

**Draft Agenda**  
**Second Meeting of the Working Group on Women's Rights and  
Gender Equality**  
**09-11 February 2011, .... Hotel, Doha-Qatar**

***Background***

The Working Group on Women's Rights and Gender Equality of the Arab-European Human Rights Dialogue (AEHRD) at its first meeting, held in Doha-Qatar in May 2010, articulated a "strategic framework" and a "Plan of Action" for the group members to pursue in mutual collaboration over three years (2010-2013). The Group had deliberated on a wide range of issues characterising specifically the analysis and internalization of the working group mandate as reflected in the Doha Statement on Women's Rights and Gender Equality that was concluded in the fifth AEHRD on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, held in Doha-Qatar in March 2010, thus prioritised certain elements for immediate attention including the concluded work on the plan of action of the working group.

The related elements selected for attention of the Group, and subsequent action were:

**Conformity of National Laws and Practices with International Law**

- Implementation of principles and laws from international agreements that relate to women's rights and gender equality and review of reservations and lift what can be lifted, so that equality is attained.
- Guarantee the legal protection in national legislation for women's rights, whether in the law or the application/implementation of the law and harmonizing it with international agreements and conventions and national constitutions.
- Implementation of CEDAW, including lifting the reservation, ratification of the optional protocol and harmonization of national legislation
- Information gathering, analysis and studies on discriminatory laws and regulations and addressing gaps, whether in the law or in the application of the law in relation to the implementation of international conventions and agreements and in relation to the implementation of national legislation

**Affirmative Action and Gender Mainstreaming**

- Gender mainstream national human rights institutions in its structure, strategies programmes, budgets and reports and building partnerships and alliances with civil society organizations
- NHRIS nationally propose affirmative actions on gender equality, a act as examples by mainstreaming gender
- Representation of women in NHRI boards of 50% within 3-5 years
- Awareness and training programmes to those who are working in NHRIs to incorporate the concept of equality between men and women and propose practical actions for these institutions to attain the aspired level of equality
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**Education for Gender Equality**

- NHRIs work on establishing and enforcing a culture of gender equality of different levels of society, including training of judges, prosecutes, lawyers, NHRI staff, training of HR students and staff
- Development of curricular, ensuring adequate representation and imaging of men and women

**Combating Violence against Women**

- Fostering the role of national human rights institutions in fighting violence against women, with focus on domestic violence, trafficking and women with special needs.
- Organise activities addressing public opinion to fight violence against women and enter into national and regional alliances and campaigns to limit violence against women

## ***2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Group***

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Working Group will convene to discuss, in general, what has been achieved so far by the participants in advancing the proposed agenda of work, what have been the problems encountered and what support is requisite from the Group to enable a more efficient course of action.

Commensurately, the projected tentative programme of work is as follows:

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#### **DAY ONE**

##### Session I:

Presentation by **Jamal Nijim** from Swedish Ombudsman Office and **Lina Al Qurah** from EMHRN on how to Strengthen the role of NHRIs in ensuring the conformity of national laws with the international HR framework on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

##### Session II:

Presentation by **Asma Khader** from JNCW/SIGI and **Christina Papadopoulou** from the Greek Human Rights Commission on how through their work promoted in their countries affirmative action to promote gender through specific mapping study that describes mainstreaming gender equality with specific focus on the role of NHRIs

#### **DAY TWO**

##### Session III:

Presentation by **Afaf Omer** from UN ESCWA and **Bahija Ezzi** from Saudi Human Rights Commission on the development of the resource database and common tools on gender training

##### Session IV:

Presentation by **Suad Khalfallah** from the Tunisian NHRI and **Anas Al Saket** from Jordan's NHRI on a project description of how to strengthen the capacity of law and justice sector on gender based violence

##### Session V:

Presentation by **Asma Khader** from JNCW/SIGI and **Mu'ayyad Mehyar** from DIHR on the concept of Gender and the concept of Gender Equality

#### **DAY THREE...The Way Forward**

This extended session will at first, follow-on from the presentations and discussions throughout the first two days of the meeting and further refining the agenda of work. It will, to an extent, entail a brainstorming exercise on intended modifications and suggestions to make the work of the Group more viable.