



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

Tunis Plan of Action

03.10.2012

Acknowledging that the rights of women and girls are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights.

Recalling that advancing gender equality and equity, the empowerment of women, the elimination of violence against women, and ensuring women's ability to control their own reproductive health, are cornerstones of population and development- related programs and that advancing and realizing women's rights and opportunities has a positive impact on the overall development of a country.

Mindful that we, as Parliamentarians, have a responsibility to represent, protect and empower, to the best of our abilities, the people of our countries, especially the most vulnerable in society such as women and children.

Reaffirming the importance of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), as well as its Optional Protocol; the Beijing Platform of Action; the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD); Security Council Resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009); and Millennium Development Goals (MDG) 3 on women's empowerment and 5 on maternal health, including strengthening the cooperation within the OIC on MDGs 3 and 5.

We as parliamentarians of OIC member states, undertake to:

1. Advocate for the ratification and implementation of CEDAW, and its Optional Protocol.
2. Promote gender equality, equity and the empowerment of women and girls through the development and implementation of laws and policies that are consistent with CEDAW and its Optional Protocol, and formulate national road maps to accelerate the realization of women's economic, social; political and civil rights.

3. Analyze and revise current national reproductive health legislation and practices in our respective countries with a view to bringing them into greater conformity with the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action.
4. Strongly encourage our fellow parliamentarians to actively promote women's political participation, through the establishment of affirmative action, and all legal measures to achieve women's socio-economic and political empowerment.
5. Ensure government budgets and plans at all levels take into account the needs of women and are gender sensitive in all areas. Make appropriate budget allocations for reproductive health services and supplies and ensure that resources are distributed to underserved communities and rural areas.
6. Build effective partnerships and networks with civil society, the private sector and local communities to promote women's empowerment and reproductive health and rights.
7. Ensure access to comprehensive reproductive health services, especially in local communities, in order to reduce maternal and child mortality and morbidity.
8. Raise awareness of this Plan of Action among Parliamentary colleagues and constituencies.
9. Report to the PGA Secretariat, within 6 months, on steps and actions taken pursuant to this Plan of Action.

Done in Tunis this 10th day of March 2012