WOMEN IN PUBLIC LIFE: FROM POLICIES TO IMPACT

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Bahrain
Objectives

- Promoting exchange of good practices on moving from policies to impact for gender equality

- Taking stock on progress since the launch of 2014 OECD-CAWTAR Report “Women in Public Life: Gender, Law and Policy in the Middle East and North Africa”
Gender gaps exist globally, but closing them can radically boost annual GDP.

OECD projections indicate that GDP would increase by 12% over the next 20 years if labour force participation rates among women in OECD countries reached those of men in OECD countries.
Women voting in Egypt’s first round of elections, 2015

Women MPs celebrate the adoption of Tunisia’s new constitution that enshrines parity rights of women

President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority appointed Judge Kholoud al-Faqih to the Sharia Judiciary in 2009

LABOUR FORCE INEQUALITIES IN THE MENA REGION RANK HIGHER THAN ANY OTHER REGION

THIS GAP HAS ONLY IMPROVED BY 7.4% IN 20 YEARS

Graph displaying Labour Market Participation rates for the year 2010.
Barriers to women’s full participation in public life continue due to:

• Institutional
  – Uneven oversight, enforcement and monitoring to ensure accountability and measure the impact of gender equality polices

• Legal
  – Restrictions placed on women’s freedom of movement and physical integrity, assets, working hours, access to public spaces, restrictive family code and limited civil liberties

• Social
  – Gender stereotypes can formally or informally direct decisions and opportunities of women
Forthcoming OECD Recommendation on Gender Equality in Public Life

• Three thematic foci:
  1. Good governance and accountability for gender equality
  2. Promoting gender diversity in leadership in public institutions
  3. Gender equality in public employment
THANK YOU