

**Arab High-level Conference on Progress Achieved in the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action after 20 Years
Cairo, 2-3 February 2015**

**Arab Declaration
Towards Justice and Equality for Women in the Arab Region**

We, Ministers and Heads of national women's machineries responsible for the advancement of women in the Arab region, participating in the Arab High-level Conference on Progress Achieved in the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action after 20 Years, which was held in Cairo on 2 and 3 February 2015 under the theme "Towards justice and equality for women in the Arab region",

Recalling the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2000); Economic and Social Council resolution E/RES/2013/18 that encourages United Nations regional commissions, including the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), to undertake regional reviews of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; and Security Council resolutions related to women, peace and security, particularly resolutions 1325 and 1820,

Acknowledge that the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2000); the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014; the United Nations post-2015 development agenda; the sustainable development goals; and the Cairo Declaration entitled "Post-2015 Development Agenda for Arab Women: Opportunities and Challenges" are directly linked to effective gender equality and justice for women;

Recognize Arab women's capacity to contribute to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the centrality of their role as partners in sustainable development and the importance of creating an enabling environment to empower women, foster their initiatives and enhance their participation;

Realize the dangers that women are exposed to in the Arab region, especially in Iraq, Libya, Palestine and the Syrian Arab Republic, due to foreign occupation, armed conflicts and terrorism, which cause flagrant violations of women's rights that undermine their legal, social, economic, political, civic and cultural achievements and expose them to displacement, oppression and suffering, hindering countries' development;

Value the support provided by ESCWA, the League of Arab States and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to State efforts towards the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the advancement of women in the Arab region;

Acknowledge the valuable efforts of States and their achievements, while recognizing the increased challenges that impede the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

Reaffirm:

- Our renewed commitment to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the Arab region and to the enhancement of the political will and efforts needed to accelerate implementation;
- Our commitment to fulfilling the obligations and provisions of international treaties and conventions related to women's rights, particularly the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), its protocols and general recommendations;

- Our will to sustain efforts towards mainstreaming the principles of gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda; harmonizing positions in national, regional and international processes for the achievement of sustainable development; and working on the formulation of indicators that monitor the effective realization of women's rights;
- Our commitment to mainstreaming issues of women's empowerment in policies, plans, programmes and budgets, and to ensuring the availability of detailed sex-disaggregated statistics and data, and of gender indicators that facilitate follow-up and evaluation processes;
- Our commitment to guaranteeing the availability of financial, human and technical resources to sustain efforts towards the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;
- Our support to national dialogues in conflict-stricken countries to ensure a safe environment for women and improve their living conditions.

We, Participants in this Conference,

Recognizing the current developments in the Arab region and the challenges to the full realization of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action objectives, which include overcoming marginalization, discrimination and negative cultural norms, and combating poverty, illiteracy and all forms of violence, particularly in contexts of occupation, armed conflicts, terrorism and forced displacement;

Emphasize our commitment to achieving justice and equality between men and women by taking all the necessary actions and measures in the 12 critical areas of concern of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, namely women and poverty; education and training of women; women and health; violence against women; women and armed conflict; women and the economy; women in power and decision-making; institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women; human rights of women; women and media; women and environment; and the girl child;

Reaffirm the need to combat discrimination against women in its various forms, and to identify and tackle emerging priorities through the formulation and enactment of comprehensive laws and legislations; strengthening of institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women; ensuring women's political, economic and social empowerment; protection of women from violence; and building women's knowledge, and cultural and media capacity;

Dedicate special attention to the situation of women in Arab countries affected by foreign occupation, wars, armed conflicts and terrorism, in particular to women refugees, internally displaced and in forced migration, through the adoption of preventive, protective and rehabilitation measures and through rapid responses to humanitarian crises;

Commit to constructive joint work, consolidation of efforts and exchange of expertise and knowledge, and to the establishment of cooperation frameworks with civil society organizations and United Nations agencies, particularly with ESCWA, UN-Women and concerned regional and international organizations, especially the League of Arab States, to tackle challenges, advance the situation of women in the Arab region and ensure a dignified and safe life for them, so that they fully enjoy their rights in both times of peace and of instability.