

Délégation Permanente de l'Organisation
de Coopération Islamique
auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève



Permanent Delegation of the Organisation
of Islamic Cooperation
to the United Nations Office in Geneva

OIC-G/OHCHR/091-15

Ms Nathalie Prouvez
Chief - Rule of Law and Democracy
Section Rule of Law, Equality and
Non-Discrimination Branch
Office of the Human Rights
for Humanitarian Affairs

Geneva 25 February 2015

Dear Madam,

In response to your letter dated 16 January 2015 concerning resolution 27/24 of the Human Rights Council, I have the honour to provide you with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation General Secretariat input on OIC best practices related to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, related to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (article 7).

Please accept, Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ambassador, Permanent Observer
Slimane CHIKH

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Slimane Chikh', written over a light blue horizontal line.

OIC General Secretariat input on the best practices, experience and challenges relating to the right to participate in political and public affairs, related to the Convention of on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (article 7)

The OIC took major steps in its main summits and ministerial conferences to call the Member States to implement equal participation in political and public affairs to all members of their societies, regardless of their gender, age and condition. These recommendations were included in the declarations of many major summits and ministerial conferences; including:

- The 10th and 11th sessions of Islamic Summit Conference and the subsequent Sessions of the ICFMs and CFMs, in 2003 and 2008, which confirmed the OIC commitment to and alliance with the United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights.
- The 3rd Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit in 2005, which also called to strengthen legislation geared to give women in the Member States a greater role in economic, cultural, social, and political life.
- The five Ministerial Conferences on the *Role of Women in the Development of the OIC Member States* held in 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2014, provided an opportunity for coordination among Member States in order to find out ways and means to prepare strategies, standards, programs and goals to advance the status of women. These Ministerial Conferences came out with a milestone achievement, which is the adoption and setting mechanism for implementation for the OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (OPAW). The conferences also discussed the challenges faced by women in the Member States and ways to eradicate them.

The OPAAW mainly discusses critical issues based on a need such as; a) eradication of poverty, b) achieving gender equality and women empowerment, c) raising women's participation in decision-making, d) providing equal opportunities for women, and 4) elimination of all forms of discrimination against women including violence.

- The establishment of the Family Affairs Department under the General Directorate of the Cultural Social and Family Affairs was also an additional landmark achievement that was suggested in the OIC Ten Year Program of Action by the 3rd Extraordinary Summit held in 2005 in Makkah Al-Mukkaramah.

The Department of Family Affairs was established officially in 2010, after its adoption by the 36th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic on 23-25 May 2009 through resolution No.8/36-ORG on the Establishment of Department of Family Affairs. The establishment of this department made a successful and positive effect for the OIC General Secretariat in recommending regulations and following up the signatures and process of ratifying resolutions concerning equal participation in political and public affairs and advancement of women.

- The Initiation of discussion for the establishment of The Organization of Women Development in Cairo, which the OIC Intergovernmental Legal Expert Group Meeting discussed in the meeting held in Jeddah on 12-14 October 2009 with a view to ensure the implementation of the OPAAW.

The statute of The Organization of Women Development was adopted by the 37th CFM in Dushanbe, Tajikistan in May 2010. The Organization will assume its functions once the required number of ratifications to the statute BY Member States is obtained.

- The four Ministerial Conferences on *The role of Women in Development of the OIC Member States*; in 2006; 2008, 2010; 014continue to study, promote and follow-up how to strengthen women's role in the development of Muslim societies and provide them with equal participation in all aspects of life and workforce.
- OIC also observes and commemorates International Days such as International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women; Women's Day and United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace, International Youth Day; and Universal Children's Day through inter alia issuing messages of the Secretary General.