

**Arab Strategy for Combating Violence  
against Women**

**2011 - 2020**

**"Arab Women's Right to a Life Free from Violence"**

**Arab Women Organization**

**Prepared by**

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**Arab Women Organization**  
**First Edition**  
**Cairo**  
**2011**

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Printed in Al Nobar Press

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## **Introduction**

Despite the emphasis of all religions and humanitarian doctrines on principles of social justice and equality between human beings and their importance in building a human society and its stability, despite the extent of damage incurred and suffered by humanity as a result of adopting violence as a tool to communicate, despite the consideration of gender equality as essential and important for human development within the community, despite all of the above, humanity is still paying exorbitant prices from its security and stability due to adopting violence as a way of life.

As the idea of equality is based on that all human beings enjoy basic and natural rights which no one can take away or derogate, under any pretext, or for any precedent considerations, and as development gains a holistic meaning related to all economic, social, environmental and demographic interactions considering the human being as its means and purpose, emphasizing at the same time that respect of the rights of all society's members, female and male, for the basic supporting foundations associated to it, therefore, sustainable development of any society can not be achieved without women's participation at all social, economic and political levels, protecting their rights and enhancing their role in building the society and its development.

Hence the interest in women's issue and the emphasis on their participation in all walks of life became among the priorities at all different levels. Their cause and particularly violence against them became one of the main priorities - not only for women and their organizations - but also to leaders of countries, communities and civil institutions and professionals considering it as a social issue of which implications are reflected on society as a whole.

This called the international community to develop a set of rules, treaties and conventions to eliminate it in order to alleviate its impact on women and society as a whole and to issue many decisions and strategies calling for the promotion of women's human rights and the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against them. At the Arab level, recognition of this issue, paying attention to it and working to develop Arab frameworks and plans to face violence against women and promote their role and protect their rights in society came as a result of years of work, at all levels and were responsive to many charters and resolutions of Arab and international initiatives issued by the United Nations, the League of Arab States and the Arab Women Organization.

Proceeding from the fact that violence against Women has multi causes, dimensions and types (psychological, health, social, and cultural) and that these causes overlap with the rights and duties of all members of the community and their relationship between each other, in particular, and society in general, therefore all efforts and work on the cultural, social, economic and legislative levels must be united in an integrated manner to overcome this phenomenon.

### **General context**

Arab constitutions, charters and international conventions emphasized the principle of respect for human rights and equality between all society's members, males and females, implanting it as a method for the development and growth of societies. The Charter of the United Nations, adopted in (1945), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966) also stressed the principle of equal human rights for men and women.

Hence emerged the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in (1979) and entered into force in (1981), and which is considered the culmination of thirty years of effort and work done by the Division for the Advancement of Women in the United Nations. The Convention came to highlight women's human rights, reject all forms of discrimination against them, improve women's situation, disseminate their rights and promote equality between women and men, and their importance in community's building and development. The Convention's preamble stressed the principle of equality of rights between men and women and the need to achieve this principle for the growth and prosperity of society and family. It also emphasized that all States Parties undertake all appropriate measures to reduce all forms of discrimination and violence against women.

The issue of violence against women occupied a prominent place because of efforts of organizations and women's movements at the grassroots level, all over the world. As a result, women's issue was placed on the agenda in the context of work on realizing women's rights during the United Nations Decade for Women (1975-1985). Nairobi's Strategies for the Advancement of Women also recognized the spread of violence against women, in various forms, in everyday life, in all societies, and identified diverse manifestations of violence, which contributed to raising attention to women victims of abuse and assault at home, women who are victims of forced prostitution, women prisoners and women in areas of armed conflict.

Issues of violence against women emerged on the United Nations agenda as a major obstacle to achieving objectives of the International Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace. They called for the adoption of preventive policies and legal measures, development of a national comprehensive mechanism and providing comprehensive assistance to



women victims of violence. The need to sensitize public opinion on violence against women as a social problem was also emphasized.

In the early nineties of last century efforts of the women's movement - to gain recognition that violence against women is a human rights issue ñ gained a great impetus, where women gathered in the World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna in (1993) and held pressure, on both the International and regional levels, to redefine the parameters of Human Rights Act to include experiences or practices or violations witnessed by women. They presented nearly half a million signatures collected from (128) countries to the Conference's delegates requesting recognition that such violence constitutes a violation of women's human rights. They also held a world court to which women's testimony was presented in the framework of human rights including issues of violence from around the world. Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action included an emphasis on the globalization of women's rights as human rights and a call for the elimination of gender based violence.

Vienna's Conference provided support for the adoption of the General Assembly of the International Declaration to Combat Violence against Women (1993), where the Declaration stated that violence against women is a manifestation of unequal power relations between men and women throughout history which led to domination of men over women, discrimination against women and women's prevention of their full advancement. The Declaration also highlighted the various placements of violence against women such as violence in the family and violence in society.

The Declaration noted the fact that certain groups of women are particularly vulnerable to violence, including minorities, indigenous women, women refugees, women living in extreme poverty, women held in

correctional institutions or in prison, girls and women with disabilities, older women and women in situations of armed conflict. This declaration sets a series of measures that States must take to prevent and eliminate such violence and which requires States to condemn violence against women, and not invoke customs or traditions to avoid their obligations to eliminate Listen Read phonetically Dictionary this violence<sup>(1)</sup>. The Universal Declaration to Combat Violence against Women in (1993) defined violence against women as (any act of violence based on gender which results, or is likely to result in harm or physical, sexual or psychological suffering for women, including the threat of committing such act, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether inflicted in the public or private life). The World Health Organization also defined violence, which it considered a health problem, in the Health and Violence report (2005) as: (deliberate use of physical force, material and mental, or ability, whether by threat or the real material usage against self, or against another person, or against a group or community so that it leads to an or (the preponderance of an) injury or death or psychological injury or maldevelopment or deprivation, where forms and manifestations of violence against women vary in different surrounding social, economic, political and cultural contexts. Its forms and types are physical, sexual, psychological, economic abuse and exploitation, whether they take place within the family, or in institutions or in the community or at the level which is perpetrated or condoned by the State.

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action- adopted by (189) nations ñ succeeded in (1995) in the Fourth World Conference on Women in compiling these gains by emphasizing that violence against women is a violation of human rights and an obstacle to women's full enjoyment of all

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(1) Secretary-General's Report on violence against women (2006).

human right. Focus shifted to claim the State for measures to prevent violence against Women and to eliminate it, and the measures taken by the State. A special theme on violence against women was established in Beijing Platform for Action which identified three strategic objectives which are: to take integrated measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women, to study the causes of violence against women and its consequences and the effectiveness of preventive measures, and to eliminate women's trafficking and assist victims of violence resulting from prostitution and trafficking.

On the Arab level, Arab constitutions ensured the protection of citizens' rights, men and women without discrimination. These constitutions are consistent with principles of human rights, in their universality and comprehensiveness and entrench the principles of these constitutions and are in tune with the international path against all forms of gender based violence.

Several Arab initiatives to combat violence against women were launched as issues of violence against women and gained attention of many Arab conventions and declarations for the protection of human rights that define the general frameworks for the protection of all members of the community females and males, with a clear reference to limiting all forms of violence and discrimination against women, enhancing their role in society and ensuring women's effective role in building communities.

Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam came as a contribution to human efforts on human rights that aim to protect humans from exploitation and oppression, and to emphasize on human's freedom and rights of a dignified life in accordance with Islamic law. It was passed by the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Conference in (1990), and entered into force in (2008). The Declaration includes many principles

that prohibit violence against humans and oblige the State and society to protect these fundamental human rights, based on the belief that fundamental rights and public freedoms in Islam, and all what was brought by the divine messages are not to be disabled - entirely or partially- or violated, or ignored by anyone.

The Arab Charter on Human Rights (2004) is also considered as an important legal document to protect Arab women from all forms of violence, and States Parties must, under the Charter, respect the principle of de facto equality between men and women in rights and freedoms, and that men and women are equal in human dignity, rights and duties under the positive discrimination approved by the Islamic Shari 'a, other heavenly religions, and legislation and conventions in force, in favor of women, and accordingly, each State Party undertakes to take all necessary measures to do so.

### **The Arab Women Organization's Vision of Issues of Violence against Women**

The Arab Women Organization included the subject of combating violence against women in its action plans for the years (2008-2012), setting in it a number of awareness-raising activities, research, legal studies, training and capacity building activities. Goals of the AWO are achieved through the organization's completion of its seven objectives set forth in Article V of its establishment Convention, where the organization identified, in turn, a series of sub-objectives for each of the Organization's seven general objectives so that the achievement of these sub-objectives contributes to the completion of the overall goals. The sixth objective of the establishment convention asserts “the development of women's potential and building their capacity as individuals and citizens to become active players in building the society's institutions, in the work field and all businesses, and

in participating in decision-making”. It identified in this area a group of sub-objectives which are summarized in supporting women's empowerment programs in the Arab countries as priorities in addition to women's empowerment to reduce the gender gap, achieve equal opportunities, developing strategies for empowering women and Arab legislations for the promotion of Women. As well as urging Member States which ratified the international conventions related to women to take necessary steps towards activating these Conventions.

In implementation of the decision of the Organization' Supreme Council (March 8th, 2004) the Arab Legal Group was formed (2004). Its main objective is to study Arab legislation and to provide advice for the development of legislation that would promote Arab women and empower them in all areas. Members of the group are prominent legal experts representing AWO member states.

The main recommendation of the Arab Women Organization's Legal Group, relating to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), was an appeal to Member States not acceding to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to join it. The group also noted that in light of developments taking place in communities of Member States, that their reservations to the Convention must be reviewed. In this respect, the group emphasized that the Convention and awareness of its provisions should be widely disseminated, especially in media and cultural channels and education curricula. It also recommended that principles and provisions of the ratified Convention should be embodied in national legislation without reservation. The group also highlighted the need to provide the Arab Women Organization with national periodic reports of Member States and the concluding comments of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

The Organization also prepared survey studies aimed to scan programs and projects for women in Member States related to the seven areas in which it operates: education, health, economy, media, politics, law, and sociology. These studies highlighted that the issue of violence against women still needed greater attention from the projects and programs for women in the Arab region, especially in the areas of health, media, law and sociology.

The Arab Women Organization worked, according to the decisions of its Executive Council (Tunis-22-23/6/2009), its Supreme Council (Tunis-25/ 6/ 2009) and its Executive Council (Damascus December 2009) on the establishment of the Arab Women Committee for International Humanitarian Law. This committee is a tributary to the international, regional and national efforts to defend international humanitarian law and encourage respect for and dissemination of its culture, for the benefit of women. Within this framework the committee would have an active role in ensuring women's protection under international humanitarian law through the creation of a new mechanism to help alleviate the suffering faced by women in war. The committee would help Member States to promote awareness and education of international humanitarian law, especially for women who suffer from the consequences of these conflicts as civilians, prisoners, displaced and refugees and who become ,in these conflicts, more targeted than others, and victims to all forms of abuse, insult and humiliation. It would also work on the development of the performance of human resources engaged in the field of international humanitarian law, raising the efficiency of institutions and associations in the field, and strengthening adherence to the International criteria of the humanitarian law in the field of women protection.

As a result of the Arab, regional and international efforts to combat violence against women, work has been conducted at the Arab level to develop strategies and programs aimed at protecting women and the elimination of all forms of violence against them. The most prominent was the launch of the Strategy for the Enhancement of Arab Women at the second Arab Women Summit (Amman, Jordan, November 2002).

The strategy is based on inter-Arab principles and foundations of which the most important are religious and spiritual values which provide human dignity, justice, freedom and responsibility for men and women to participate effectively in the making of the present and the future. The strategy aims to raise women's capacity in the areas of education, health, environment and media and the empowerment of Arab women socially, economically, politically and legally. These areas were addressed at the eight women Forums organized under the framework of the first and second Arab Women Summits during the period 2001-2005; these areas also constituted the AWO priority areas for Arab women empowerment.

In order to assist Arab countries to prepare their national reports to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Violence against Women, the Arab Women Organization launched in (2009) a report on quantitative and qualitative indicators of CEDAW. In this respect, the Arab Women Organization collaborated with the League of Arab States and UNIFEM, on the development of Arab relevant indicators relating to each article of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Violence against Women. The report aspires to work on stimulating regional initiatives to address general problems and issues of concern to women in the Arab region. These indicators are considered a significant addition to women's human rights' library, it is expected that they would contribute to enriching many studies, research and reports, in particular the national reports to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women.

## **Definition of Violence against Women**

Violence against women and girls is a human rights, health and social problem. Setting any strategies in the field of combating violence against women must begin with the definition of violence and its forms in order to determine the framework of the needed programs and interventions to commensurate with its nature and facilitate the process of developing the necessary indicators to measure it in a scientific way.

Accordingly, and for the purposes of this strategy Violence against women is defined as "any act that occurs on women and results in physical, sexual or psychological abuse, or any form of suffering, such as threats of such acts, duress or coercion or deprivation of all rights, whether occurring within family relations, social or professional frameworks." This definition is consistent with international and universal references on human rights, and women's protection from all forms of violence, where this definition includes violence against women and girls within or outside the family. Violence is not limited to physical, psychological and sexual forms but includes other forms such as social, economic and political violence.

## **Why Develop a Strategy for Combating Violence against Women?**

Out of its commitment to work on the Arab level to combat all forms of violence against women, the Arab Women Organization initiated the preparation of an Arab Strategy for Combating Violence against Women aimed at assisting Arab countries develop national action plans to ensure the promotion of political commitment to combating violence against women through the development of the strategy so that it is reflected in national plans of action.

The strategy also comes as a contribution from the Organization in supporting the existing work to promote precautionary approach and



necessary legal, political, social, administrative and cultural rights, which promote women's protection against all forms of gender based violence, and modifying social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women and eliminating prejudices, customary practices and all other practices based on stereotyped roles for men and women.

The strategy relies in addressing violence against women on a holistic view and takes off from two approaches: the prevention and protection approach, and the multilateral institutions approach. The prevention-protection approach stems from the question: What action should be taken to prevent women from violence? And the question: what action should be taken to support and protect women from recurrence of violence against them?

Emphasizing at the same time that prevention and protection are two complementary processes which have one goal that of reducing the prevalence of violence against women. As for the multilateral institutions approach, it concentrates on how to work for women's prevention and protection against violence. Violence against women is a multifaceted phenomenon. No single institution, regardless of its institutional and humanitarian efficiency, can address such a phenomenon alone. Therefore, the need emerges for joint work and coordination between all institutions concerned with women's protection, defining their roles and responsibilities in confronting violence against women and protecting their rights.

The Strategy provides many opportunities that support the institutionalization of the work in the field of combating violence against Arab women and their protection, improve the status of Arab gender-sensitive policies for protecting women from violence, promote participatory work among all stakeholders to ensure an institutional response

according to a holistic view of various aspects: legislative, awareness and service, building accumulated expertise utilized in the exchange of experiences and lessons learned among the Arab countries. The strategy aims at:

- Promoting awareness at the policy level in gender issues.
- Eliminating all forms of violence against women.
- Establishing programs to protect women and girls victims of violence.
- Following a comprehensive approach to address violence against women.
- Coordinating and enhancing cooperation between all stakeholders in combating violence against women.
- Exchanging experiences, lessons learned and good practice in combating violence against women.
- Spreading the culture of women's rights and combating all forms of violence against women.

### **Mechanism of Preparing the Arab Strategy for Combating Violence against Women**

The formulation of the Arab Strategy for Combating Violence against Women is one of the pioneering initiatives of the Arab Women Organization, in addition to its different initiatives in the promotion of women's human rights, the elimination of all forms of violence against women, and its commitment to translating international and regional frameworks aimed at protecting women from violence in all its forms to Arab strategies that contribute to urging Arab countries to translate them into national action plans where the strategy will provide a general framework of intervention for change. The Strategy was encompassed by a

course of consultation and participation of the Organization's Arab Member States. The Strategy's framework draws the strategic pillars direct interest in combating all forms of violence against Arab women.

To make reaching a general framework of an Arab strategy for combating violence against women possible, particularly family violence, the Arab Women Organization held a regional workshop aimed at exchanging Arab expertise on combating violence against women, with a focus on demonstration of experience and expertise that can be used in the development of the Arab Strategy for Combating All Forms of Gender Based Violence against Women, in addition to coordination between governmental mechanisms and civil society mechanisms in order to address violence against women, develop a common vision of the most important successful mechanisms of action and effective means of implementation of programs for combating violence against women in all its forms and formulate a model for an Executive Action Program to address violence against women.

In order to work on the preparation of the Arab Strategy for Combating Violence against Women, the Arab Women Organization launched a strategic path to lay the foundations of this strategy by holding a series of meetings and consultations through a participatory approach, through the discussion of the strategy's preparation program with the Advisory Committee for Policies and Technical Affairs at the Arab Women Organization, and recommendations made by the Organization's Executive Council to be sent to the Higher Council, which adopted it at its meeting in (2009), where participants from the Arab Member States worked during a two-day regional workshop, held in Tunisia, on developing the strategy's general framework through:

- Reviewing documents, studies and reports related to women and violence against them at the Arab and international levels.
- Benefiting from the results of the first regional workshop to share experiences on combating violence against women held by the Arab Women Organization in (2009) in Tunisia with a view to lay out the general framework of an Arab plan to combat violence against women.
- Developing the strategy's guidelines based on the general framework adopted by experts and participants in the regional workshop held by the Arab Women Organization.
- Preparing the strategy's draft.
- Discussing the strategy's draft with experts from the Arab Women Organization Member States during the second workshop, held in Egypt in (2010).
- Preparing the strategy's final wording.

### **Strategy's Perspectives:**

The Arab strategy for Combating Violence against Women takes off from Arab and international perspectives, which relied on the findings, recommendations and decisions of many covenants, conventions and resolutions related to combating violence against women.

#### **1. International Perspectives:**

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948).
- Conventions on the elimination of trafficking in human beings and their use for the purposes of prostitution (1963).
- The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965).

- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966).
- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1979).
- The Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989).
- The Universal Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993).
- Beijing Platform for Action, (1995), with its twelve themes.
- The Millennium Development Goals of (2000).
- United Nations' Secretary General's Study on Violence against Women (2006).
- UN Security Council Resolution 1820 on sexual violence against girls and women in armed conflicts (2008).

## **2. Arab Perspectives:**

- Arab constitutions.
- Arab Charter on Human Rights (2004).
- Rabat Declaration on the occasion of the first Mediterranean Conference to Combat Violence against Women (2005).
- Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam (2008).
- The Strategy for the Enhancement of Arab women.
- Arab Women Organization General Policies.

## **Strategy's Vision:**

"Ensuring Arab women human right to a life free from all forms of gender based violence and ensuring that they receive their full rights without discrimination in order to have a society where justice and equality prevail".

### **Strategy's General Objective:**

"To promote Arab women's rights, protecting them from all forms of violence and reducing the effects of violence against them".

### **Pillars of the Arab Strategy for Combating Violence against Women:**

#### **Pillar I: Awareness**

Strategic objective: to make a positive change in social attitudes and behaviors related to combating gender based violence against women and to promote a culture of equality at the Arab level.

#### **Measures:**

- Calling on Arab states to integrate principles of human rights and values of equality, justice and women's protection against violence and the use of a gender sensitive approach in laws, policies, programs and projects.
- Increasing society's awareness on the concept of violence against women and its social - cultural context, and its social, economic and health risks on the individual, family and community.
- Strengthening the role of media in promoting non-stereotypical image of women, combating violence against women and developing a comprehensive media plan.
- Enhancing the capacity and skills of workers in the field of spreading a non-violence culture against women, including media professionals, religious scholars and preachers (men and women) and workers in the field of education.
- Developing programs and mechanisms to involve men in combating violence against women.

## **Pillar II: Security and Protection**

Strategic Objective: to enhance the institutional capacity of the society's institutions to protect women from gender based violence at the Arab level.

### **Measures:**

- Calling on Arab states to develop frameworks for institutionalized response of institutions in dealing with issues of violence against women to regulate the relationship between institutions involved in the provision of services to consolidate the participatory approach.
- Developing standards and institutional systems for service providers to ensure quality of services provided for abused women.
- Developing procedural manuals for all employees and service providers to cases of violence against women to ensure the privacy of intervention of each sector in areas of support, protection and security.
- Enhancing cooperation among the Arab institutions that operate in the area of combating violence against women.
- Enhancing institutional and professional capacities of service providers (health, social, legal and educational) to cases of violence.

## **Pillar III: Participation**

Strategic objective: to promote women's participation at all levels of decision-making, draw policies and review and formulate national legislation and programs in Arab countries.

### **Measures:**

- Providing institutional structures to empower women and promote their participation in all social, economic, political and legislative aspects at the national, Arab and international levels.

- Forming alliances to mobilize advocacy and support and enhancing their role in the defense of women's issues and achieving changes in the direction of social justice.
- Involving women in National, Arab, and International mechanisms to monitor the implementation of conventions and strategies aiming at women's protection from violence.
- Finding a mechanism to increase women's participation percentage in decision making positions and setting programs to empower women and enhance their participation in decision making at the national, Arab and International levels.

#### **Pillar IV: Legislation and Legal Proceedings**

Strategic Objective: to enact and develop Arab legislation, laws and legal procedures in line with the principles of Arab and international resolutions related to human rights and combating violence against women.

##### **Measures:**

- Inviting Arab States to review legislation, laws and legal procedures to ensure their purification of discrimination against women.
- Calling on Arab States to enact specific legislation to protect women from family violence, including programs and alternative sentencing, social and psychological rehabilitation for offenders under legal supervision.
- Developing frameworks for institutionalized procedures to protect victims in all stages of the legal proceedings and protect their privacy from the threat of possible retaliatory acts.
- Supporting technical and institutional capacities of the justice sector in the field of legal assistance.



## **Pillar V: Studies, Research and Data**

Strategic Objective: to promote research on women's protection from gender based violence through the identification of priorities, consequences and costs of violence, effectiveness of programs, and providing data related to it.

### **Measures:**

- Conducting research and studies on the prevalence of violence against women, analyzing its patterns, determinants and effects and disseminating them at various levels.
- Creating a database to assist in the provision of all information, data and indicators that help in the planning process to protect women from violence.
- Preparing policy newsletters and fact sheets to contribute to the improvement of procedures, institutional programs and legislation for the protection of women.
- Adopting results of studies and research in the development of programs and projects related to women's protection against gender based violence.

## **Pillar VI: Partnership and Coordination**

Strategic Objective: to promote the participatory approach between all the institutions involved in the formulation of policies and programs for women's protection against violence.

### **Measures:**

- Developing frameworks for coordination and partnership among Arab institutions involved in the development of policies and programs for women's protection against violence.
- Working with the Arab States to define frameworks of cooperation between all service providers to protect women from violence.

- Activating the role of different sectors including the private sector as an essential effective partner for the prevention and protection of women against violence.

### **Pillar VII: Monitoring and Evaluation**

Strategic objective: to institutionalize the monitoring and evaluation process related to programs on women's protection against violence through the Arab Women Organization.

#### **Measures:**

- Encouraging the Organization's Arab Member States to develop strategies, policies and national action plans to combat violence against women and consolidate a culture of peace, renouncing violence against women and protecting their rights.
- Developing measurable quantitative and qualitative indicators on women's protection from violence, in cooperation with the Arab States.
- Inviting Arab States to adopt a national reference entity to follow the implementation of the Arab Strategy for Combating Violence against Women.
- Urging Arab countries to prepare periodic reports on their achievements in women's protection against violence, based on the Arab Strategy for Combating Violence against Women
- Providing periodic reports on Arab Member States' follow up of the implementation of the Arab Strategy for Combating Violence against Women and adopted measures in this regard to the Arab Women Organization.
- Publishing national reports submitted by the Organization's Member States in a periodic Arab report.

### **The Action Plan Framework:**

One of the greatest challenges facing the implementation of any strategy is related to the conversion of its strategic objectives and procedures to operational mechanisms, noting that commitments made ??in this direction at the Arab, international and national levels are still far from the daily realities in women's lives.

Developing and launching an Arab action plan on combating violence against women is only the first step in the States' implementation of international, Arab, regional and national obligations towards achieving women's human security and protection from all forms of violence. The absence of an effective implementation mechanism for the plan means inability to implement it, noting that there are many common challenges facing the implementation of Arab States' national action plans, including: Lack of funding, inadequate institutional capacity, lack of coordination among all concerned parties and absence of mechanisms for follow-up, monitoring and evaluation. Taking into account these challenges, the investment in raising awareness, capacity building, coordination, monitoring and evaluation and advocacy for such plans are necessary initiatives for successful implementation of the Action Plan to protect women, in addition that it is the first step towards equality between the sexes, taking into account that development of national plans depends on multiple factors which vary from one country to another depending on priorities and needs. However, there are reliable basic pillars in the formulation of action plans and the preparation of a clear and concise document, namely:

#### **\* Laying out an Introduction to the Plan:**

This section might present a short introduction on the national achievements in the field of combating violence against women at the level of legislation, policies and programs aimed at protecting women from

violence addressing the magnitude of this problem, quantitatively and qualitatively, and anticipating future visions for it.

**\* Justifications:**

We should here refer to the rationale and terms of reference of the Action Plan for Combating Violence against Women at the national, Arab and international levels.

**\* Determining long-term and short-term goals:**

The Action Plan's short-term goals on combating violence against women can be determined through discussion and dialogue with various national entities, as well as determining relative importance of the Action Plan's various themes, in addition to identifying priorities in the related work areas on the short and long terms.

**\* Specific Initiatives:**

Initiatives that have been achieved at the national level should be directly linked to the achievement of specific goals and/or national priorities, in addition to identifying each party's responsibility for implementation, as well as developing indicators, deadlines and resources (human and financial).

**\* Operational Framework:**

Identifying the operational framework for the implementation of the plan's goals and activities according to a time frame for each initiative, indicating responsible entities for implementation, and allocated financial resources in addition to monitoring and evaluation mechanisms such as the preparation of annual reports or forming a body for monitoring, evaluation and follow-up.

## Operational Action Plan for the Arab Strategy for Combating Violence against Women \*

### Pillar I: Prevention (Awareness)

Strategic Objective	Strategic Measures	Gaps and Challenges	Proposed Measures to be taken by the Arab States	Performance Indicators	Responsible Parties **	Approximate Budget ***	Duration ****
<p><b>To make a positive change in society's attitudes and behaviors related to gender based violence against women and disseminate equality culture in the Arab World</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Calling on Arab States to integrate human rights' principles and values of equality, justice and women's protection against violence and the use of a gender sensitive approach in laws, policies, programs and projects.</li> <li>● Raising society's awareness of the concept of violence against women and its social - cultural context and health risks on the individual, family and society.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Women's stereotyped image within the society.</li> <li>● Weakness in adopting a gender sensitive approach at societal and institutional levels.</li> <li>● Women's negative attitudes towards their issues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To review laws on the Arab level and call that they include principles of human rights, equality and gender approach.</li> <li>● To develop and implement community awareness programs on violence against women and its impact on the individual, family and society.</li> <li>● To develop a media plan to combat violence against women, family violence and society's violence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Number of Arab countries which included principles of human rights, equality and a gender sensitive approach in their legislation</li> <li>● Number of Arab States that implemented a comprehensive societal awareness programs on issues of violence against women.</li> <li>● Number of Arab States which</li> </ul>			

\*Arab States could be guided by this model when developing their operational plans based on the Arab Strategy to Protect Women from Violence.

\*\*The body responsible in this pilot model is the Arab Women Organization. As for the State level, the responsible body would be determined according to jurisdiction.

\*\*\* Approximate budgets are left for the Arab Women Organization and the States, to be placed according to their national estimates in implementing the plan's activities.

\*\*\*\* Duration is left to the Arab Women Organization and the States, to be placed according to their priorities and programs.

Strategic Objective	Strategic Measures	Gaps and Challenges	Proposed Measures to be taken by the Arab States	Performance Indicators	Responsible Parties	Approximate Budget ***	Duration *****
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Enhancing the media's role in promoting non-stereotypical image of women and combating violence against women and developing a comprehensive media plan.</li> <li>● Enhancing capacity and skills of workers in the field of spreading the culture of non-violence against women, including media professionals, scholars, and preachers (men and women).</li> <li>● Developing programs and mechanisms to involve men in combating violence against women.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To activate the role of religious men and enhance their professional capabilities in combating violence against women.</li> <li>● Media training on mechanisms for combating violence against Women and emphasizing the importance of a gender sensitive approach in the society's development.</li> <li>● To develop induction programs on services available to battered women.</li> <li>● To prepare and/or develop programs and activities to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>developed and implemented comprehensive media campaigns on the protection of women against violence.</li> <li>● Number of Arab States that implemented training programs for media people, religious men and service providers about combating violence against women.</li> <li>● Number of Arab States that implemented programs to engage men and dignitaries in programs and projects on</li> </ul>			

Strategic Objective	Strategic Measures	Gaps and Challenges	Proposed Measures to be taken by the Arab States	Performance Indicators	Responsible Parties **	Approximate Budget ***	Duration ****
			involve men in programs on combating violence against women. • To involve prominent personalities in various fields in awareness programs on combating violence against women.	violence against women. (Number of implemented programs to consolidate men's role in combating violence against women and number of men joining programs for combating violence against women).			

## Pillar II: Security and Protection

Strategic Objective	Strategic Measures	Gaps and Challenges	Proposed Measures to be taken by the Arab States	Performance Indicators	Responsible Parties	Approximate Budget	Duration
<p>To strengthen the institutional capacity of the society's institutions to protect women from gender based violence in the Arab World</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Calling on Arab States to develop frameworks for institutionalized response of institutions in dealing with issues of violence against Women in order to regulate the relationship between the institutions involved in provision of services to consolidate the participatory approach.</li> <li>● Developing standards and institutional accreditation systems for service providers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Weak response of institutions in dealing with reported violence cases.</li> <li>● Absence of clear procedures for institutions on the way of dealing with violence cases.</li> <li>● Customs, traditions and social culture that prevent implementing an effective referral system.</li> <li>● Lack of a clear, effective and accredited referral system in Member States.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To issue regulations, decisions and instructions for reporting and referral.</li> <li>● To open hotlines to facilitate the re reporting process in some Arab States.</li> <li>● To develop a procedures guide for receiving complaints, testimonies and witnesses.</li> <li>● To prepare training manuals and training cadres in various relevant disciplines.</li> <li>● To hold workshops for the exchange of expertise and experience in developing manuals and exchange of experiences.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Number of States which issued regulations on reporting and referral.</li> <li>● Number of Arab States having hotlines to report violence cases (number of hot lines, nature of coordination between service providers, geographical distribution of these lines).</li> <li>● Number of Arab meetings held to exchange experiences.</li> <li>● Number of Arab States that have clear plans for training cadres.</li> </ul>			



Strategic Objective	Strategic Measures	Gaps and Challenges	Proposed Measures to be taken by the Arab States	Performance Indicators	Responsible Parties	Approximate Budget	Duration
	<p>to ensure quality of services provided to battered women.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●Development procedural manuals for all workers and service providers to cases of violence against women to ensure the privacy of intervention of each sector in the area of support, protection and security.</li> <li>●Strengthening cooperation among Arab institutions operating in the area of combating violence against women.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●Poor provision of comprehensive Services (health, social, legal and police services for violence cases.</li> <li>●Lack of qualified personnel.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●To develop frameworks, procedures and systems for institutions concerned with provision of security and services for violence cases explaining mechanisms of providing services.</li> <li>●To form a specialized committee to oversee the development and implementation of procedures in each of the concerned institutions.</li> <li>●To determine a fixed reference in each institution for monitoring and evaluation(Focal Point).</li> <li>●Partnership agreements between institutions dealing with family violence</li> </ul>	<p>providing services and working to implement them including (number of developed manuals, number of sessions held, number of trainees, number of TOT programs).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●Number of Arab States that developed accreditation and quality insurance systems(employees use of standards of practice, extent of the institutions' application of the criteria for establishing and licensing institutions, availability of service, extent of application of standards of</li> </ul>			

Strategic Objective	Strategic Measures	Gaps and Challenges	Proposed Measures to be taken by the Arab States	Performance Indicators	Responsible Parties	Approximate Budget	Duration
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthening institutional and professional capacities of service providers (health, social, legal and educational) for violence cases.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>determine roles and prevent duplication.</li> <li>To develop an Arab guide manual on the quality standards in the service of battered women.</li> <li>To provide all services (health, social, Legal, and Police service) that meet the needs of violence cases.</li> </ul>	service, application of the criteria of accreditation for institutions, measuring the excellence of institutions).			

### Pillar III: Participation

Strategic Objective	Strategic Measures	Gaps and Challenges	Proposed Measures to be taken by the Arab States	Performance Indicators	Responsible Parties	Approximate Budget	Duration
To enhance women's participation at all levels of decision-making and drawing policies and national programs in Arab States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Providing institutional structures to empower women and enhance their participation in all social, economic and political aspects.</li> <li>● Forming alliances to mobilize support and advocacy and enhancing their role in defending women's issues and achieving change towards social justice.</li> <li>● Involving women in national, regional and international</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Unequal opportunities for rehabilitation and empowerment between men and women.</li> <li>● High illiteracy rate among women.</li> <li>● Cultural heritage, which dedicates stereotyped image in individuals about women's inability to manage public affairs.</li> <li>● Weak coordination among civil society organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To implement the quota system to facilitate women's access to decision-making positions.</li> <li>● To enforce compulsory education through the development of intensive programs for literacy and incentive measures to ensure girls' pursuit of education.</li> <li>● To develop awareness campaigns to promote a culture of equality and a belief in women's ability to assume decision-making positions.</li> <li>● Gender mainstreaming in the curriculum different stages of education.</li> <li>● To develop programs for networking and partnership between the organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Number of Arab States that issued a decision to adopt the quota system and the extent of its distribution in all decision making areas.</li> <li>● Low illiteracy rates among women, and high percentage of women holding graduate degrees.</li> <li>● Number of States that approved national media plans to spread a culture of equality.</li> <li>● Number of States that issued a decision to refine the educational curricula of the stereotyped image and roles of women.</li> <li>● Number of States that have networks of civil society institutions</li> </ul>			

Strategic Objective	Strategic Measures	Gaps and Challenges	Proposed Measures to be taken by the Arab States	Performance Indicators	Responsible Parties	Approximate Budget	Duration
	<p>mechanisms to monitor the implementation of agreements and strategies aimed at protecting women from violence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Finding a mechanism to increase women's percentage in decision-making positions and to develop programs to empower women and enhance their participation in decision-making at Arab, regional and international levels.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Poor resources of civil society organizations</li> <li>● Weak partnership between civil society and governments.</li> <li>● Weak presence of women in national, regional and international mechanisms.</li> </ul>	<p>involved in combating violence against women and enhancing their role.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To strengthen technical and financial support to civil society organizations.</li> <li>● Initiatives to be taken by the government to involve civil society organizations in the development and implementation of programs and plans.</li> <li>● To nominate women for positions to follow-up international, Arab and International mechanisms.</li> <li>● To rehabilitate and train women candidates for these mechanisms.</li> </ul>	<p>concerned with combating violence against women.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Number of States that have partnership frameworks between civil society and the State's institutions for women's protection.</li> <li>● Number of States that adopted and issued warrants for women's nomination to decision-making positions at the national and international levels.</li> <li>● Number of States that implemented special programs to empower women in different areas (number of programs, number of targeted women).</li> </ul>			

### Pillar IV: Legislation and Legal Proceedings

Strategic Objective	Strategic Measures	Gaps and Challenges	Proposed Measures to be taken by the Arab States	Performance Indicators	Responsible Parties	Approximate Budget	Duration
<p>To enact and develop legislation and legal procedures in Arab States to be consistent with principles of regional and international decisions and conventions on human rights and combating violence against women.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Encouraging States to review legislation and legal procedures to ensure women's protection from all forms of violence.</li> <li>● Calling on Arab States to enact specific legislation to protect women from family violence, including alternative programs, social and psychological rehabilitation, and alternative sentencing for offenders under legal supervision.</li> <li>● Developing frameworks for institutionalized procedures to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Women do not enjoy their full rights to protection and prevention against exposure to violence.</li> <li>● Absence of special laws in the area of women's protection from family violence.</li> <li>● Lack of, or limited, means of communication and appropriate legal frameworks for battered</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To enact appropriate legislation and upgrade existing ones to suit Arab constitutions and international conventions.</li> <li>● To develop a law to protect women from violence.</li> <li>● To provide practical communication means for protection and prevention suitable for the status of battered women.</li> <li>● To set legal frameworks to establish</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Number of Arab decisions and procedures issued by the League of Arab States and the Arab Women Organization in this regard.</li> <li>● Number of Arab States that reviewed legislation to ensure women's protection from all forms of violence.</li> <li>● Number of Arab States that developed legal frameworks for services of women's protection from violence (comprehensiveness of these frameworks of all</li> </ul>			

Strategic Objective	Strategic Measures	Gaps and Challenges	Proposed Measures to be taken by the Arab States	Performance Indicators	Responsible Parties	Approximate Budget	Duration
	<p>protect victims at all stages of legal proceedings and to protect their privacy from threat and possible retaliatory acts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Supporting technical and institutional capacity of the justice sector in legal assistance.</li> </ul>	<p>women.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lack of institutional legal procedures to protect family violence cases.</li> <li>● Failure to adopt alternative sentencing in women's protection laws and systems.</li> <li>● Judicial sectors in some Arab countries not using modern technologies in legal aid.</li> </ul>	<p>institutions to receive and accommodate battered women.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To modify and repair relevant laws for the adoption of alternative provisions within the legal framework.</li> <li>● To establish legal frameworks for the introduction of modern technologies in legal institutions related to the issue of violence against women and family in general.</li> <li>● To develop systems of operational protection</li> </ul>	<p>women's needs).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Number of Arab States that adopted modern technologies in providing legal assistance for violence cases (distribution, quality of technology, accessibility).</li> <li>● Number of Arab States that enacted special laws to protect women from family violence.</li> <li>● Number of Arab countries that adopted the alternative sentencing principle for offenders in family violence cases.</li> <li>● Number of Arab</li> </ul>			

Strategic Objective	Strategic Measures	Gaps and Challenges	Proposed Measures to be taken by the Arab States	Performance Indicators	Responsible Parties	Approximate Budget	Duration
			<p>procedures against violence for women and family.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To train and rehabilitate the concerned government and civil agencies on operational frameworks and mechanisms in the application of laws relevant to women's protection from violence.</li> </ul>	States that implemented training courses for workers in the field of women's protection on special legal frameworks in this area (number of participants, number of courses).			

### Pillar V: Studies, Research and Data

Strategic Objective	Strategic Measures	Gaps and Challenges	Proposed Measures to be taken by the Arab States	Performance Indicators	Responsible Parties	Approximate Budget	Duration
<p>To upgrade research on women's protection of gender based violence through determining priorities, consequences of violence, costs, and the effectiveness of programs and the provision of relevant data</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Conducting research and studies on the prevalence of violence against women, analyzing its patterns, determinants and effects, and disseminating them at various levels.</li> <li>● Creating a database to assist in providing information, data and indicators to help in the planning process for women's protection against violence.</li> <li>● Preparing policies newsletters, fact sheets aimed at providing policy-makers with information and helping to improve procedures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Limited scientific studies and research in the area of violence against women.</li> <li>● Lack of published studies and research at the Arab level.</li> <li>● Absence of observatories and databases showing the extent of violence against women and relevant necessary information.</li> <li>● Not taking advantage of results of research and studies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To prepare qualitative and quantitative studies on the prevalence of violence against women.</li> <li>● To develop a national strategy for research on women' protection against violence, identifying gaps, research priorities and programs' effectiveness.</li> <li>● To develop qualitative research projects dealing with cultural and social dimensions of the phenomenon of violence.</li> <li>● To develop research projects to assess the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Number of Arab countries which prepared quantitative and qualitative studies and research explaining the phenomenon of violence against women.(number of such studies, conducting them periodically)</li> <li>● Number of published studies and quantitative and qualitative research on the Arab level.</li> <li>● Number of Arab States having observatories and data bases on violence.</li> </ul>			



Strategic Objective	Strategic Measures	Gaps and Challenges	Proposed Measures to be taken by the Arab States	Performance Indicators	Responsible Parties	Approximate Budget	Duration
	<p>and legislation on women's protection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Adopting outcomes of studies and research in the development and preparation of legislation, policies and programs related to women's protection against gender- based violence.</li> </ul>	<p>in plans and programs at the national levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lack of a clear mechanism to connect decision makers and informing them about the results of research and studies and their importance in drawing policies and programs.</li> </ul>	<p>effectiveness of programs and services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To publish and disseminate studies' results on the national and Arab levels.</li> <li>● To establish observatories and databases containing all the data on violence against women, special programs and projects on women's protection.</li> <li>● To prepare policies newsletters and fact sheets on violence against women on regular basis, and to provide them to decision-makers for use in priority setting and policy-making.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Number of policies newsletters and developed fact sheets.</li> </ul>			

### Pillar VI: Partnership and Coordination

Strategic Objective	Strategic Measures	Gaps and Challenges	Proposed Measures to be taken by the Arab States	Performance Indicators	Responsible Parties	Approximate Budget	Duration
<p>To promote the participatory approach between all institutions involved in the formulation of policies and programs on women's protection from violence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing coordination and partnership frameworks between Arab institutions involved in developing policies and programs for women's protection against violence.</li> <li>Working with Arab States to select cooperation frames between all service providers to protect women from violence.</li> <li>Activating the role of different sectors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weak partnership between government institutions and civil society.</li> <li>Absence of the private sector role.</li> <li>Absence of written mechanisms defining roles and responsibilities of each party and action mechanisms between them.</li> <li>Weak skills and capacities of service providers related to mechanisms of the participatory action in the area of service provision.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To prepare and/or develop reference frameworks describing roles, responsibilities and working methods in accordance with the participatory approach among all stakeholders.</li> <li>To develop an electronic referral system linking all stakeholders in providing services to follow up on cases.</li> <li>To form committees and multi -sectoral task forces to formulate policies and programs for the protection of women against violence and to develop a</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of States that developed national participatory frameworks on combating violence against women.</li> <li>Number of States that developed an electronic linking system for referral of violence cases, providing services and following-up on these cases.</li> <li>Number of States that formed multi sectoral groups and work committees to draw policies and programs for women's protection against violence, and the extent of</li> </ul>			

Strategic Objective	Strategic Measures	Gaps and Challenges	Proposed Measures to be taken by the Arab States	Performance Indicators	Responsible Parties	Approximate Budget	Duration
	including the private sector as effective key partners for women's prevention and protection from violence.		<p>mechanism for activating the social responsibility of the private sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To implement training programs for all workers in all parties service providers on mechanisms of participatory action in dealing with violence cases.</li> <li>● To prepare and publish brochures on mechanisms of participatory action.</li> </ul>	<p>effectiveness of these committees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Number of States that implemented training programs for all workers on the participatory approach in service provision and dealing with cases (number of participants, number of courses, the extent of service providers' commitment to coordinate with all parties concerned with service provision.</li> </ul>			

### Pillar VII: Monitoring and Evaluation

Strategic Objective	Strategic Measures	Gaps and Challenges	Proposed Measures to be taken by the Arab States	Performance Indicators	Responsible Parties	Approximate Budget	Duration
<p>To institutionalize the Monitoring and Evaluation process related to programs on women's protection from violence through the Arab Women Organization</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encouraging the Organization's Arab Member States to develop strategies, policies and national action plans to combat violence against women, and consolidate the culture of peace and abandoning violence against women and protecting their rights.</li> <li>Developing measurable quantitative and qualitative indicators on women's protection against violence.</li> <li>Urging Arab States to prepare periodic reports on their achievements in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Absence of strategies and action plans in some Arab States to combat violence against Women.</li> <li>Absence of an Arab methodology to follow up achievements in the field of combating violence against women</li> <li>Absence of a manual including performance indicators for monitoring and evaluation of strategies and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Necessary action to be taken by the Arab Women Organization and the League of Arab States to push Arab States to prepare plans and strategies to combat violence against women defining roles, responsibilities and the time frame for implementation and monitoring mechanisms.</li> <li>To prepare a manual on quantitative and qualitative performance indicators on the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of decisions and actions taken by Arab Women in this regard.</li> <li>The Arab Women Organization having and adopting a clear mechanism for the Monitoring and Evaluation process.</li> <li>Evidence on quantitative and qualitative performance indicators adopted and published.</li> <li>Number of Arab States</li> </ul>			

Strategic Objective	Strategic Measures	Gaps and Challenges	Proposed Measures to be taken by the Arab States	Performance Indicators	Responsible Parties	Approximate Budget	Duration
	<p>protecting women from violence based on the Arab Strategy for Combating Violence against Women.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Presenting periodic reports related to Arab Member States' follow up on the implementation of the Arab Strategy for Combating Violence against Women and measures taken in this regard to the Arab Women Organization.</li> <li>● Publishing national reports presented by the Organization's Member States in an Arab periodic report.</li> </ul>	<p>programs on women's protection on the Arab level.</p>	<p>implementation of the Strategy's programs and activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To prepare and adopt a clear methodology for the preparation of Arab reports on the protection of Arab women against violence and conducted achievements and programs.</li> <li>● To publish Arab reports in the field of women's protection against violence at the Arab level.</li> </ul>	<p>that prepared their own reports on programs and achievements in the field of women's protection from violence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Number of Arab States committed to providing the Arab Women Organization with reports.</li> <li>● Periodic Arab reports published according to a clear adopted methodology.</li> </ul>			

## **Appendix 1:**

Participants in a regional workshop to exchange experience in the field of Elimination of Violence against Arab women (6- 8 December 2009)/Tunisia:

- 1- Dr. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh - Executive Board Member of the Arab Women Organization - Jordan.
- 2- Brigadier General Mohammad Al-Zu'bi - Director of the Family Protection Department/Public Security Directorate - Jordan.
- 3- Mr. Mohammed Mogdadi - Director of Family Programs - The National Council for Family Affairs -Jordan.
- 4- Mrs. Mouza Rashid Al Ghufli- Teacher- United Arab Emirates.
- 5- Dr. Zubaida Jassim Mohammed Ismail - Captain at the Legal Affairs Office, Ministry of Interior - Abu Dhabi.
- 6- Mrs. Manal Taher Al Mutawa - Complaints Specialist in the Supreme Council for Women - Bahrain.
- 7- Dr. Bana Buzaboon - Expert and General Manager, Batelco Care Center for Family Violence Cases.
- 8- Professor Najwa Al Safi - Central coordinator for project on gender equity and the prevention of violence against women, National Office for Family and Population - Tunisia.
- 9- Professor Su'ad Khalaf Allah - President of the Association of Women Jurists in the National Federation for Tunisian Women. Tunisia.
- 10- Dr. Samia Doula - Team Leader at the Center for Legal and Judicial Studies - Tunisia.
- 11- Mrs. Ait Mehdi Hajira - Assistant Director - Social Development Agency (Prime Minister's Affairs) responsible for studies and summary - Algeria.
- 12-Professor Afaf Ibrahim Al Bakri - Responsible for women's protection from violence, the General Directorate for Women and Family/ Social Welfare Department - Sudan.
- 13- Om Salma Muhammad Ismail El Nour - Responsible for women's protection from violence / Sudanese Women General Union - Sudan.

- 14-Dr. Ameera Ahmad - Expert in the field of policies and strategies in the Syrian Commission for Family Affairs-Syria.
- 15-Professor Julyyt Kahil - Executive Office Member of the General Women's Union - Syria.
- 16-Professor Salha Al Araimi - Director of the Department of Family Development in the Eastern Region- Oman
- 17-Professor Fadhila Ruheili - Representative of the Omani Women's Association in Sahar - Oman.
- 18-Mrs. Fatina Fawzi Al Wadaify - non-governmental party - Palestine.
- 19-Mrs. Mona Al Khalili - The Palestinian Women's Union - Palestine.
- 20-Mrs. Laurice Sfeir - President of the Lebanese Council for Combating Violence against Women - Lebanon.
- 21-Mrs. Abeer Abdel Samad - Representative of the Ministry of Social Affairs - Lebanon.
- 22- Professor Faiza Faraj Ali - Women's Department in General People's Congress - Libya.
- 23 - Professor Faiza Zughrat - Libyan Women's Union- Libya.
- 24 - Prof. Dr. Hoda Rashad - Director, The Social Research Centre -American University - Egypt.
- 25 - Dr. Nehad Abul Komsan - Director of the Egyptian Center for Human Rights - Egypt.
- 26 - Mrs. Saadia Drissi Amrani- Head of the Department of Women's Affairs at the Directorate of Women's Affairs, Family and Children of the Ministry of Social Development, Family and Solidarity, Rabat - Morocco.
- 27 - Mrs Maimouna Bint Al Taghi - Director of women's promotion and gender - Mauritania.
- 28 - Oumakelthoum Bint Sidi - Association of Social Work - Mauritania.
- 29 - Professor Entesar Mohammed Abdullah - Women National Committee - Yemen.
- 30 - Professor Sultanah Al Geham - Foundation for the Support of Civil and Democratic Orientation(Mada) - Yemen.
- 31- Dr. Wadouda Badran- Director General - Arab Women Organization.

## **Appendix 2:**

Participants in a workshop to discuss the draft of the regional Strategy for the Protection of Arab Women from Violence - Cairo: (24-25 May 2010).

1. Dr. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh - - Executive Board Member of the Arab Women Organization - Jordan.
2. Mr. Hakam Mohammed Matalqah - Family Protection Program against Violence- The National Council for Family Affairs.
3. Dr. Souad Zayed Al Oraimi - Assistant, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the UAE University.
4. Dr. Bana Buzaboon - Expert and General Manager of Batelco Care Center for Family Violence Cases- Bahrain.
5. Judge Samia Doula - Team Leader at the Center for Legal and Judicial Studies affiliated to the Minster of Justice and Human Rights Office- Tunisia.
6. Professor Ouahida Boureghda - Responsible for studies and summarizing at the delegated Ministry and Director of the project to combat violence - Algeria.
7. Afaf Ibrahim Bakri - responsible for women's protection from violence in the Public Administration for Women and Family/Social Welfare Department - Sudan.
8. Dr. Hyam Bashour - Doctor at the University of Damascus - Syria.
9. Dr. Khalid Ali Al Azri - Research Fellow in the Gulf Studies at Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies - Oman.
10. Professor Fida' Al Barghouti - Media professional, feminist researcher and trainer in gender issues and gender based violence - Palestine.



11. Professor Joelle Shukri Fawaz - Judge - Lebanon.
12. Chancellor Omneya Helmy- The National Council for Women - Egypt.
13. Dr. Maya Morsy - Director of UNIFEM Office in Egypt - Expert in Gender and Human Rights - Egypt.
14. Saadia Drissi Amrani - Director of Women's Affairs Department at the Ministry of Social Development and Family Solidarity - Morocco.
15. Dr. Sidi Abdulla Wild Al Mahboubi - Professor at the University of Nouakchott and Advisor to the Minister of Higher Education. Expert in women's affairs and population, and oversees the preparation of strategies on Violence in favor of the Ministry of Women's Affairs - Mauritania.
16. Professor Hana Ibrahim Al Mutawakel - General Manager of Communication & Information at the Women National Committee - Yemen .
17. Dr. Wadouda Badran- Director General - Arab Women Organization.