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## Arab Declaration

Issued by the Arab Regional Preparatory

Meeting for the 69<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN

Commission on the Status of Women

### ***“Towards Beijing +35 Declaration and Platform for Action”***

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Under the auspices of the League of Arab States (LAS) and headed by the State of Palestine, Chair of the 44<sup>th</sup> session of the Arab Women's Commission, we, the ministers and representatives of national machineries for women's affairs in the member states of the LAS, participating in the Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations, met on Monday, February 17, 2025, via the digital platform, to coordinate and agree on a unified Arab regional position on the issues that shall be debated during the course of the (69<sup>th</sup>) session of the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations.

**Coinciding with** the thirtieth anniversary of adopting the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#), the countdown to achieving the goals of the 2030 Sustainable Development Plan begins.

**Recognising** that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action after 30 years represents a landmark moment for the world's countries to renew their commitments to empowering women and girls and achieving gender equality,

**we commend** the efforts of the Arab countries participating in preparing the sixth regional review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action by submitting 19 national reports, taking into account all the difficult political, economic and social circumstances that some countries in the Arab region are going through, especially the Arab countries under Israeli occupation and suffering from conflicts, disputes, and crises, and where concerns related to human rights and issues of gender equality are exacerbated.

**We affirm** General Assembly Resolution No. 64/185 on the permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people over their natural resources and their utilization without any restriction or condition from any party.



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**We pay tribute to** the heroic steadfastness of Palestinian women and their resistance against the Israeli colonial occupation for more than seventy-six years. Furthermore, we underline their inalienable right to self-determination and to have an independent, sovereign state with East Jerusalem as its capital. Guided by the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on the legal implications of Israel's policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which calls for ending the Israeli occupation within twelve months, the resolution of the peaceful settlement of the Palestinian question, and the resolution issued by the Arab Six-Party Meeting rejecting the displacement of Palestinians. Reiterating that Israel's policies and practices, including the retention and expansion of settlements, the ban on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), and the unprecedented escalation of hostilities in the West Bank, portend further atrocities that amount to no less than war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity committed in the Gaza Strip.

**We condemn** the systematic violence practised by the Rapid Support Militia against defenceless civilians in Sudan, especially women and girls, who are subjected to grave violations, including forms of sexual violence. These violations, including rape, abduction, and forced detention in conditions amounting to sexual slavery and human trafficking, have been used as tools of warfare. In addition, we call for enhanced support for survivors by providing the necessary health and mental services.

**We also reaffirm** the content of **the Ministerial Declaration issued by the countries participating in the Fourth High-Level Ministerial Conference on Women, Peace, and Security, "Women Facing Wars,"**<sup>1</sup> (November 2024), which reflects what women in the Arab region are suffering under armed conflicts, wars, and the continued Israeli occupation of the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem.

**In light of these challenges,** we commend the tangible progress made by Arab countries to advance the status of women and girls and empower them to ensure a prosperous life, and all efforts made to enhance the development and advancement of women and girls in all fields, including education, work, health, decision-making and all key social and economic indicators, as stated in **the regional report on the 30-year review of**

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<sup>1</sup> [Ministerial Declaration on Women, Peace, and Security](#)



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progress in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the Arab region<sup>2</sup>, as well as in the “Muscat Declaration on progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the Arab region after thirty years” (December 2024)<sup>3</sup>.

**In consultation with** determining a unified Arab position in international forums, achieving regional consensus on insights on the political declaration issued by the (69<sup>th</sup>) session of the Commission on the Status of Women, and taking into account the plans and budgets of member states to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Plan and the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda (WPS Agenda).

**Recognising** the importance of working within a comprehensive and coherent framework by linking the areas of interest of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the pathways of the Women’s Development Agenda in the Arab Region (2023-2028), and the Arab strategies on Arab women, security, and peace, and in light of the follow-up to the outcomes of the Special Session (23) of the General Assembly (2000), we agreed to work together to expedite the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action through the following priority areas, taking into account the specificities of each country and its relevant national plans:

**First: Involving women in peace and security, peacemaking, and peacebuilding:**

1. Enhancing women’s participation in mediation, peacebuilding, and preventive diplomacy efforts to prevent conflicts and end the Israeli occupation.
2. Supporting women’s participation in relief, recovery, reconstruction, and political transition efforts through youth-and women-led initiatives to ensure increased representation of women in the recovery and reconstruction phase and to foster their role in decision-making and state-building as a key priority, especially in the wake of the ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, Lebanon, and the transition in Syria.
3. Enabling women to fully enjoy their right to self-determination.

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<sup>2</sup> [The comprehensive Arab report on progress in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action after thirty years](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Muscat Declaration](#)



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4. Preventing and addressing sexual violence related to the Israeli occupation, conflicts, and crises as a priority for peace and security.
5. Supporting accountability efforts for all victims, women and girls, and improving remedies and reparations.
6. Training women on communication, negotiation, and conflict resolution planning skills to participate in decision-making.

### **Second: Responding to the needs of women and girls in areas affected by the Israeli occupation, armed conflicts, and wars:**

1. Immediate and complete cessation of any activity that infringes on any of the human rights of women, children, and the elderly as stipulated in international conventions as well as the criminalisation of all acts that violate these rights.
2. Providing urgent humanitarian assistance that responds to the special needs of women and girls affected and forcibly displaced by the genocide, Israeli aggression, and crimes committed in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, such as reconstructing the Gaza Strip, building its institutions, restoring basic services, and operating health and educational facilities.
3. Providing aid and support to Sudanese women and girls, including those forcibly displaced, and strengthening legal and social protection and prevention for them.
4. Providing psychosocial support services to survivors of wars, especially those who have lost their families or a family member, or those who have lost a limb, as they are in dire need of social inclusion and rehabilitation.
5. Providing legal services to all war survivors to guide them on giving evidence in the competent international tribunals and documenting war crimes committed by the Israeli occupation forces and in every place where there are armed conflicts.

### **Third: Further working to fill gaps in the availability of data and statistics:**

1. Collecting and monitoring data and statistics from their main sources, and accessing to and analyzing data disaggregated by gender, age, social status, disability, geographic location and refugee status to inform the policy-making in line with the orientations and specificities of each country, and including them so that they become available in all Arab statistical databases.



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2. Strengthening capacity to generate knowledge and collect, analyse, and use gender-disaggregated data to monitor progress on gender equality issues based on the Sustainable Development Goals, the WPS Agenda, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and to guide policy-making and programme development in member states.
3. Valuing and counting women's invisible, unpaid, and informal work in statistical systems and official data.

#### **Fourth: Continued support for the economic, social, cultural, and political empowerment of Arab women:**

1. Further working on closing the gap between the high education indicator for women and girls in the Arab region and their poor participation in the labour market through several measures aimed at facilitating women's access to financial inclusion services, supporting financial and digital literacy programmes and vocational training, supporting job opportunities in emerging growth sectors, new occupations, the green and circular economy, and in entrepreneurship and innovation.
2. Supporting the care economy for women's economic empowerment by recognising the value of care work and encouraging the involvement of family members in contributing to the care provided to different groups of care recipients among family members, while continuing to provide decent working conditions for caregivers and strengthening public-private partnerships to deliver quality public care services.
3. Further promoting women's leadership roles and participation in decision-making in the public and private sectors towards meeting international standards for achieving gender equality, through implementing special measures and legislation to promote women's participation at the national level by allocating the necessary budget appropriation or applying budgets that respond to women's needs.
4. Further developing legislation and laws and developing strategies at the national and Arab levels to support women's economic, political, and social participation and ensure that they have equal opportunities with men at all levels.
5. Recognising the Arab efforts made in the field of women's empowerment, we emphasize the importance of highlighting the distinguished national initiatives in regional and international forums, which contributed to achieving tangible progress in the areas of enhancing women's participation in the areas of sustainable development. Arab countries have witnessed the launch of qualitative policies and programmes, including



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legislative reforms, economic strategies, and innovative social initiatives, that have had a positive impact on supporting women and enhancing their roles in various sectors.

6. The Declaration values the exchange of expertise and best practices between countries and the investment of opportunities, thus promoting regional cooperation and supporting joint efforts to continue the path of women's empowerment, guided by successful experiences that have proven effective in achieving social justice and sustainable development.
7. Promoting women's participation in technology and the digital economy by ensuring equal opportunities in education and training in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), developing national policies that support women's entrepreneurship in the digital sector, and encouraging their engagement in areas of innovation and advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence and cybersecurity.
8. Facilitating their access to financing and state-of-the-art technology to support pilot projects, enhancing flexible work opportunities and remote work, as well as using digital platforms for economic and social empowerment, which contribute to expanding the role of women in sustainable development and building a comprehensive digital economy.

#### **Fifth: Working to protect women and girls from all forms of violence:**

1. Further implementing, developing, and funding national strategies, action plans, and legal frameworks aimed at ending violence against women, ensuring that support reaches everyone without exception.
2. Promoting the expansion of national studies on the costs of violence against women and girls and gender-responsive budgeting, using them to provide evidence-based data to guide decision-making, and allocating the necessary resources to protection and prevention services.
3. Developing prevention and protection mechanisms in government institutions and the private sector, to protect against all forms of violence, discrimination and behavioural violations.
4. Focusing on preventing and protecting women and girls from digital violence, which is an obstacle to achieving gender equality and women empowerment, which poses a growing threat in a technology-based world.
5. Strengthening cooperation between government and private sectors to provide the necessary funding for specific programmes aimed at eliminating violence against women and girls.



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## **Sixth: Adapting to climate change, confronting and mitigating the risks of disasters and the environment:**

1. Further developing and implementing policies, strategies, plans, programmes and budgets that are responsive to the needs of women and girls and related to climate and disaster risk reduction.
2. Investing in capacity-building efforts to mainstream gender equality and women's empowerment into policies of climate change and disaster risk reduction, and strengthening multi-stakeholder and multi-sectorial collaboration and partnerships to advance climate action.
3. Encouraging and motivating women to take leadership roles in climate action and to fully and effectively participate in decision-making processes related to the risks of climate change, disasters, and emergency crises, including the formulation of national adaptation plans, nationally determined contributions, and coordination mechanisms to ensure that priorities related to women and girls are taken into account.
4. Raising awareness of climate issues and their impact on the most vulnerable groups in society.
5. Exchanging experiences between countries in the field of climate change and national adaptation plans.