

Economic and Social Commission for Western  
Asia

# Beijing +30: Expert Group Meeting to Review the Joint Arab Draft Report

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Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



# Session 1: Comprehensive Review Methodology for Beijing Thirty Years Later

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## Methodology and Approach

- ★ The report fulfills the role assigned to the UN regional commissions in conducting regional reviews on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.
- ★ The report is mainly based on the findings of analytical reviews conducted by Arab States at the national level.
- ★ The report provides a quantitative analysis of national data and a qualitative analysis of achievements and challenges.
- ★ The report is not a summary of the national reports, but rather monitors general trends in the region in order to shed light on regional trends in the field of gender equality.
- ★ The report draws on examples from national reports on achievements at the national level.

- ★ 15 Arab States submitted their national reports, namely: the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Republic of Tunisia, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Republic of Iraq, the Sultanate of Oman, the State of Palestine, the State of Kuwait, the Lebanese Republic, the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the Kingdom of Morocco.
- ★ Regional consultations were held with representatives of Arab parliaments, civil society organizations and national human rights institutions, including disability organizations dealing with issues of women and girls with disabilities, to review their progress, challenges and future priorities.

# Report Structure and Content

## Section One: The situation of women in the Arab region

### ★ General Context

- 1) Political and Social Context
- 2) Developmental Context
- 3) Situation of women

### ★ Legislation and laws

- 1) Joining international conventions
- 2) Changes related to national constitutions and legislation
- 3) Legislative steps to protect women's participation in labor, politics, economy and society
- 4) Protecting women from violence
- 5) Personal status issues

### ★ Achievements

- 1) Comprehensive development, common prosperity and decent work
- 2) Poverty Eradication, social protection and social services
- 3) Freedom from violence, stigmatization and stereotypes
- 4) Participation, accountability and gender-responsive institutions
- 5) Peaceful societies where no one is marginalized
- 6) Conservation, protection and restoration of the environment

## **Section Two: Priorities, Achievements, Challenges and Obstacles**

This section aims to highlight regional developments and general trends in the region regarding the empowerment of women and girls and the achievement of gender equality over the past five years, highlighting achievements, challenges, Pitfalls, priorities and specific actions to prevent discrimination according to States' responses to Chapter two in their national reports.

## **Section Three: Progress Across the 12 Critical Areas of Concern**

This section presents progress in each of the 12 critical areas of concern of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, according to States' responses on the six dimensions:

- 1) Comprehensive development, common prosperity and decent work
- 2) Poverty Eradication, social protection and social services
- 3) Freedom from violence, stigmatization and stereotypes
- 4) Participation, accountability and gender-responsive institutions
- 5) Peaceful societies where no one is marginalized
- 6) Conservation, protection and restoration of the environment

This section is based on the national reports submitted by Arab States, and presents the best practices and success stories that Arab States have implemented, and the policies and interventions that they have adopted during the past five years.

## **Section Four: National Institutions and Procedures**

This section aims to highlight the types of national mechanisms entrusted with bridging the gender gap and empowering women and girls, noting changes in this regard over the past five years. It also addresses the challenges that prevent women and girls from marginalized groups from participating in these mechanisms. This section relies on the information provided in section four of the Guidance Note and the responses of States.

## **Section Five: Data and Statistics**

This section aims to review progress made on the availability of sex-disaggregated data, indicators that reflect the gender gap and indicators that reflect the extent of women and girls' empowerment as a cornerstone for planning, follow-up and evaluation purposes, and the consequent policy development, intervention design and resource allocation in order to increase the effectiveness of achieving the Beijing Platform for Action.

## **Section Six: Conclusions and Next Steps**

This section aims to draw a proposed roadmap to be followed to accelerate the pace of achieving gender equality, in light of the regional context, and while benefiting from the success stories and best practices of the States of the Arab region. This section also addresses the priorities for the next five years, taking into account the existing disparities between Arab States and without neglecting the national context. This section is based on from the national reports and their responses to section six of the Guidance Note, and the relevant reports issued by the United Nations organizations.



# Report Sources

- ★ The regional report is based on detailed national reports prepared by fifteen States for the period 2020-2024, which reviewed achievements and challenges in the twelve areas of the Beijing Platform for Action in accordance with the recommendations of the Guidance Note that sets out the format for national reviews.
- ★ The report also draws on data from the United Nations and the League of Arab States to illustrate the economic, social, political, cultural, environmental and security contexts of Arab States and the region as a whole. These sources include indicators whose value may in some cases differ from that of national data. However, the preference for using them is due to the desire to provide indicators that have been calculated in a unified manner, are consistent in terms of definitions and can therefore be compared across Arab States, based on internationally agreed standard definitions.
- ★ The report also relied on the outputs of the Gender Justice and Law Platform to review the successes achieved at the national level in achieving gender justice and the gaps that States shall consider in order to be able to implement their international commitments and obligations.
- ★ The report was informed by the outcomes of the parallel consultations to the periodic review, in particular the meetings of representatives of Arab parliaments and civil society organizations. These consultations aimed to discuss progress made on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and future priorities from the perspectives of non-governmental stakeholders.



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Thank You