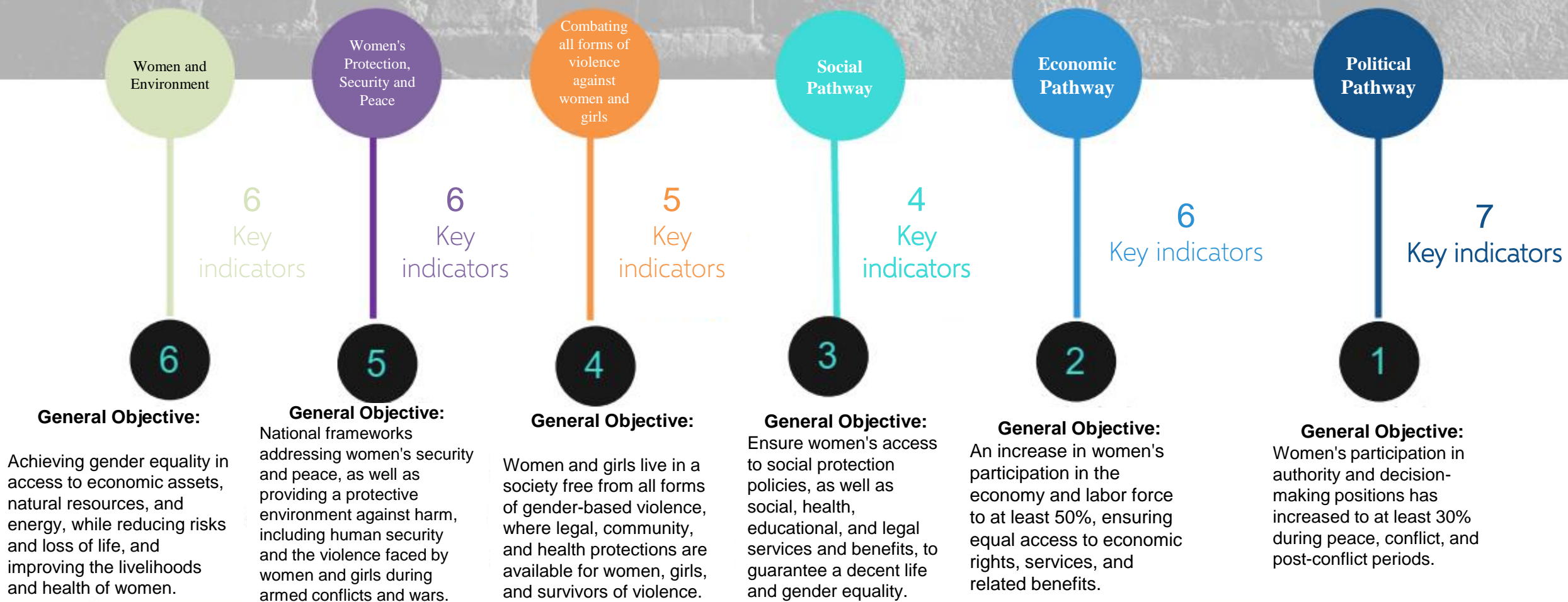


“The Women's Development Agenda in the Arab Region 2030”

First Regional Review
(2017-2022)

- **Questionnaire Form**

The primary pathways on which the Questionnaire Model was Designed, Encompassing Fundamental and Sub-Objectives as well as Indicators, are as Follows:



Therefore, this section reviews information on the progress made by Arab countries in implementing the provisions of the political track related to the Cairo Declaration for Women in the Arab Region: Agenda for the Development of Women in the Arab Region 2030, where the track evaluated the progress made in women's participation in power and decision-making positions and the extent to which this participation was enhanced within rates of no less than (30%) during peace, during conflict and after, by using indicators to evaluate the achievements made by Arab countries on the ground through several axis and indicators such as ensuring the existence of a national constitutional umbrella for non-discrimination against women, the extent to which national legislation is developed to bridge the gap between women and men, the extent to which work is being done to develop national electoral systems, the extent to which determinants are provided for public jobs, the extent to which women's participation in the electoral process is enhanced, positive discrimination policies are supported and developed, and databases for national indicators and statistics related to women's integration issues at all levels are developed.



Political Track Indicators

- Indicator 1.1.1.1: National constitutions in line with Arab States commitments toward regional and international instruments on gender equality and non-discrimination against women.
Does the constitution explicitly state that individuals are equal before the law, without discrimination in rights and duties, regardless of gender?
- Indicator 1.2.1: Develop or amend legal provisions and legislation to guarantee women's right to equal access to all leadership and decision-making positions.
- Indicator 3.1.1: The percentage of seats held by women in government across the executive, judicial, and legislative branches, including their participation in political parties and civil society organizations (such as unions and NGOs).
- Indicator 1.4.1: The percentage of women in administrative positions in the public sector compared to men.
- Indicator 1.4.2: The percentage of female representation and participation in all international and regional high-level assemblies and bodies, as well as in official delegations, dispute resolution processes, and peace negotiations.



- ❑ Indicator 1.5.1: The percentage of women participating as voters in the electoral process.

- ❑ Indicator 2.5.1: Take special measures and financial/legal support to encourage women's participation as candidates and voters in the electoral process, and to protect them from all forms of violence and discrimination (e.g., political violence).

- ❑ Support and develop positive discrimination policies to enhance the capacity of women and push for their active participation in political parties, trade and labor unions, and elected councils and civil society organizations of all types to ensure the quality and efficiency of participants in the political process.

- ❑ Indicator 16.1: Put in place national databases and statistics classified according to gender.

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan



Sultanate of Oman



United Arab Emirates



State of Palestine



Kingdom of Bahrain



The State of Qatar



Republic of Tunisia



Lebanese Republic



People's Democratic Republic of Algeria



Arab Republic of Egypt



Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



Kingdom of Morocco



Republic of Sudan



Republic of Yemen.



Republic of Iraq



15
Questionnaire



The regional review resulted in three main documents:

- A. Regional report entitled “First Regional Review of the 2030 Agenda for Women’s Development in the Arab Region after Five Years”
- B. The Ministerial Declaration on Gender Equity and Parity for Developmental and Environmental Sustainability, Arab Women’s Development Agenda (2023-2028).
- C. Country reports of the Member States that participated in the regional review.





The Important Outcomes of the Regional Review



العربية

العربية

Arabian
Woman

Constitutional Amendments: Example



The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

- The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan made fundamental amendments to its 1952 Constitution, which was approved in 2022 (3), and stemmed from the recommendations of the Royal Committee for Modernizing the Political System. These amendments clearly and explicitly supported women, which is a major achievement and a qualitative leap in enabling Jordanian women to participate politically. There is a constitutional text that guarantees gender equality and non-discrimination against women, included the following text: *(Jordanians, men and women, shall be equal before the law. There shall be no discrimination between them as regards to their rights and duties, on grounds of race, language or religion.)*.

One of the justifications for making these amendments is that they aim to empower women, enhance their active role in building society, and protect them from all forms of violence and discrimination. This goal has been translated by adding Paragraph (6) to Article (6) of the Constitution to stipulate that: “The state shall guarantee the empowerment and support of women to play an active role in building society, in a way that guarantees equal opportunities on the basis of justice and equity, and protects them from all forms of violence and discrimination”. The amendments also included an amendment to the title of Chapter Two of the Constitution, which was entitled “Rights and Duties of Jordanians” to become “Rights and Duties of Jordanian Men and Women”

It is worth noting that there is nothing in Jordanian laws that prevents women from reaching all leadership positions, as Article (22) of the Jordanian Constitution stipulates that: (Every Jordanian has the right to hold public office under the conditions specified by laws or regulations).



The Sultanate of Oman

- The third paragraph of Article (15) of the Basic Law of the Sultanate of Oman, issued by Royal Decree No. (2021/6), affirms that: *“Family is the cornerstone of society, and its pillars are religion, morals, and patriotism. The state shall endeavour to maintain its cohesion, stability, and the consolidation of its values. The state shall guarantee equality between women and men, and shall be committed to providing care for children, persons with disabilities, youth, and young persons in the manner prescribed by the law”*.

Article (21) also affirms that *“All citizens are equal before the law. They have equal public rights and duties, and there shall be no discrimination between them on grounds of sex, origin, colour, language, religion, sect, domicile, or social status”*.(11)

- **National Legislation: Example**

Result 3: The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has been distinguished by its commitment to empowering women in political participation through the enactment of the new Election Law for the House of Representatives No. 4 of 2022. This law increased the minimum number of seats allocated to women from 15 to 18 (in addition to the parliamentary seats specified in Article 8).

Result 4: The Republic of Iraq has been distinguished by its commitment to increasing women's representation in Parliament through the enactment of the Iraqi Council of Representatives Elections Law No. 9 of 2020. Article 16 of this law stipulates that women must be no less than 25% of the total number of members of the Council of Representatives.

Result 5: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been distinguished for implementing significant amendments to national legislation that benefit Saudi women in various areas, including the right to work, retirement age, childcare, and freedom of travel and movement. Similarly, the Republic of Sudan has been recognized for abolishing provisions that previously discriminated against women and repealing the Public Order and Public Morals Law of Khartoum State, which had restricted women's freedom of movement and employment.



Kingdom of Bahrain

In 2020, the Minister of Labor and Social Development issued Decision No. (52) of 2020 regarding the prohibition of discrimination in wages between male and female workers, which stipulated in its first article that discrimination in wages between male and female workers occupying the same job is prohibited when their working conditions are similar. In 2021, Decree-Law No. (16) of 2021 was issued amending some provisions of the Labor Law in the Private Sector issued by Law No. (36) of 2012 by adding a second paragraph to Article (39) of the Labor Law in the Private Sector, prohibiting discrimination in wages between male and female workers in work of equal value, and canceling Articles (30) (31) that allow the Minister of Labor to prohibit the employment of women at night, and specify the jobs in which women may be employed.



State of Palestine

As for the State of Palestine, the Palestinian Elections Law was amended in 2021 to enhance women's participation in running for legislative elections (28), as the law stipulated that there must be a woman among the first three names on any electoral list to ensure that women's representation in the Legislative Council elections is at least 25%. Important political decisions were also announced in 2022 to enhance Palestinian women's participation in decision-making, and the National and Central Councils of the Palestine Liberation Organization issued a decision to raise women's representation in all Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) institutions to a minimum of 30% (29).



Republic of Lebanon

On October 2, 2021, the President of the National Commission for Lebanese Women submitted to the Prime Minister of Lebanon the text of an amendment to the Law on the Election of Members of the House of Representatives, No. (2017/44), with the aim of adopting a women's quota of 24 seats for women from among the parliamentary seats (33), and this text is still under review by the Lebanese government.



People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

- The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) was established, whose functions include supervising the management, preparation, organization, conduct and control of the electoral process.
- Order No. 21-101 dated 26 Rajab 1442 corresponding to March 10, 2021, was issued, including the organic law relating to the electoral system. This law stipulates parity and encourages young people of both sexes to participate politically according to Article 176. The state can also grant financial assistance to finance the electoral campaign of young candidates on independent lists.
- In the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the new electoral law abolished the quota system and provided for equity.

Percentage of Women in Parliamentary Elections 2018 – 2020

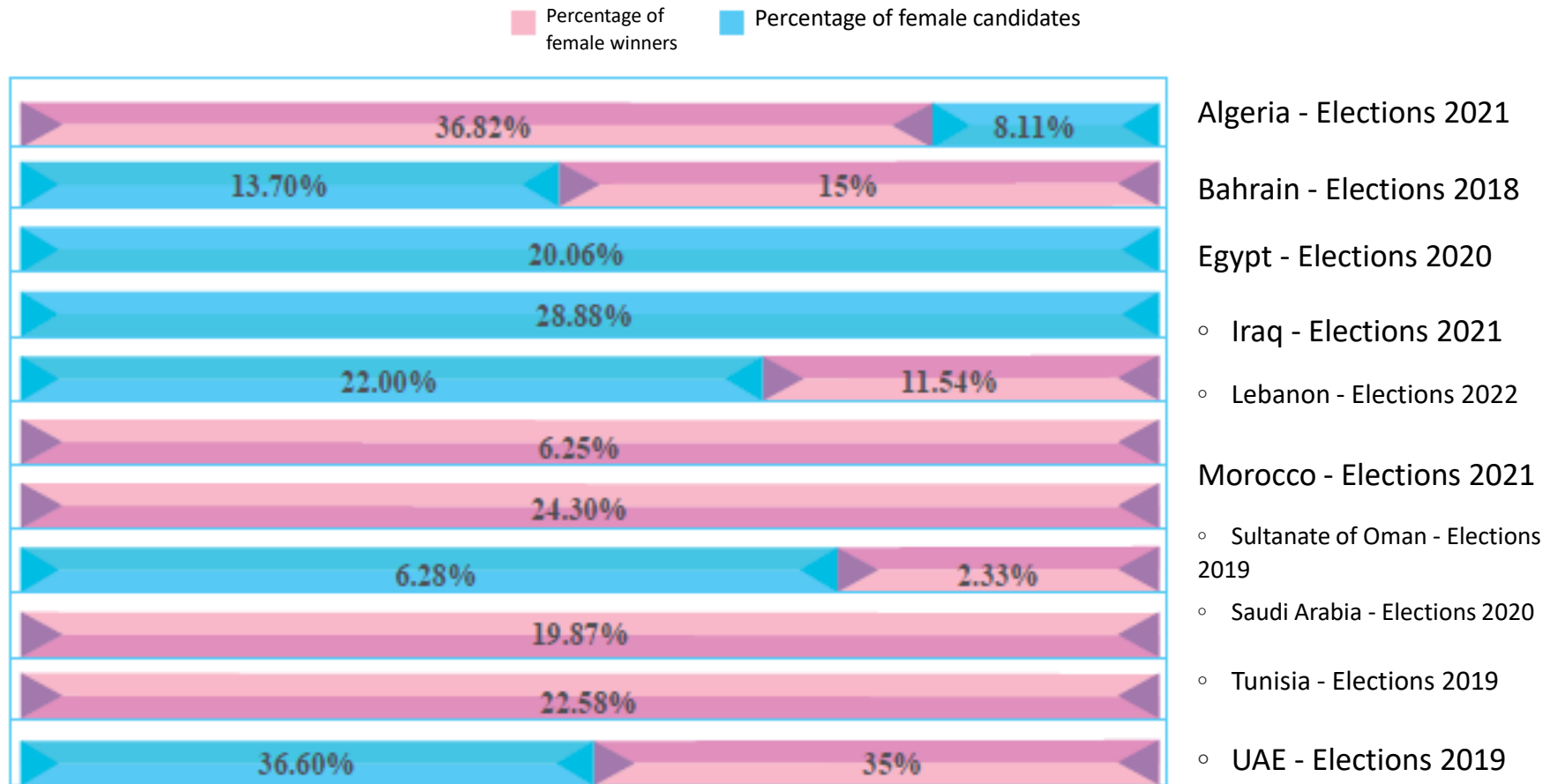
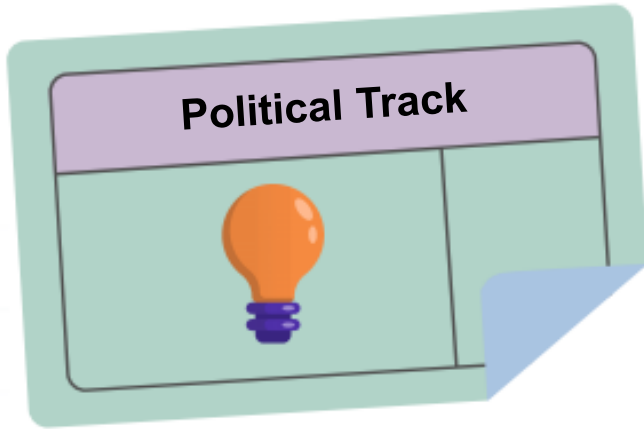
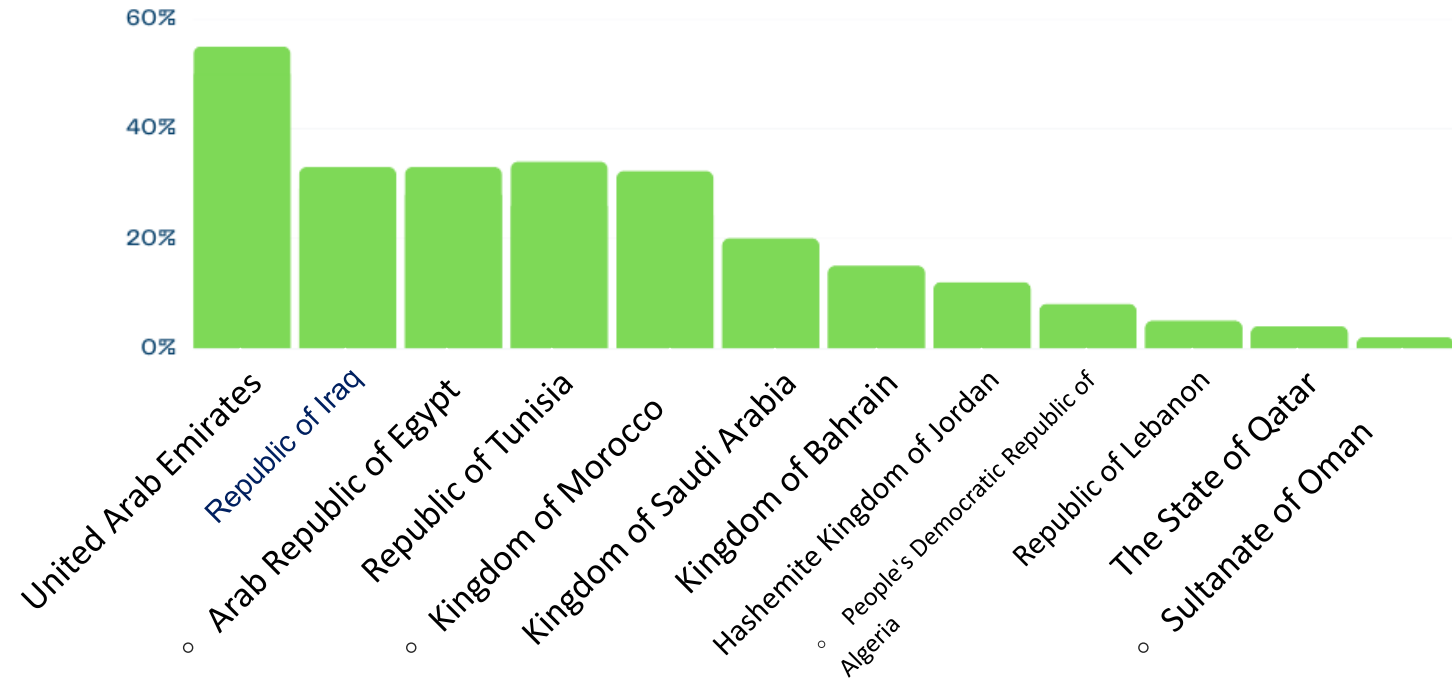


Figure 2: Percentage of Women in Parliamentary Elections.



Women's Participation Rate in Arab Parliaments 2021

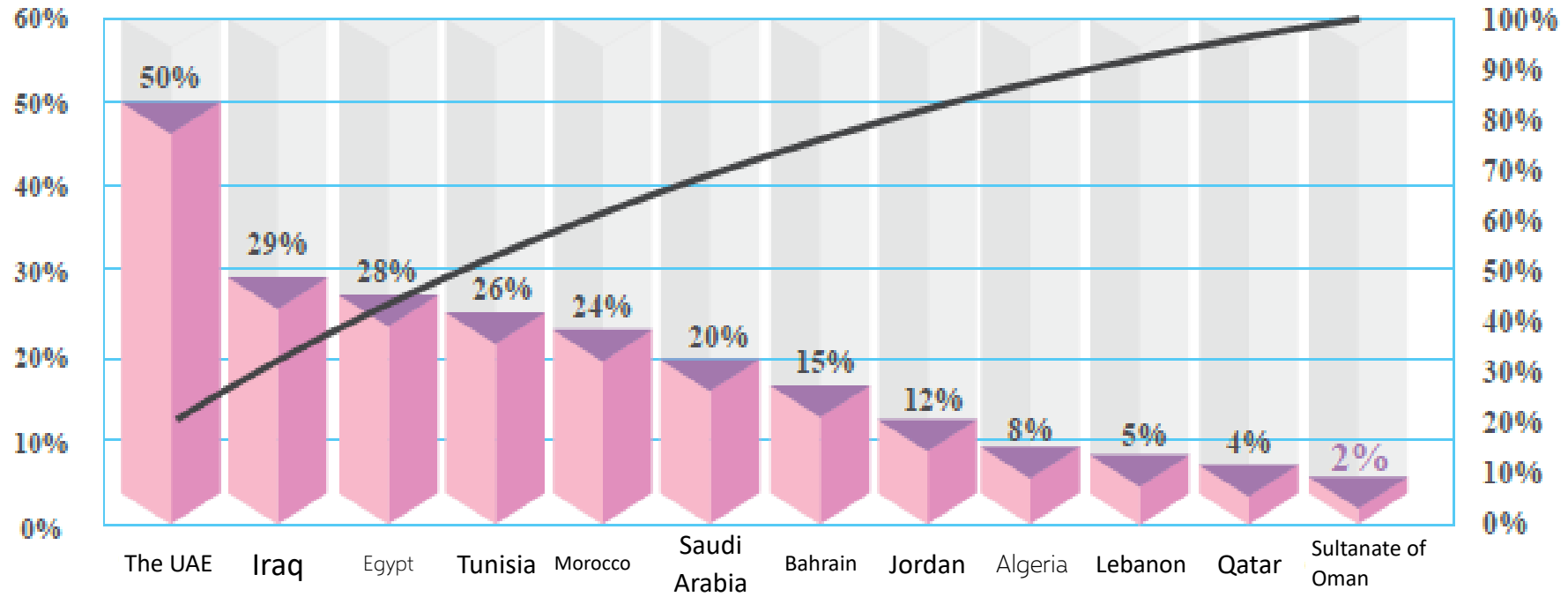


50%

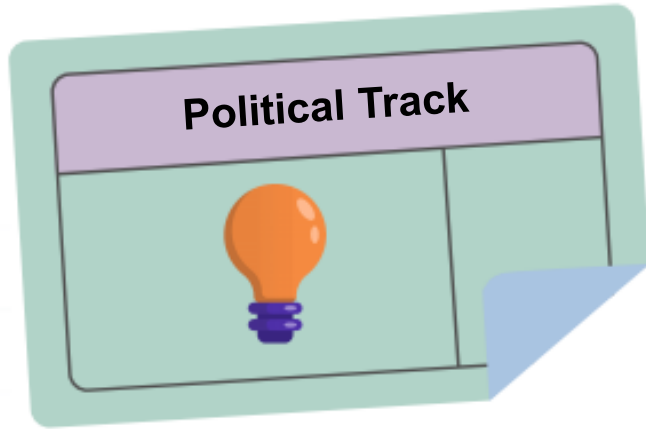
◦ The highest percentage of women's participation in parliament is in the United Arab Emirates.

Figure 1 Percentage of women in Arab parliaments

Percentage of Women in Arab Parliaments in 2021



○ Figure 1: Percentage of women in Arab parliaments in 2021

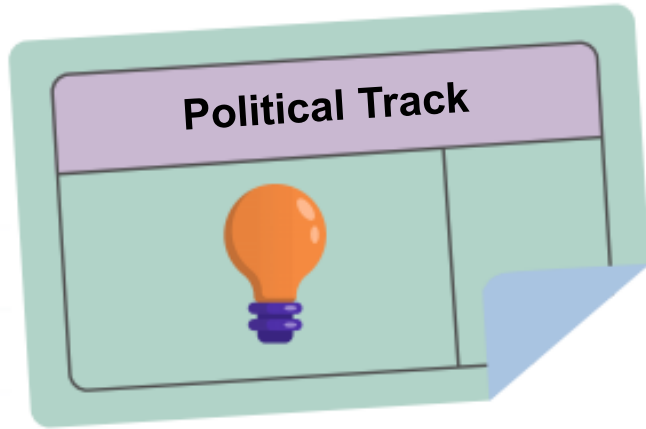


Saudi Arabia recorded the highest percentage of women running for municipal elections (**81%**) in 2020 compared to other Arab countries.



The **Lebanese Republic** has the highest Arab participation rate of women in the judiciary (**53.67%**).



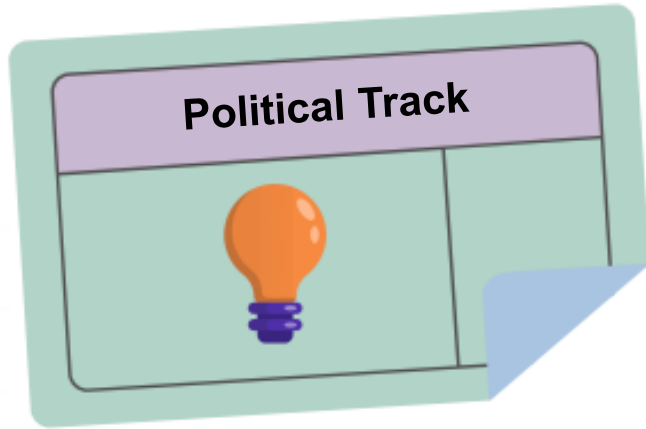


- In 2020, the percentage of women's quota in the Parliament of **the Arab Republic of Egypt** increased to **25%**.



The State of Qatar is distinguished by the fact that Qatari women hold senior positions in the government sector, and by the presence of 7 Qatari female judges, in addition to female judge assistants who work in the judiciary.



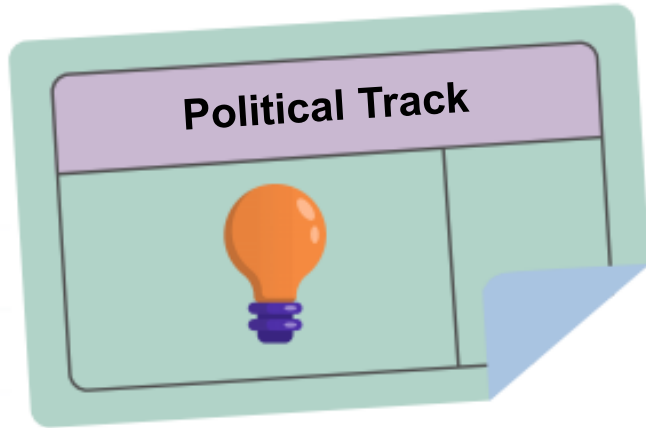


The **People's Democratic Republic of Algeria** recorded the highest percentage of female candidates in parliamentary elections among the Arab countries surveyed, at **36.8%**, followed closely by the **United Arab Emirates** at **36.6%**."



The **Tunisian Republic** recorded the highest rate of women's participation in municipalities, at **48.49%**, compared to other Arab countries surveyed during the period from 2017 to 2022.





- **The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan enacted the new Election Law for the House of Representatives No. 4 of 2022, which increased the minimum number of seats allocated to women from 15 to 18.**



The Republic of Iraq enacted the Iraqi House of Representatives Elections Law No. 9 of 2020, which stipulates in Article 16 that women must constitute at least 25% of the total members of the House of Representatives.



The Republic of Sudan repealed the Public Order and Morals Act in Khartoum State, which had restricted the freedom of movement for women and girls.

The main outcome of the regional review and the updated agenda for women's development in the Arab region over the next five years.

Adopted at the Arab Summit level by Resolution No. (S) S. 808 D. (p) 31, dated 2-3 November 2022.



The Ministerial Declaration

Arab Women's Development Agenda (2023-2028)

Gender Equity and Parity for Development and Environmental Sustainability



Political Track

- 1- Continue developing national legislation and enacting the necessary laws to ensure women's safe participation in the public sphere. Support women's participation in national and parliamentary elections and their access to senior leadership positions in official state institutions.
- 2- Continue formulating and implementing non-discriminatory policies to enhance women's right to participate at all levels of management across the three branches of government: executive, legislative, and judicial, ensuring fair representation.
- 3- Promote women's participation in diplomatic work and state foreign missions across political, economic, social, scientific, and environmental fields, as well as their involvement in official delegations participating in negotiations and peacekeeping operations.
- 4- Mainstream the integration of women's needs, gender balance, equality, and equal opportunities within national programmes and policies.
- 5- Build the capacity of male and female government employees in public policy area and implementation to further empower women.
- 6- Ensure women's participation in the development and formulation of all public policies, especially those related to the climate change crisis and policies for recovery from epidemics and disasters.
- 7- Continue empowering women and girls with disabilities and special needs to participate fully and integrate into society, ensuring equal opportunities for them to contribute to public, political, economic, cultural, and social life.
- 8- Develop a comprehensive, gender-disaggregated database managed by official government agencies. This database should classify data by gender, age, income level, educational attainment, occupation, disability status, and geographical location, serving as a resource for national programmes and policy development.
- 9- Promote and support women's and girls' advancement to decision-making positions, emphasizing the enhancement of their roles in leaderships.



Regional Review +5

Thank you

