



Draft concept note

The Arab States under Gender Lens:

Launching of the First Regional Review of the Arab Women Development Agenda 2030 , hosted by the state of Qatar.

Side event on the margins of the Sixty-seven session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 67).

6 March 2023

CR-8, UNHQ

Background:

In 2015, the Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the league of Arab States endorsed the “Cairo Declaration for Arab women beyond-2015” (the “Cairo Declaration”), adopted, together with the Executive Strategic Action Plan, on March 2017 at the 28th Arab Summit. The Cairo Declaration and the Executive Action Plan were adopted under the umbrella document of the "Development Agenda for Women in the Arab Region 2030".

In the light of implementing the Summit Resolution (701) , the League of Arab States - Department of Women (LAS- WD) is mandated to review every five years the implementation of the Development Agenda for Women in the Arab Region 2030, that includes the Cairo Declaration.

In 2022, the regional review represented a unique and important opportunity to update and review the Cairo Declaration, by incorporating new pillar on Gender and Environment, climate change and COVID-19 response. For this purpose, LAS – WD has developed a questionnaire to collect data that will inform the regional review process.

UNWOMEN (ROAS) supported LAS in monitoring and reporting against this regional normative framework to accelerate progress on gender equality in the region.



The First Regional Review+5: The Arab States under Gender Lens.

The league of Arab States monitoring the "First Regional Review of the Women Development Agenda in the Arab region" in order to:

- Map the progress made by each of Arab Member States based on data extracted from the LAS Regional Questionnaire during the last five years (2017-2022), and develop **a country profile for each of the LAS Member States**
- Consolidate data from the country profiles and develop a **regional report** documenting progress to follow up on the 2017 adopted development Agenda. The Regional Report Highlight progress and gaps found in data collection process based on the indicators of LAS Questionnaire and reflects the progress in the implementation of the Cairo Declaration , includes recommendations for Member States and other stakeholders to accelerate progress to achieve the goals of Arab Women Development Agenda 2030.

Arab Women Development Agenda (2023-2028): The Highest Political Commitment to Empower Women in Arab Region:

Based on the results of the "First Regional Review", LAS recognized the urgency to update the Arab Women Development agenda, in the light of the emerging challenges and changes took place recently on both regional and international level. Against this urgency, LAS drafted the **Ministerial Declaration on "Gender equity and parity for development and environmental sustainability"** : Arab Women Development Agenda (2023-2028), together with the cooperation of Arab Countries and valuable inputs to the document. The Ministerial Declaration serves as the main outcome of the regional review. This comprehensive and up to date Women Development Agenda for the upcoming five years (2022-2028), was adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level, according to the Resolution (808 November 2022).



High level side event on “The Arab States under Gender Lens: Launching of the First Regional Review of the Arab Women Development Agenda 2030:

In celebration of the results of the first regional review +5, and in appreciation of the effective cooperation of Arab countries within this review and to value the Arab political will in support Gender equality Agenda , the League of Arab states in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development and Family in the State of Qatar, and in cooperation with UN Women (ROAS), will organize a side event on the Margins of the Sixty-seven session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 67) to launch the outcomes of the review, and to highlight on some of the country profiles of member states.

The High-Level Side Event will be led by a panel of proposed distinguished speakers from Arab Region:

- H.E. Amb. Dr. Hiafaa Abu Ghazaleh, Assistant Secretary General , Head of Social Affairs Sector- League of Arab States.
- H.E. Mariam Al-Misnad -Minister of Social Development and Family Qatar.
- Dr. Susanne Mikhail, Regional Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) for the Arab States.
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Moderated by:

- Minister Plenipotentiary Ms. Doaa Fouad Khalifa- Director of Women Dept. LAS