

ARAB REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Ten Years after Beijing

CALL FOR PEACE

8-10 July 2004, Beirut



Distr.
LIMITED
E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/6
13 July 2004
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

REPORT

ARAB REGIONAL CONFERENCE TEN YEARS AFTER BEIJING: CALL FOR PEACE BEIRUT, 8-10 JULY 2004

Summary

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) held the Arab Regional Conference Ten Years After Beijing: Call for Peace at United Nations House in Beirut during the period 8-10 July 2004, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 58/148 of 22 December 2003 in which the General Assembly recognizes the importance attached to the regional and subregional monitoring of the global and subregional platforms for action and the implementation of the outcome of the twenty-third session by regional commissions and other regional or subregional structures.

The conference comprised three meetings, namely, the second session of the Committee on Women, the Expert Group Meeting to Follow Up on the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing + 10) and the second meeting of the Consultative Committee for Non-Governmental Organizations at ESCWA.

The conference was organized around four seminars on the role of women in Arab parliaments, women in executive and decision-making positions, women in civil society and women in the media and intellectual and cultural life. The seminar concerned with women in civil society constituted the second meeting of the Consultative Committee for Non-Governmental Organizations. The three other seminars constituted the Expert Group Meeting to Follow Up on the Fourth World Conference on Women. Each seminar resulted in a set of conclusions and recommendations that form the basis of the Beirut Declaration on Arab Women Ten Years After Beijing: Call for Peace.

The present report contains a review of the recommendations issued by the conference and the most important conclusions of the discussion of each agenda item.

I. RESOLUTIONS ISSUED BY THE CONFERENCE

1. The Committee on Women adopted the following two resolutions at its second session:
 - A. RESOLUTION ON THE ARAB REGIONAL CONFERENCE TEN YEARS AFTER BEIJING:
CALL FOR PEACE

The Committee on Women of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/9 of 18 July 2003 on the establishment within the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) of a committee on women responsible, inter alia, for following up global and regional conferences and the participation of member countries therein and coordinating the endeavours of member countries and regional organizations with regard to implementation of the resolutions and recommendations adopted at such conferences,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 58/148 of 22 December 2003, in which the Assembly recognized the importance attached to the regional and subregional monitoring of the global and regional platforms for action and of the implementation of the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

Noting with satisfaction the progress achieved with regard to the advancement of Arab women and the narrowing of gender gaps in the fields of education and health as well as in the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and related legislation,

Recognizing at the same time that illiteracy and unemployment rates remain much higher among women than men and that women in some countries in the region suffer from poverty and recognizing also the participation of Arab women in decision-making remains limited at the local and municipal level and in the legislative, executive and judicial spheres,

Deeply concerned with regard to the adverse effects of wars, the occupation of Arab territories and political instability on the advancement of women and girls in the region,

1. *Endorses* the Beirut Declaration on Arab Women Ten Years After Beijing: Call for Peace issued by the Arab Regional Conference Ten Years After Beijing and attached as an annex to this resolution;

2. *Appeals to* the international community to take action to end the wars and find a just and lasting solution for the occupied territories in the Arab region so that security and peace prevail, so restoring prosperity and progress to the peoples of the region, including women;

3. *Calls on* all governments to implement the Beirut Declaration on "Arab Women Ten Years After Beijing: Call for Peace";

4. *Urges* all governments to strengthen national machineries for women by the allocation of adequate human and financial resources;

5. *Requests* ESCWA to provide advisory services, at the request of national governments, in the area of the empowerment and advancement of women, with particular focus on the production of gender-disaggregated data, strengthening of national machineries and provision of support in the preparation of national reports on the implementation of CEDAW and mainstreaming gender in policies and programmes.

Annex

BEIRUT DECLARATION ON ARAB WOMEN TEN YEARS AFTER BEIJING: CALL FOR PEACE

1. We, the participants in the Arab Regional Conference Ten Years After Beijing: Call for Peace, gathered at ESCWA headquarters in United Nations House in Beirut from 8 to 10 July 2004, recalling General Assembly resolutions 52/100 of 12 December 1997 and 52/231 of 4 June 1998 on follow-up to the

ministries, councils, bodies and commissions, the attainment by women in some countries of their political rights, the allocation of quotas to women in the parliaments of some countries and the ratification by 17 countries of CEDAW.

9. We recognize that the findings of the questionnaire have also highlighted the existence of challenges that require further work and effort, including illiteracy, the school dropout rate of girls, violence against women including the negative impact of terrorism on the advancement of society in general and women in particular, discrimination in legislation with particular regard to penal codes, in addition to social traditions and customs. The findings have also made clear that women in the Arab region continue to suffer from the problems of poverty, unemployment, budget restrictions on programmes for their advancement and the absence of accurate, gender-disaggregated statistics.

In the light of this analysis, we consider that the vision that needs to be implemented in the coming ten years in order to empower women, improve their conditions and increase their participation in political, economic and social life requires the following:

10. Urging governments to formulate strategies and programmes for the empowerment of women in conjunction with public policy priorities and variables at the national level, in order to achieve MDGs during the coming ten years;

11. Action to increase budgets and human resources allocated to policies, programmes and national mechanisms concerned with women and linkage of these budgets to the public budget;

12. Analysis and treatment of the indicators that demonstrate the existence of a gap between equality under the law and actual equality with regard to parliamentary representation since, although the fundamental right of women and men to political participation is recognized, the representation of women in parliaments remains token or non-existent;

13. Continuous review and updating of national legislation and amendment of discriminatory legislation, action to invigorate and apply laws in force, review of laws and legislation on political parties and electoral systems in order to promote the role of women, in particular the requirement to assign a proportion of political party nomination lists for women, allocation of quotas for women in public institutions and, in particular, legislative institutions in order to guarantee an increase in their participation in political activity;

14. Establishment of a gender-disaggregated information and database covering projects and programmes concerned with women's issues in the Arab countries in order to facilitate the exchange of information and comparison with the situation of women in other countries;

15. Establishment of observatories and early-warning mechanisms for follow-up and analysis of the social phenomena particular to the situation of women and girls so that social problems can be remedied before they become severe;

16. Elimination of the political obstacles and security concerns that hinder the advancement of society and women in some areas through linkage of women's issues to public policy issues, the utilization of positive political rhetoric in favour of women and emphasis on clarification of the influence of these policies on their interests;

17. Emphasis on the role of women in strengthening the concepts of peace and dialogue to which the Arab countries aspire, since equality and development cannot be achieved in the absence of peace, and emphasis on the need of Arab women for peace, security and stability as the political obstacles before them are occupation, settlement and menace;

18. Interlinkage of the efforts of men and women to achieve democracy and human rights and mainstreaming gender in development policies;

33. Change the negative image of Arab women in the media through the formulation of audio visual media programmes and direct means of communication;
34. Promote media coverage in order to raise awareness of the rights of women and rectify the flawed perceptions that distort the image of Arab women to the broadest audience, including rural and remote areas, and accord the necessary concern to the media rhetoric directed to the world at large in order to change this image;
35. Monitoring, highlighting and making accessible the successful experiences of women in the media and, in particular the difficulties encountered with regard to the experience of Arab women in satellite channels and coverage of armed conflict zones and wars and the allocation of the necessary resources;
36. Establishment of an association for Arab women in the media in order to facilitate communication among them and with other parties;
37. Establishment of media colleges and centres for training women in countries without such institutions;
38. Call on governments to formulate programmes for raising awareness in schools, media, public institutions and local administrations in order to eliminate wrongful customs and traditions and illegal practices and laws that hinder the advancement of women, prejudice their rights and equality with men and distort their image;
39. Holding workshops and seminars at ESCWA that bring together women in the media, women intellectuals and civil society organizations;
40. Undertaking by ESCWA to prepare a comprehensive directory of the names of women intellectuals, media figures and researchers, in order to improve media coverage of women's issues;
41. Coordination between ESCWA, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the League of Arab States, the Arab Women Organization (AWO) and the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR) with regard to the preparation of the report of NGOs on evaluation of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, for inclusion with the report of governments;
42. Undertaking by ESCWA to organize meetings with Arab parliaments, unions and national associations and organize an international Arab forum that includes Asian women, in order to benefit from their experiences and attainment of key positions, in addition to giving women the opportunity to make their viewpoint known at the hearings held in European parliaments.

B. RESOLUTION ON THE SUBPROGRAMME ON THE EMPOWERMENT AND ADVANCEMENT
OF WOMEN WITHIN THE PROPOSED STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK
FOR THE BIENNIUM 2006-2007

The Committee on Women of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling the restructuring of the ESCWA programme of work that requires the review of its priorities,

Recalling also ESCWA resolution 240 (XXII) of 17 April 2003 on the establishment within ESCWA of a committee on women,

Expressing its satisfaction with the establishment of a centre for women within the secretariat with the responsibility for acting as the secretariat of the Committee on Women, pursuant to the above-mentioned resolution,

Informed that the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007 includes a special subprogramme on the empowerment and advancement of women,

6. Ms. Bahia Hariri commended the theme of the conference, "Call for Peace", in view of its significance for the Arab region and the impossibility of achieving development without stability. She also called on the international community to review the extent of its support to just Arab issues. Foremost among these issues was that of the Palestinian people, which was suffering from occupation and conflicts, in addition to the issue of those living in the Syrian territories in occupied Golan, Shebaa farms in Lebanon and the Iraqi people.

7. During the discussion, the following main points were raised and conclusions reached:

(a) The importance of the participation of women in all aspects of economic, social and political life for the achievement of comprehensive development;

(b) The linkage between the issue of the political participation of women and shortcomings with regard to the position adopted by political parties with regard to the participation of women in general and political activity in particular, in addition to the possibility of implementing a specific quota system for women in legislative councils;

(c) The importance of accepting the principle of the rotation of authority through electoral funds in a correct electoral process and encouragement of the formation of new political parties;

(d) The existence of a number of mechanisms for the empowerment of women, including consultation with civil society institutions, coordination with the concerned ministries and institutions, participation in all committees, assistance from experts and specialists and their involvement in the activities of the committees and other bodies;

(e) The need to implement compulsory education on a broad scale and eradicate illiteracy at all levels;

(f) Continued work on the modernization of legislation, including that related to electoral systems and emphasis on the importance of adopting national legislation in conformity with international criteria as set out in CEDAW, and establishment of the necessary mechanisms for the implementation of CEDAW;

(g) Focus on the means whereby women can gain access to parliaments and their performance within them, as well as invigoration of the role played by women parliamentarians in the call for peace in the region;

(h) Action to form women's pressure blocs and set in motion an initiative for reform through this seminar;

(i) Preparation of a news publication for Arab women parliamentarians that would permit the exchange of information and news and communication with civil society organizations as an important point of access to the grass roots;

(j) Formulation of a practical motivation programme for Arab men and women parliamentarians that would lead to the desired positive change;

(k) Call on ESCWA to conduct studies on the obstacles and impediments faced by women parliamentarians and formulate a training programme in order to enhance the roles played by women in parliaments and, in particular, on dialogue and the use of political rhetoric.

2. Seminar with Arab women ministers and executives to discuss the role of women in public life

8. The seminar was chaired by Ms. Berglind Asgeirsdottir, Deputy Secretary-General of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The main speakers were Ms. Carolyn Hannan, Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women at the United Nations; Ms. Naziha Zarrouk, Ambassador of Tunisia in Lebanon; Ms. Fatimah Abdel Mahmoud, United Nations Educational, Scientific

12. Ms. Afkhami opened the seminar with a summary of her experience with civil society organizations, during which she noted that opinion polls in the region indicated an aspiration towards democracy. She focused on the need to kindle awareness among youth and women of the issue of gender equality and cause change in cultural concepts. She emphasized the importance of cooperation and exchange of experiences between civil society organizations in the various Arab countries in order to replicate the successful experiences that produce the desired results.

13. During the discussion, the following points were raised and conclusions reached:

(a) Neglect of many of the ratified international conventions for the disabled who constitute 10 per cent of the total world population and, in particular, disabled women with special needs;

(b) Insufficiency of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, responsibility for which rests jointly with governments and civil society;

(c) Insufficiency of civil society action with regard to emergency aid services in a number of Arab countries because of political circumstances and instability, as in Palestine and Iraq;

(d) Absence of genuine, institutional democracy, existence of laws and legislation that restrict the freedom of action of NGOs and the need to create a climate of confidence for genuine, sound partnership between NGOs and governments;

(e) Lack of coordination between civil society organizations at the national, regional and international level;

(f) Absence of young leaderships;

(g) Lack and reduction of financial resources;

(h) Neglect of the private sector to assume its responsibilities with regard to implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;

(i) Indivisibility of assistance and provision of services on the one hand and contribution to the development process on the other hand, because of the overlap between all development activities;

(j) Importance of the utilization of micro-credit as a means to empower women and encourage them to undertake income generation projects;

(k) Strengthening the partnership between NGOs and governments and emphasizing the role of these organizations in monitoring and building bridges between peoples and governments;

(l) The need to amend the laws and legislation that protect the work of NGOs in the Arab countries;

(m) Urging civil society organizations to focus on comprehensive, sustainable development in addition to pastoral activities;

(n) Undertaking by ESCWA to conduct a comparative study on the situation of women in conflict zones and violent circumstances and those in countries that enjoy stability;

(o) Call on ESCWA to conduct a study on the role of NGOs in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the experience of Arab women, with emphasis on youth and the encouragement of young leaderships and highlighting the issue of women at the national, regional and international levels.

4. Seminar with women intellectuals and media figures to discuss the role of women in cultural life and the media

14. The seminar was chaired by Ms. Bouthaina Shaaban, Minister for Expatriates in the Syrian Arab Republic. The main speakers were Ms. Asma Khader, Minister of State and Government Spokesperson for

(n) Kindling the awareness of media figures and intellectuals of women and gender issues;

(o) Call on ESCWA to cooperate with specialized Arab media institutions, the Arab Union of Journalists and the Council of Arab information ministers and Arab media institutions and prepare an Arab media strategy for women;

(p) Call on ESCWA to organize a special conference for Arab women in the media, hold workshops devoted to women in the media in order to study ways of promoting their role, allocate budgets for the preparation of television programmes on women and encourage good quality televisual and cultural activities in support of women's issues;

(q) Call on ESCWA to publish and promote websites dealing with Arab women's issues.

**C. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRE
FOR WOMEN SINCE THE FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN
(Agenda item 7)**

17. The Executive Secretary introduced this agenda item with reference to document E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/4/Rev.1. This document is in two chapters, the first of which reviews the activities of the Centre for Women since the first session of the Committee on Women while the second includes a summary of progress achieved in the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Committee on Women at its first session.

**D. PROPOSED STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE CENTRE FOR WOMEN
FOR THE BIENNIUM 2006-2007
(Agenda item 8)**

18. The Executive Secretary introduced this agenda item with reference to document E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/5, which contains a review of subprogramme 7 on the empowerment and advancement of women mentioned in document A/59/6(Prog.18) which includes the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007, in order to provide information on the above-mentioned subprogramme.

**E. DATE AND VENUE OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN
(Agenda item 9)**

19. It was decided to hold the third session of the Committee on Women in Beirut in 2006.

**F. OTHER MATTERS
(Agenda item 10)**

20. Under this agenda item, Ms. Noura Al Suweidi, Chairperson of the Second Session of the Committee on Women and representative of Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak Al Nahyan, President of the Women's Union in the United Arab Emirates, announced the establishment of the Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak Fund for Arab Women Development at ESCWA. A memorandum of understanding was being prepared between ESCWA and the Women's Union with regard to the operation and mechanism of the fund. Ms. Mervat Tallawy, the Executive Secretary of ESCWA, thanked Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak for this generous initiative, her confidence in ESCWA and her support for Arab women.

**III. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT
(Agenda item 11)**

21. During the closing session, held on 10 July 2004, the Committee on Women adopted the draft report on its second session presented in document E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/L.6, with the agreed amendments.

women's issues; the late Ms. Lour Mughayzal of Lebanon, for her defence of women's rights; Palestinian women, for their stand for the right to self-determination; and Morocco, for the issuance of the family code.

C. ATTENDANCE

29. Representatives of twelve ESCWA member countries attended the conference in addition to representatives of six other Arab States Members of the United Nations not members of the Commission and other States Members of the United Nations; representatives of United Nations programmes, bodies and organizations; and observers from other inter-governmental, governmental and NGOs. A large number of women ministers and parliamentarians also attended, bringing the total number of participants to 450. The list of participants is attached as annex I to this report.

D. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

30. Rule 18 of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of ESCWA stipulates that member countries shall assume the chairmanship of the sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on a rotating basis, in Arabic alphabetical order employed by the United Nations. In view of the absence of the United Arab Emirates from the first part of the meeting, Ms. Lulwa Al Awadhi, head of the delegation of Bahrain, which follows the United Arab Emirates in alphabetical order, assumed the chairmanship of the second session. Bahrain then handed chairmanship of the session to the United Arab Emirates, in the person of Ms. Noura Al Suweidi, Head of the United Arab Emirates delegation, who attended the second part of the meeting. Pursuant to the same rule, the Commission unanimously elected Ms. Bouthaina Shaaban, Head of the Syrian delegation and Ms. Mounira bint Nassir Al Missned, head of the Qatari delegation, as Vice Chairpersons and Ms. Intissar al-Wazir from Palestine as Rapporteur for the session.

E. AGENDA AND PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

31. During the first session, the Committee on Women adopted the agenda of its second session as presented in document E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/1, as follows:

1. Opening of the meeting:
 - Opening statements;
 - Presentation of the Arab Regional Ten-Year Review and Appraisal of Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;
 - Distribution of awards for outstanding work for the advancement of Arab women.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the provisional agenda.
4. Proposed organization of work.
5. General discussion.
6. The role of women in the call for peace: seminars and conclusions:
 - (a) Seminar with Arab women parliamentarians to discuss the role of women in legislation and political life;
 - (b) Seminar with Arab women ministers and executives to discuss the role of women in public life;

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. ESCWA MEMBERS

Bahrain

Ms. Lulwa Al-Awadhi
Secretary-General
Supreme Council for Women

Ms. Bahiya Jawad Al-Jishi
Member of Shura Council

Ms. Wedad Al-Maskati
Member of the Supreme Council for Women

Sheikha Azza Bint Abdel Rahman al-Khalifa
Chief of International Cooperation Section
Supreme Council for Women

Ms. Soha Hassan Flamarzi
Director of the Office of the Secretary-General
Supreme Council for Women

Sheikha Lulwa Duaij Al-Khalifa
Studies and Research Specialist
General Secretariat
Supreme Council for Women

Sheikha Hanan Hasan al-Khalifa
Chief of Higher Studies Section
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

Sheikha Sheikha Hasan al-Khalifa
Assistant Principal of Elementary School

Mr. Adel Faisal
Public Relations Staff
General Secretariat
Supreme Council for Women

Egypt

Ms. Amal Othman
People's Assembly
Member of the National Council for Women
Professor, Cairo University Faculty of Law
Lawyer

Ms. Farkhonda Hassan
Secretary-General
National Council for Women

Ms. Hanaiya Abbas El-Itriby
Member of the National Council for Women
Coordinator of the Non-Governmental
Organizations Committee

Ms. Huda Rizkana
Member of the People's Assembly
Foreign Affairs Relations Committee

Ms. Reem Mehanna
Programme Officer
National Council for Women

Mr. Salama Abul-Futouh
Technical Secretariat
National Council for Women

Iraq

Mr. Barham Saleh
Deputy Prime Minister

Ms. Nesreen Mustafa Berwari
Minister of Municipalities and Public Works

Ms. Mishkat Moumin
Minister of Environment

Ms. Sawsan al-Sharifi
Minister of Agriculture

Ms. Layla Latif Mohamed
Minister of Labour and Social Affairs

Mr. Ammar Mohammed Dawood
Protocol Officer
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms. Rajaa Khuzai
Member of High Commission of National
Assembly

Ms. Songul Chapook
Member of High Commission of National
Assembly

Ms. Maysoon al-Damluji
Deputy Minister of Culture

Mr. Hamed al-Bayati
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

Lebanon

Ms. Randa Berry
Vice-President
National Commission for Lebanese Women
Mr. Abdulla Bou Habib
Representative of and Political Advisor to the
Deputy Prime Minister

Ms. Nayla Mouawad
Member of Parliament
President of Woman and Child Committee

Ms. Bahia al-Hariri
Member of Parliament
President of Committee on Education, Higher
Education and Culture

Ms. Najwa Ramadan
Member of the Executive Bureau
National Commission for Lebanese Women

Ms. Ghada Hamdan
Member of the Executive Bureau
National Commission for Lebanese Women

Ms. Leila Azouri
Member of the Executive Bureau
National Commission for Lebanese Women

Ms. Fadia Kiwan
Representative of Lebanon to Arab Women
Organization
Member of the National Commission for
Lebanese Women General Assembly

Ms. Viviane Abboud
Member of the General Assembly
National Commission for Lebanese Women

Ms. Azza Shrara Beydoun
Member of the Executive Bureau
National Commission for Lebanese Women

Ms. Joumana Abourousse Moufarej
Administrative Director
National Commission for Lebanese Women

Ms. Gladys Saadeh
Manager of Information Center for Lebanese
Women
National Commission for Lebanese Women

Ms. Abeer Abdel Samad
Director of Women's Affairs Section
Ministry of Social Affairs

Ms. Rajaa el-Sayed
Economist and Project Advisor

Ms. Layla Tahan Afeiche
Social Helper
Ministry of Social Affairs

Oman

Ms. Lamees Abdullah bin Mohammad Al Taie
Member of State Council

Ms. Muna Mahfoodh al-Manthary
Member of State Council
President of the Committee for Women's
Voluntary Work

Palestine

Ms. Intisar al Wazeer
Minster of Social Affairs
President of the Governmental Coordination
Committee for Women's Advancement

Ms. Zuhira Kamal
Minister of Women's Affairs

Ms. Jamileh Sydem
Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council

Ms. Dalal Salameh
Rapporteur of Member of the Palestinian
Legislative Council
Rapporteur of Foreign Relation Committee in
Parliament
Member of the Palestine National Council

Ms. Salwa Abu Khadra
Member of the Palestine National Council
Secretary-General of the General Union of
Palestinian Women

Ms. Nihaya Mohamed
Member of the Palestine National Council
General Union of Palestinian Women

Ms. Lucia Hijazi
Member of the Palestine National Council
General Union of Palestinian Women

Ms. Rabeeha Diab
Member of the Palestine National Council
General Union of Palestinian Women

Ms. Laila Khaled
Member of the Palestine National Council
General Union of Palestinian Women

Syrian Arab Republic (continued)

Ms. Fatena Alahmad
Member of Parliament
Vice President of Environment and Population
Committee
Head of Syrian-Belarusian Parliament Friendship
Committee
Member of Executive Office of General Union for
Population in Syria

Ms. Ghalia Shukri
Director, Office of the Minister of Social Affairs
and Labour

Ms. Doha Khaddam
Director of Women's Development Role
State Planning Commission

Yemen

Ms. Hooriya Mashhour Ahmed
Deputy President
Women National Committee

Ms. Souad Anwer Mahmood Khan
General Director for Women and Development
International Expert in Gender and Development
and Fisheries Sector
Ministry of Fish Wealth

Ms. Bilquis Mohammed al-Jarmozi
General Director of Women's Affairs Ministry of
Petroleum and Mineral Resources
Member of the Women National Committee

Ms. Faeza Faraj Bamatraf
President of the Women National Committee

United Arab Emirates

Ms. Noura Khalifa Al-Suwaidi
Director
General Women's Union

Mr. Ibrahim Al Abed
Director General
Emirates News Agency

Ms. Fatima Salem al-Ameri
Executive Director
General Women's Union Centres

B. STATES MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS NOT MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

Afghanistan

Ms. Habiba Sarabi
Minister of Women Affairs

Algeria

Ms. Nawara Saadia Jaafar
Minister for Family and Women Issues

Ms. Zahra Zarif Bitat
Deputy Head of the National People's Assembly
Vice President of National Council

Ms. Laila Kherat al-Teeb
Deputy to the National People's Assembly
Member of the National Council

Ms. Dalila Babouche
Deputy to the National People's Assembly

Ms. Khadija Atba Bin Atba
Deputy to the National People's Assembly

Ms. Fatima al-Zahra Falisi
Deputy to the National People's Assembly

Ms. Zubaida Khorbash
Deputy to the National People's Assembly

Ms. Halima Bouchagour
Deputy to the National People's Assembly

Ms. Mimouna Nouar
Deputy to the National People's Assembly

Ms. Aicha Bousbah
Deputy to the National People's Assembly

Ms. Dalila Hleilo
Deputy to the National People's Assembly

Mr. Benteboula Boudjema
Ministerial Advisor, Embassy of Algeria in
Lebanon

Mr. Noureddine Araybi
Advisor, Embassy of Algeria in Lebanon

Sudan (continued)

Ms. Ghalia Elhaj Abdo
Member of Parliament
National Council

Ms. Fathia Abdesalam Gholam
Member of Parliament
National Council

Ms. Fatima Abdel Mahmoud
Director and Founder of UNESCO Chair for
Woman, Science and Technology
Member of Parliament
Dean of Health, Women and Child Institute
Head of Natural Sciences for UNESCO National
Committee

Tunis

Ms. Naziha Zarrouk
Ambassador to Lebanon

Ms. Chedhlia Boukchina
Vice President for Parliament

Ms. Habiba al-Majiri al-Sheikha
Director of Communication and Media
Ministry of Women Family and Children's Affairs

United States of America

Ms. Patricia Karam
Grant Program Officer, Iraq
United States Institute of Peace

C. UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMMES AND BODIES

United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women

Ms. Carolyn Hannan
Director of the Division for the Advancement of
Women
Principal Officer for Gender Mainstreaming in the
Office of the Special Advisor on Gender Issues
New York, United States of America

United Nations Development Programme

Ms. Heba el-Kholy
Country Director
Khartoum, Sudan

Ms. Maha al-Nuaimy
Programme Officer
Baghdad, Iraq

Ms. Dima al-Azem
Coordination Associate
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

United Nations Population Fund

Ms. Faiza Benhadid
Regional Advisor
Gender and Social Cultural
Country Technical Services Team for Arab States
Amman, Jordan

United Nations High Commission for Refugees

Ms. Carol el-Sayed
National Community Services Officer
Beirut, Lebanon

Office of the Special Rapporteur on Disability, Commission for Social Development

Sheikha Hissa Khalifa Ahmad al-Thani
Special Rapporteur on Disability
Doha, Qatar

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Mr. Amin Medani
Regional Representative for the Arab Region
Beirut, Lebanon

United Nations Development Fund for Women

Ms. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh
Arab States Regional Office Director
Amman, Jordan

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Ms. Afaf Younis
Chief, Field Education Programme
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Leila Kaissi
Deputy Chief, Field Relief and Social Services
Programme
Beirut, Lebanon

World Food Programme

Ms. Rakhsanda Malik-Lali
Senior Regional Programme Advisor for Middle
East North Africa (MENA) Countries
Cairo, Egypt

Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States

Mr. Saeed Bin Muhammad al-Mulase
General Manager
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

Ms. Berglind Asgeirsdottir
Deputy-Secretary-General
Paris, France

F. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

1. *International*

Inter-Parliamentary Union

Ms. Salwa Damen Masri
Member of Inter-Parliamentary Union
Coordinating Committee of Women
Parliamentarians
Amman, Jordan

Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace

Mr. Nicolas Mattar
Ambassador for Peace
Beirut, Lebanon

Mr. Ali Akil Khalil
Representative
Beirut, Lebanon

Heinrich Boll Foundation Middle East Office

Ms. Kirsten Maas
Director
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Layla al-Zubaidi
Programme Manager
Beirut, Lebanon

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization International Centre for Human Education

Ms. Elham Kallab-Bissat
Assistant Manager
Beirut, Lebanon

Women Federation for World Peace

Ms. Mirjana Abou Rahal
President
Bikfaya, Lebanon

Ms. Suzanne Tabchori
Member
Bekfaya, Lebanon

Women's Learning Partnership for Rights, Development and Peace

Ms. Mahnaz Afkhami
President
United States of America

31st December Women's Movement

Ms. Nana Konadu Rawlings
President of 31st December Women's Movement
and Former First Lady
Ghana

Mr. Victor Smith
Director of Public Affairs
Ghana

People to People International

Ms. Mary Jean Eisenhower
President and Chief Executive Officer
United States of America

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Ms. Anita Sharma
Director of the Conflict Prevention Project
United States of America

Ms. Haleh Esfandiari
Director, Middle East Program
United States of America

Contemporary Woman Association

Ms. Faeazh Ebrahim al-Zayani
President
Manama, Bahrain

Mr. Amal Ebrahim al-Zayani
Minister Plenipotentiary for Civil Society and
Political Studies
Chairman of the Committee on the Empowerment
of Women
Researcher in International Relations
Manama, Bahrain

Bahrain Young Ladies Association

Ms. Layla al-Bassam
Member
Manama, Bahrain

General Union of Syrian Women

Ms. Souad Bakkour
President
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Social Initiative Society

Ms. Sawsan Raslan
President
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Fund for Integrated Rural Development of Syria

Ms. Nawar al-Sharaa
Foreign Relations Officer
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Bisan Association for Social Development

Ms. Intissar Mohammed Merei
President
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees

Ms. Fathieh Khashan
Board Member
Ramallah, Palestine

General Union of Palestinian Women

Ms. Mona al-Khalili
Director of the General Secretariat
Ramallah, Palestine

Ms. Nada Tweir
Member of the Administrative Committee
Tulkarm, Palestine

Ms. Widad Aabed
Director General of the General Secretariat
Ramallah, Palestine

Ms. Khawla al-Azrak
President
Bethlehem, Palestine

Ms. Rima Izzat Nazzal
Member of Palestinian National Council
Nablus, Palestine

Ms. Dina Khodr
Sidon, Lebanon

Ms. Amne Sulieman
Sidon, Lebanon

Ms. Suheila Khatib
Member of Preparatory Committee
Sidon, Lebanon

Al Manhal Woman and Child Cultural Center

Ms. Huda Abdelhadi
President
Nablus, Palestine

Hawa Association for Culture and Arts

Ms. Ghada Abdul Hadi
President
Nablus, Palestine

Family Consultation Center

Ms. Haya Ali al-Ghanem
Telephone Consultations Officer
Doha, Qatar

Palestinian Women Democratic Organization

Ms. Khalidat Khalil Hussein
President
Tripoli, Lebanon

Ms. Mona Ibrahim al-Waked
Member
Tripoli, Lebanon

Ms. Saada Mousa
Member of Administrative Committee
Beirut, Lebanon

Lebanese Association for Human Rights

Ms. Norma Melhem
Lebanon

Ms. Maha Nammour
Lebanon

Mr. Ibrahim Ghosn
Beirut, Lebanon

Children and Mothers Welfare Society

Ms. Huda Sakakini Barbir
Press Officer
Beirut, Lebanon

Economic Development Association of Lebanese Ladies

Ms. Marwa Halawi
Board Member
Beirut, Lebanon

Lebanese Family Planning Association

Mr. Toufic Osseiran
President
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Batoul Yahfoufi
Executive Director
Beirut, Lebanon

Women Organization for Social Solidarity

Ms. Afaf Hakim
President
Beirut, Lebanon

Lebanese Cultural League

Ms. Mona Hijazi
Administrative Board Member
Beirut, Lebanon

Al Najat Social Association

Ms. Amal Itani
Beirut, Lebanon

Muslim Young Women Association

Ms. Najat Shehab
Deputy Chairman
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Najah al-Shaar
Treasurer
Beirut, Lebanon

Lebanese Council to Resist Violence Against Women

Ms. Brigitte Shelebian
Founder and Public Relations Officer
Beirut, Lebanon

National Organization for the Lebanese Child

Ms. Nour Salman
President
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Khanoum Khaddaj
General Secretariat
Beirut, Lebanon

League of Lebanese Woman's Right

Ms. Naheda Nsouli Labban
Board Member
Beirut, Lebanon

Non-Governmental National Committee for the Follow-up of Women's Issues (Post Beijing)

Ms. Aman Kabbara Shaarani
President
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Fahmia Sharaf Eddin
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Wadad Chakhtoura
President of The Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Lila el-Maamoun
Member of the Seminar on Development Studies
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Mona Nuwayhid
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Carmen Bustani
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Siham Fanous
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Thoraya Hashem
Media Coordinator
Beirut, Lebanon

Islamic Cultural Centre

Ms. Futnat Missaike Berr
Women's Council Representative
Beirut, Lebanon

Sursuk Museum, Municipality of Beirut

Ms. Hind Kabbara Sinno
Beirut, Lebanon

Lebanese Women Association

Ms. Lubna Kalot
President
Beirut, Lebanon

Amatour Ladies Association

Ms. Marcelle Abdelsamad
President
Beirut, Lebanon

Lebanese Family Congregation

Ms. Maha Fatha
Head
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Taghareed Baydoun
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Sana Katorji
Member
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Najwa Numaani
Member
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Rand Sakr
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Abla Bsar Jumaa
Beirut, Lebanon

Forum for Child Rights

Ms. Alice Kayrouz Sleiman
President and Lawyer
Beirut, Lebanon

Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering

Ms. Hind Atwi
Secretary
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Jumana Merhi
Treasurer
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Caroline Sukkar
Cultural and Media Affairs
Beirut, Lebanon

Women Nahda Groupment

Ms. Nidal Ashkar Naeem
President
Beirut, Lebanon

Egyptian Red Crescent

Mr. Mamdouh Kamal Gabr
Secretary-General
Former Minister of Health
Cairo, Egypt

Association for the Development and
Enhancement of Women

Ms. Iman Bibars
Expert on Development and Gender Issues
Cairo, Egypt

Alliance for Arab Women

Ms. Hoda Badran
Chairperson
Cairo, Egypt

Forum of Associations for Women's
Development

Ms. Mervat Aboutig
Lawyer
Board Member
Training Committee Officer
Cairo, Egypt

Association of Former International Civil
Servants

Ms. Seheir Kansouh-Habib
President
Cairo, Egypt

Center for Egyptian Women's Legal Assistance
Foundation

Ms. Azza Soliman
General Director
Cairo, Egypt

Lebanese Association of Women Researchers

(continued)

Ms. May Abdalla Sinno
Member
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Jean Makdisi
Expert
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Azza Baydoun
Professor, Lebanese University
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Najla Hmadeh
Professor, American University of Beirut
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Nada Mghaizel
Professor, Saint Joseph University
Beirut, Lebanon

Lebanese University

Ms. Khairiehe Kadouh
Professor, Faculty of Education
Beirut, Lebanon

Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World

Ms. Mona Khalaf
Director
Beirut, Lebanon

Centre for Research and Training for Development

Ms. Lina Abou-Habib
Director
Beirut, Lebanon

King Saud University

Ms. Monera al-Nahedh
Assistant Professor
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Ms. Hind Khalifa
Assistant Professor
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Ms. Suaad al-Mana
Professor
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Women Studies and Development Centre

Ms. Husnia al-Kadri
Director
Sana'a University
Sana'a, Yemen

Ms. Ishraq Ahmad al-Aryani
Chief, Research Division
Sana'a University
Sana'a, Yemen

Woman's Research and Training Centre

Ms. Rokhsana Ismail
Director
Aden University
Aden, Yemen

Layola Marymount University Centre for Women Studies

Ms. Nancy Jabbra
Professor and Chair of Women's Studies
Los Angeles, United States of America

H. EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS

Mr. Ahmad Abdelrhman Hammouda
Advisor to the Higher Population Council
Amman, Jordan

Ms. Zuka' al-Jabi
Former Director, Office of Minister of Culture
and Social Affairs
Observer
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Ms. Daad Mousa
Lawyer
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Ms. Sabeeha Jalab
President, Civil Appeal
Judge to Advisor of Jury Director
Ministry of Justice
Edleb, Syrian Arab Republic

Ms. Fadwa al-Barghouti
Lawyer
Ramallah, Palestine

Ms. Moza al-Malki
Assistant Professor
Qatar University
Doha, Qatar

Writers and media figures (continued)

Ms. Souad Zaher
Director of Society, Education and Science
Section
Al-Thawra Newspaper
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Ms. Salma Kamel
Editor, Chief of Investigation Division
Ministry of Information
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Ms. Raghda Mardini
Editor, Chief of Teshreen Newspaper
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Ms. Salwa Sabri
Reporter
Ministry of Information
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Ms. Badia Mohammed al-Kizawi
Television Producer
Ministry of Information
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Ms. Fairouz Nasr
Reporter, Syrian Television
Broadcast and Television Committee
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Ms. Mariam Mahrat
Chief of Division
Journalists' Union
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Ms. Waha el-Raheb
Cinema and Television Producer
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Ms. Bassema Bint Mohammad al-Mouwali
Television Presenter
Ministry of Information
Muscat, Oman

Ms. Bushra Khalfan al-Wohaibi
Writer
Muscat, Oman

Ms. Bassema Bint Mohammad Rashed
Broadcaster
Muscat, Oman

Ms. Hissa Yousef al-Awadi
Staff, Children's Programme
Qatar Broadcast
Doha, Qatar

Ms. Estobruk Ahmed
Writer
Kuwait City, Kuwait

Ms. Hanadi Ibraheem al-Ibraheem
Television Programmes Producer
Ministry of Information
Kuwait City, Kuwait

Mr. Mohammad al-Asmi
Reporter, An-Nahar newspaper
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Sahar Taha
Reporter
Al-Mustaqbal newspaper
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Sahar Nabih Haidar
Researcher
Heya Television
Hazmieh, Lebanon

Ms. Jacqueline Rihana
Press Attaché
Non-Governmental National Committee for the
Follow-up of Women's Issues
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Neam Ahmad el-Baz
Writer, Reporter for Akhbar El-Yawm
Cairo, Egypt

Ms. Gillane Jabr
Reporter, Presidential Media Director
Cairo, Egypt

Ms. Ekbal Barakah
Editor-in-Chief
Cairo, Egypt

Ms. Fathiya al-Assal
Writer
President, Writers Association
Cairo, Egypt

Ms. Tahani Ibrahim el-Kaie
Reporter, Al-Ahram Newspaper
Cairo, Egypt

Ms. Nadia Shaikh
Regional Director
Intellect Media
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS*

Symbol	Title
<u>Working documents</u>	
E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/1	Provisional agenda
E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda
E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/2	Proposed organization of work
E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/3	Arab regional ten-year review and appraisal of implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action
E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/4	Report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Centre for Women since the first session of the Committee on Women
E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/5	Proposed strategic framework for the Centre for Women for the biennium 2006-2007
E/ESCWA/SD/2004/Booklet.1	Arab women in the development process: a gender-based statistical analysis (in Arabic)
E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/CRP	Country profiles on the situation of women in the Arab countries
E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/CP	Responses of Arab countries to the questionnaire directed to governments on implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action
E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/6	Report of the Arab Regional Conference Ten Years After Beijing: Call for Peace, 8-10 July 2004
<u>Background documents</u>	
E/ESCWA/SD/1994/9	Arab plan of action for the advancement of women to the year 2005
	Unified Arab programme of action and follow-up mechanism for the Fourth World Conference on Women, 28-29 September 1996 (in Arabic)
DPI/1766/Rev.1	Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action with the Beijing + 5 political declaration and outcome document
E/ESCWA/WOM/2003/IG.1/9	Report of the Committee on Women on its first session, Beirut, 4-5 December 2003
E/ESCWA/SDD/2003/WG.6/3	Report: Workshop on gender mainstreaming in the ESCWA region, Beirut, 6-7 December 2003
E/ESCWA/SDD/2003/WG.5/7	Report: The first session of the Consultative Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, Beirut, 1-2 December 2003

* The working documents were distributed in Arabic, English and French. Translations into French were generously funded by the Intergovernmental Agency of the Francophonie.