



**Parliamentary Workshop on Advancing Maternal and Reproductive Health and Gender Equality in
member countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)**

**Golden Tulip Carthage Hotel
Centre de Congres**

**Tunis, Tunisia,
March 8-10, 2012**

AGENDA

Thursday March 8, 2012

4:30 p.m.

Inauguration Ceremony

Hon. Haythem Belgacem
Président du bloc parlementaire du parti congrès pour la République
National Constituent Assembly
Republic of Tunisia

Hon. Ms. Sihem Badi
Minister of Women and Family Affairs
Republic of Tunisia

Dr. Donya Aziz, MP
National Assembly of Pakistan
Convener of the Sustainable Development, Health and Population Programme
Member of the Executive Committee
Parliamentarians for Global Action

H. E. Tiina Jortikka-Laitinen
Ambassador
Embassy of Finland in Tunis

Ms. Habiba Ezzahi Ben Romdhane
CEO
National Family and Population Board
Tunisia

Keynote Speaker:
Mr. Hafehd Chekir
Regional Director for Arab States Region
United Nations Population Fund

Group Photograph

7:00 p.m. Dinner and Celebration of International Women's Day
El Montazah Restaurant

Friday March 9, 2012

9:00 – 10:30 a.m. **Session 1: The Role of Parliamentarians in Advancing Maternal and Reproductive Health and Gender Equality**

- What is the role of the parliamentarian?
- The relevance of CEDAW and the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action: understanding how implementing these international instruments will improve maternal and reproductive health and promote gender equality in the class room and the workforce
- What are some of the limitations and challenges that parliamentarians face in implementing CEDAW and the ICPD Programme of Action?

Chairperson: Ms. Shazia Z. Rafi, Secretary-General, PGA

- Ms. Ledia Hanifa, MP, Indonesia
- Dr. Salah Abdulrahman, MP, Bahrain
- Ambassador Naela Gabr, Egypt, CEDAW Committee Member
- Ms. Rim Mahjoub, MP, Tunisia

Interactive dialogue

10:30 – 11:00 a.m. *Coffee Break*

11:00 – 12:30 p.m. **Session 2: Highlighting Societal Benefits of Bridging the Gender Gap**

- Promoting gender equality in the classroom and in the workforce by building awareness around benefits to national economies
- Building effective partnerships on women's empowerment
- Role of men in promoting gender equality

Chairperson: Ms. Fatiha Bakkali, MP, Morocco

- Mr. Aliou Aya, MP, Mali
- Ms. Kerstin Engle, MP, Sweden
- Ms. Mariam Traore, MP, Cote D'Ivoire

Interactive dialogue

12:30 - 2:00 p.m. *Lunch - El Montazah Restaurant*

2:00 – 3:30 p.m. **Session 3: Overcoming Challenges to Improving Reproductive and Maternal Health**

- Overcoming institutional challenges to effectively reduce maternal mortality rates

- Components of a cost-effective healthcare system that ensures protection of the most vulnerable populations
- Effectively advocating for maternal and newborn health by highlighting the social and economic benefits

Chairperson: Ms. Alboukhari Hapsita Souleymane, MP, Chad

- Mr. Jacob Ouedraogo, MP, Burkina Faso
- Ms. Sylvia Sinabulya, MP, Uganda
- Dr. Samira Marai, MP, Tunisia

Interactive dialogue

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Session 4: Opportunities and Initiatives for Improving Reproductive Health and Reducing Maternal Mortality

- Alternatives to medical doctors: educating and promoting the use of skilled midwives
- Building effective partnerships in order to make best use of scarce resources to improve maternal and newborn health
- Advocacy strategies in parliaments

Chairperson: Mr. Ali Ashal, MP, Yemen

- Dr. Hetifah Syaifudian, MP, Indonesia
- Ms. Elizabeth Alpha-Lavalie, MP, Sierra Leone
- Ms. Fatima Shagari, Expert on Maternal Health and MDGs, Nigeria
- Dr. Rushna Rajvi, Senior Technical Advisor for Health, USAID Asia and Middle East regions

5:00 p.m.

Meeting Adjourns

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Drafting Committee on Tunis Plan of Action meets

7:30 p.m.

Dinner - El Montazah Restaurant

Saturday March 10, 2012

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Session 5: Examining Advocacy Tools and Creating Effective National Action Plans

- Advocating for national legislation that supports gender equality in the workforce and the classroom
- Strategies for increasing the participation of women in the political process-implementation of gender quotas and women's caucuses, and regulating party practices
- Developing budgets with a gender lens and allocating funds to support women's empowerment on relevant parliamentary committees
- Challenges and limitations of using current legislation to advocate for gender equality in the workforce
- Funding female political candidates

Chairperson: Mr. Sayed Ishaq Gailani, MP, Afghanistan

- Ms. Khadija Yamllahi, MP, Morocco
- Ms. Halima Gueni, MP, Tunisia
- Ms. Nask T. Abdul Karim, MP, Iraq

Interactive dialogue

10:30 – 11:00 a.m. *Coffee Break*

11:00 – 12:30 p.m. **Session 6: International Cooperation and National Commitments: Implementation of CEDAW and the ICPD Programme of Action**

- Key components of effective national legislation
- Ensuring enforcement of legislation
- Engaging in international and regional initiatives
- Partnerships with civil society

Chairperson: Mr. Babah Ould Ahmed Babou, MP, Mauritania

- Dr. Mohamed Boudra, MP, Morocco
- Dr. Leila Joudane, Assistant Representative, UNFPA Tunisia

Interactive dialogue

12:30 – 2:00 p.m. *Lunch- El Montazah Restaurant*
[Distribution of Draft Tunis Plan of Action]

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Discussion and adoption of Tunis Plan of Action

Chairperson: Dr. Salah Abdulrahman, MP, Bahrain

3:00 – 3:15 p.m. Closing Remarks

Hon. Ms. Sihem Badi
Minister of Women and Family Affairs
Republic of Tunisia

Ms. Shazia Z. Rafi
Secretary- General
Parliamentarians for Global Action

7:00 p.m. Dinner at the Residence of the Ambassador of Finland
(Meet in hotel lobby at 6:15p.m.)