

Declaration of Algiers

Realizing Equality for Women is an inseparable part of Human Rights

Emanating from the
International conference on Effective & Sustainable Participation of Women in Elected Assemblies
Algiers, 11 December 2013

We the Parliamentarians, both women and men, from around the world, who are participating here today in the International conference on Effective & Sustainable Participation of Women in Elected Assemblies; taking place for the first time in Algiers on 10-11 December, and hosted by the two chambers of the Algerian Parliament in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women (UN Women); aim to examine means to enhance women's participation in political life and other fora, in addition to decision-making and political, economic, social and cultural and peace-related legislation.

We thank the Algerian people and their President, whom we salute for his determination in strengthening the political position of Algerian women in public life, in its parliament and government, and we congratulate Algeria on its recent election to the Human Rights Council of the United Nations and its achievement of the Millennium Development Goals before the deadline.

This conference is convened on the same day as the celebration of the International Human Rights Day, the 65th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the UN High Commission for Human Rights.

In our capacities as citizens of the world we consider that it is necessary to include the largest number of women in social and political life in our countries and we are concerned about the low level of women participation and urge all countries to undertake all necessary actions to remedy this situation.

Believing in the struggle of women for their freedom all over the world and building on the principles of freedom, justice, equality and the rule of law in the protection of broad and comprehensive human rights; people's access to freedom, justice and equal opportunities without discrimination as the basis for any society.

Realizing that in the absence of women's active participation and the incorporation of their perspective in decision making, *we cannot* achieve equality, development and peace.

Believing that women's equal participation in political life is a key condition for the respect of human rights, promotion of democracy as well as a guarantee of justice and effective participation in good governance.

Concerned about the integration of women's rights in national development strategies, the inclusion of their voice in national dialogue, as well as the participation of women in democratic, constitutional, legislative, electoral and judicial processes and their protection in the enforcement of the law.

Realizing that internal conflicts, wars and occupation are a main cause for the reversal of development priorities, starting with women's issues, *we affirm* the important role of women in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peace building, *which stresses* the need for their skills to be incorporated and their full participation in all processes aiming to preserve and promote peace

and security in addition to enhancing their role in decision-making pertaining to conflict prevention and resolution.

We call on all the partners and stakeholders to implement the following:

1. Deepening the values of equality and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and to remove all obstacles that constrain women in our societies;
2. Governments to undertake the necessary arrangements to secure effective equality for women and to ensure they are able to practice their political, economic and social rights and freedoms in a way to protect them from all forms of discrimination;
3. Legislative reform starting with the constitution which promotes gender equality and citizen rights and obligations to enforce the constitution with unequivocal legislation;
4. Apply the gender mainstreaming approach in all public policies and legislations;
5. Achieve a minimum of 30% female participation in parliament and all decision-making functions;
6. To establish necessary legislation and internal structures that improve the level of women's representation and participation at senior level of organizations and political parties;
7. To guarantee the widest participation of women in peace building and in securing means for the protection of women and girls in times of war and peace;
8. To work with the family as the first stage of socialization and where values of discrimination and equality between men and women are instilled and where civic education occurs;
9. To Include gender awareness programmes in educational curricula;
10. To develop a communication strategy in participation with all media and communication organs which focuses on creating awareness and reverse discriminatory mind sets and behaviours against women which prevents their effective participation in society;
11. To encourage women to engage in political life and to assume their rights of leadership in decision-making particularly in local and parliamentary elections through political, economic, and social empowerment and the engagement of political parties in providing human and financial resources to support them;
12. To regularly monitor and evaluate the performance of women and men in elected assemblies through analysis of quantitative and qualitative data.

We recommend the establishment of an International Network of Women Parliamentarians in all regions and aim to establish regional and national networks that encompass Arab Deputies in order to enhance their effectiveness and performance as parliamentarians; and to ensure regular interaction and continuous collaboration as well as reinforce the women's parliamentary diplomacy.