

UN WOMEN

“Women in Democratic Transition: Political Participation Watchdog UNIT

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# Thematic Evaluation

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## Acronyms

AAW	Alliance for Arab Women
CEDAW	Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSW	Commission for the Status of Women
ECOSOC	UN Economic and Social Council
ECWR	Egyptian Center for Women's Rights
FJP	Freedom and Justice Party
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
MDG	Millennium development Goal
NDP	National Democratic Party
N CHR	National Council for Human Rights
NCW	National Council for Women
NGO	Non- Governmental Organization
UN	United Nations
UNDEF	United Nations Democracy Fund
UN Women	The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
USA	United States of America
US	United States
VAW	Violence Against Women

## Executive Summary

This report presents the findings of a thematic evaluation of the project “**Women in Democratic Transition: Political Participation Watchdog Unit**” a two year project implemented by the Egyptian Center for Women’s Rights (ECWR) in partnership with the Arab Consultancy Office. The **Objective** of the project as stated in the project document is to “**Strengthen the political participation of women leaders in Egypt in the framework of the 2010-2011 elections.**”<sup>1</sup> The project has three **Outcomes**:

- The knowledge of political leaders, the Egyptian population and international partners, concerning the crucial need for the equal participation of women in the political sphere, is strengthened
- The capacity of women leaders to effectively participate in electoral campaigns and thus have equal access to institutional positions, is developed
- Women leaders’ access to politics in the run up to the local and national elections is closely monitored through the creation of a social watchdog

Four **Activity Areas** were identified:

- **Monitoring the 2010 Elections from a Gender Perspective.** This is the function of the Watchdog unit, and its research nucleus which is the repository of the data collected from various sources including the media, observation of elections and women testimonies gathered during fact finding missions. The main outputs from this activity include a monitoring report which will be disseminated to the media and to the National Council for Women (NCW) and to the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) among others, in a launch event and press conference, as well as 134 NGOs trained to monitor elections from a gender perspective.
- **Advocacy and Public Awareness.** A comprehensive strategy will be developed to include multiple partners (media representatives, political parties, women leaders and community activists) and activities (social marketing messages, media briefings, gender sensitization sessions), all of which will combine to push for legislative and institutional reforms in favor of women’s political participation. The main outputs from this activity are the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials and 4 public seminars bringing the public together with policy makers and civil society actors.
- **Trainings for Women Leaders.** Women candidates who have been nominated by their parties or running independently were trained to effectively manage their campaign, and volunteers were fielded to support the candidates and to report on their performance. The main outputs from this activity are 150 women leaders from all over Egypt trained in electoral processes.
- **International Outreach.** Leveraging ECWR’s special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the project fielded missions to select UN and women’s rights international conferences so as to present the situation of women in Egypt. The main outputs from this activity include presentations about lessons learnt from women’s political participation in elections as voters and as candidates as well as success stories.

The evaluation **Methodology** relied on a thorough review of all relevant documentation, including the project document and progress reports submitted to UN Women, election monitoring reports, training materials, press releases and briefs. Also, consulted were the ECWR website together with a selection of

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<sup>1</sup> Project document: “Women in Democratic Transition: Political Participation Watchdog Unit”

studies deemed relevant to the development context in Egypt and to the issue of women's political participation and empowerment. Interviews were conducted with the UN Women programme associate, as well as the ECWR Chair and team members, and the opinion of beneficiaries project was also considered via evaluation forms distributed following capacity development activities and success stories garnered by project team members.

The **Evaluation Findings** noted the following:

**Relevance:**

- The project design was contextually relevant to women's political performance during the period leading up to the 2010-2011 elections as well as in its alignment with the pre-revolution national government priorities and international obligations.
- The four activity areas responded to the needs of women aspiring to engage in the political sphere as well as being in concert with a growing realization among civil society actors of the need to collaborate and have one resonant voice advocating for women's rights.

**Effectiveness**

- The overall performance of the project has exceeded expectations in terms of process and deliverables as set in the project document logical framework.
- The project was visible both in the national and international arenas because of its networking activities as well as its outputs in terms of knowledge products, awareness raised and trainings delivered.
- The increased number of women running for parliament is attributed to the awareness raising and advocacy and capacity development efforts and activities of civil society actors, including those supported by the project.

**Efficiency:**

- The project was able to maximize its efficiency in terms of timeliness as well as outputs from allocated resources through its networking activities and the alliances established with other civil society actors (organizations and volunteers)
- The project has fully fulfilled its commitments in terms of outputs under each of the activity areas, even exceeding them in certain cases (ex. number of press releases, newspaper editorials, monitoring of syndicate and student union elections).
- The project activities with minor exceptions were implemented as scheduled despite situations beyond the control of the project (The MOI late announcement of nomination phase, the late announcement of women candidates on party lists, and the security situation after the revolution).

**Sustainability:**

- The project has introduced measures of sustainability on the front of process as well as results
- The project should have expanded the number of women's rights defenders capable of addressing the international community, and diversified their profile and geographical representation.
- The project has contributed to strengthening awareness about the discriminatory context of women's political participation, and developed significant capacity among women and CSOs to ensure that progress achieved will be maintained and furthered after the UNDEF funding.

**Impact:**

- The project has established strong relationships established with political forces thereby encouraging them to invest in preparing a cadre of young women leaders to participate in the 2011 elections as well as forthcoming ones.
- The project has introduced HR language in the political discourse through its knowledge building and awareness raising activities
- The project's support to ECWR initiation of a civil society coalition lobbying has magnified the impact of the women lobby
- The project has contributed to addressing gender related strategies, and that the results so far achieved possess the requisite conditions for furtherance.

**Lessons Learned and Recommendations**

The fact that the organization was required to do what it was already doing but more and better, was definitely a factor in the successful implementation and completion of the project, despite the politically unstable environment and precarious security situation of the revolution. Moreover, designing the project so as to allow for course adjustments, and unintended consequences enabled the project to monitor the elections of 2011 and train the candidates, thereby capacitating more women than initially planned (165 instead of 150). **Such flexibility is commendable and should always be built in the design of the project.**

The documentation provided to the consultant was comprehensive, showing the expanse of project activities as well as detailing the process progress achieved, course changes, etc. however, requiring that the documents be produced in the English language results in an output that does not do full justice to the organization's performance and achievements. **CSOs should be allowed to report in their native language, and produce brief summaries in English for the donor agency.** Both content and clarity would be served by doing so.

A problem encountered by ECWR is related to the financial reporting format required by the UNDAF. **It is therefore recommended to either simplify the format for financial reporting of UNDEF projects, or to organize a training/orientation session for the financial manager or team of the executing agencies.**

Not all NGOs are poor and co-financing was undeniably a contributing factor in the executing agency's motivation and commitment. **It is a practice should be exercised more often by donors especially when dealing with the more well to do civil society actors, or in the case of ECWR when the organization is the civil society sister of a for profit enterprise.**

**Finally, it is recommended that the participation in international outreach activities should more inclusive of different project team members and stakeholders.**





## 1. Project Background

This report presents the findings of a thematic evaluation of the project “**Women in Democratic Transition: Political Participation Watchdog Unit**” a two year project implemented by the Egyptian Center for Women’s Rights (ECWR) in partnership with the Arab Consultancy Office. The Objective as stated in the project document is to “*Strengthen the political participation of women leaders in Egypt in the framework of the 2010-2011 elections.*”<sup>2</sup> The project has three Outcomes:

- The knowledge of political leaders, the Egyptian population and international partners, concerning the crucial need for the equal participation of women in the political sphere, is strengthened
- The capacity of women leaders to effectively participate in electoral campaigns and thus have equal access to institutional positions, is developed
- Women leaders’ access to politics in the run up to the local and national elections is closely monitored through the creation of a social watchdog

The project rationale is based on the premise that women’s weak representation in decision making positions is due to a number of factors which limit women’s ability to run effectively in elections, including lacking political experience and communication skills, as well as the public’s perception of the role of women in society, which is reinforced by media stereotyping and a rigid religious discourse. Furthermore, the absence of reliable information about the political realities that the women have to contend with, also affect their candidature and election to decision making positions in significant spaces.

Accordingly, the project has adopted a three pronged approach to addressing the weak participation of women in political and civic processes.

The first prong was the monitoring of women’s political reality in legislation as well as during the elections of 2010-2011. This includes the local council elections preceding the parliamentary elections, the parliamentary election as well as the ensuing presidential elections. The second prong relied on data garnered through the monitoring process for advocacy purposes and for the mounting of a public campaign revealing the discrimination against women in the political and legislative process. Networking and alliance building, with like- minded partners from civil society and the media is a third prong which ECWR will be leveraging to stimulate a public debate around women’s political participation, and catalyze advocacy for women’s rights in the public sphere. Within this context, four activity areas were identified:

- **Monitoring the 2010 Elections from a Gender Perspective.** This is the function of the Watchdog unit, and its research nucleus which is the repository of the data collected from various sources including the media, observation of elections and women testimonies gathered during fact finding missions. The main outputs from this activity include a monitoring report which will be disseminated to the media and to the National Council for Women (NCW) and to the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) among others, in a launch event and press conference, as well as 134 NGOs trained to monitor elections from a gender perspective.

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<sup>2</sup> Project document: “Women in Democratic Transition: Political Participation Watchdog Unit”

- **Advocacy and Public Awareness.** A comprehensive strategy will be developed to include multiple partners (media representatives, political parties, women leaders and community activists) and activities (social marketing messages, media briefings, gender sensitization sessions), all of which will combine to push for legislative and institutional reforms in favor of women's political participation. The main outputs from this activity are the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials and 4 public seminars bringing the public together with policy makers and civil society actors.
- **Trainings for Women Leaders.** Women candidates who have been nominated by their parties or running independently were trained to effectively manage their campaign, and volunteers were fielded to support the candidates and to report on their performance. The main outputs from this activity are 150 women leaders from all over Egypt trained in electoral processes.
- **International Outreach.** Leveraging ECWR's special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the project fielded missions to select UN and women's rights international conferences so as to present the situation of women in Egypt. The main outputs from this activity include presentations about lessons learnt from women's political participation in elections as voters and as candidates as well as success stories.

## 2. Scope & Methodology of the Project Evaluation

The evaluation of the project “**Women in Democratic Transition: Political Participation Watchdog Unit**” was conducted over the scope of a month (June 20 to July 20, 2013). The conduct of the evaluation was guided by the principles set out in the Evaluation Policy of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) in compliance with the norms and standards of the UN evaluation Group (UNEG), and the UNDEF evaluation guidelines. Accordingly, the evaluation examines the project in terms of its **relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact**. More specifically, the evaluation looked at the responsiveness of the Overall Objective and its constituent activities to the context of women's political participation since the 2005 elections and leading up to the 2010 elections and the aftermath of the elections, the extent to which this Objective was achieved and the major factors influencing achievement or non-achievement, as well as unintended changes resulting from project activities and partnerships. The evaluation also examined the progress achieved in the realization of project Outcomes given the resources allocated and the disruption caused by revolution of 2011 and ensuing tensions and security concerns, as well as the adequacy of the monitoring and reporting processes. Sustainability was considered on two fronts: the capacity developed and the awareness- raised by the project regarding the discriminatory context of women's political participation; and, the measures taken to maintain and further the progress achieved by the project following the UNDEF funding. Finally, the evaluation will also look at the project's contribution to the advancement of gender related strategies, and the lessons learned from implementation.

The evaluation methodology relied on a thorough review of all relevant documentation, including the project document and progress reports submitted to UN Women, election monitoring reports, training materials, press releases and briefs. Also, consulted were the ECWR website together with a selection of studies deemed relevant to the development context in Egypt and to the issue of women's political participation and empowerment. (Appendix 1: list of reports and studies consulted)

Interviews were conducted with the UN Women programme associate, as well as the ECWR Chair and team members. (Appendix 2: Name and titles of ECWR team members)

The opinion of the women engaged through the project was also considered via evaluation forms distributed following capacity development activities and success stories garnered by project team members.

## 2.1 Limitations

The main limitations encountered during the evaluation revolved around security, timing and access. Traveling outside of Cairo to talk to beneficiaries was not possible because of a number of reasons. These include time constraints which were due partially to a delay in the contracting process and to the travel commitments of the consultant, but mainly to the security issues which made travel to governorates outside of Cairo, difficult. Moreover, the various protests, road blocks and congested traffic within Cairo, placed restrictions on access to a number of partners. These constraints were offset by the availability of material which constituted a rich base of information and knowledge that the consultant tapped on profusely, building on many of the findings and insights provided within the various documents.

## 2.2 Structure of the Evaluation Report

The present report consists of 5 main sections. Section 1, provides Background Information on the project subject to the thematic evaluation. This includes the project objective and outcomes, the approach and components. Section 2 lays out the Scope of the Evaluation and describes the Methodology adopted and the Key Areas to be investigated. Section 3 discusses the relevance of the Overall Objective and Outcomes of the project. Section 4 presents the Evaluation Findings, and Section 5 concludes with a Summary of Lessons Learned and Recommendations for the development of programmes and strategies to advance women's political participation in countries undergoing a transition.

## 3. Relevance of the Overall Objective and Outcomes

The situational analysis provided in the project document sets the context for the intervention as one where women are shortchanged in terms of their participation in decision making, despite having been granted the right to vote since the issuance of the 1956 Constitution. Since 1956 and throughout the 60s, 70s, and 80s a number of presidential decrees and laws were enacted to increase women's expansion in political life, the most important of which was Law 21 for 1979 reserving a minimum of 30 seats for women in the legislature, which resulted in women's representation reaching the unprecedented level of 9% in the 1979 council elections.<sup>3</sup> The regression of women's presence in the political sphere since the 1990s was a natural result of the reinstatement of the individual candidate voting in 1987 after the dissolution of the 1986 parliament. The new elections as well as subsequent ones favored independent candidates who had the networks, mobility and resources to mobilize supporters, which meant a de facto sidelining of women and other vulnerable groups.<sup>4</sup> In the 2000 parliamentary elections, 7 women ran and won parliamentary seats and 4 were appointed representing 2.4% of parliament.<sup>5</sup> Also marginal was their presence in decision making structures, (Parliament, Shura

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<sup>3</sup> Egyptian Women and Political Participation from July 52 to January 25: Review of Reality and Prospective Future, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights, <http://www.maatpeace.org/en/node/3465>

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Bringing Gender Justice to the Egyptian Parliament, Institute of Development studies Policy Briefing, Issue 30, December 2012

and local councils). In 2004, prior to the national elections, women made up only 2.4% of parliament, 6% were appointments to the Shura Council, and 1.2% had been elected to local councils.<sup>6</sup> In the 2005 elections, women fared even worse with 1.98% representation. The ECWR report titled **“Rising on Women’s Bodies”** provides a poignant picture of how the majority of political parties reneged on their promises to nominate female candidates, despite relying on them as voters and as election thugs. The report concludes that *“the women nominated were only a token rather a true representation of women.”*<sup>7</sup> The report also presents the observations from monitoring the three phases of the elections in 86 districts which had women nominees. The monitoring revealed that women were usually nominated in districts with strong candidates where it was difficult for them to win. Moreover, women candidates and their supporters were harassed, verbally abused, threatened with acid burning and subjected to sexual harassment and violence. The poverty of female voters was also used to buy their votes for the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP).<sup>8</sup> According to a study on women’s electoral participation, during the 2005 elections, vote brokers paid between 20 to 200 LE for a vote depending on the competitiveness of the district.<sup>9</sup>

The weak performance of Egyptian women in the political sphere according to various analyses is due to a number of factors including social, cultural and economic barriers, procedural obstacles (many women do not have IDs or even birth certificates), and the weakness of partisan support for women’s candidature; and, most importantly, the political inexperience of women who have less access to opportunities for self- development, and the limited number and capacity of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working in the field of women’s political empowerment.

In June of 2009, six months prior to the signing of the UNDEF project document, a new law was passed allocating a quota of 64 seats in the parliament lower house to women. This amendment according to the project document was in response to the changes in the Constitution in 2007 regarding Article 62, which provided the constitutional and legal framework required to strengthen the representation of women in the political sphere and to lead the reform of the Electoral Law. According to Article 62 of the Egyptian Constitution, *“Citizens shall have the right to vote and express their opinions in referendums according to the provisions of the Law. Their participation in public life is a national duty. The Law shall regulate the right of candidacy to the People’s Assembly and the Shura Council and the Local Councils according to the electoral system it specifies. The Law may adopt a system, combining between the individual system and the party lists by means of any ratio between them to be specified by the Law. It may also include a minimum limit for the women’s participation in the afore-mentioned councils.”*<sup>10</sup>

This amendment was rightly perceived by ECWR, UN Women as well as other women groups and activists as positive development and as the outcome of many years of advocacy and collaborative efforts on the part of women groups, NGOs, and the NCW. It also reflects a reaffirmation of Egypt’s commitment to meeting its gender obligations under international conventions (CEDAW, ICPD+10, Beijing +10 and MDG 3). *“ Although this is a great victory, the coming elections will be very crucial in monitoring the implementation of this newly adopted law, in encouraging women’s political participation, and most importantly to collect correct data regarding women’s political participation.*

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<sup>6</sup>Egypt Human Development Report: Choosing our future: Towards a New Social Contract. 2005

<sup>7</sup> Rising on Women’s Bodies; Report on Women in the 2005 Parliamentary Election. The Egyptian Center For Women’s Rights (ECWR)

<sup>8</sup> Ibid

<sup>9</sup> Lisa Blaydes and Safinaz El TaroutyIn: Women’s Electoral Participation in Egypt: The Implications of Gender for Voter Recruitment and Mobilization. Middle East Journal 63/3 (July 2009).

<sup>10</sup> Project document: “Women in Democratic Transition: Political Participation Watchdog Unit”

*Data will strengthen the advocacy messages of women's organizations. The current lack of data, results in the erroneous idea that discriminations have been eliminated as women reap the benefits of gender equality as mandated by the National Egyptian Constitution and the international agreements such as the Millennium Development Goals.*"<sup>11</sup> Hence, the project idea is based on taking advantage of an opportune development to strengthen the case for women's political participation and to improve their performance in the upcoming elections of 2010 and 2011. **The relevance of the Project Objective and its Outcomes reside in the context of women's political performance during the period leading up to the 2010-2011 elections as well as in its alignment with the pre-revolution government priorities and international obligations.**

## 4. Evaluation Findings

### 4.1 Preamble

The uprisings of January 2011 provided further impetus to the project. ECWR, like most rights-based organizations were at the forefront of happenings that led to the ousting of President Mubarak, and then in the aftermath of the revolution. *"After the Revolution, we doubled our efforts"* explained Ms. Abou El Komsan, the Chair of ECWR and the project director.

At first, women's groups were driven by the hope that their participation in the protests would be translated into representation in the transition processes (constitutional drafting, parliamentary elections); however, this hope was rather quickly dispelled when it became apparent that the legitimacy women's rights were being contested and that women were being marginalized in the post revolution legislative and political processes. It is noteworthy that the first constitutional committee charged with drafting Egypt's new constitution included 100 members and only 6 women. The second one formed in 2012 was equally disappointing, as it included only 7 women. This post revolution constitution approved through a referendum was described by women groups and human rights activists as *"falling short of the minimum international standards observed by almost all democratic constitutions"*<sup>12</sup> and as *"one of the worst constitutions that Egypt has ever had because it does not talk about violence; it does not talk about children's rights, women's rights and gender equality."*<sup>13</sup> Moreover, the pre-revolution quota allocating 12% of seats for women in parliament was cancelled in favor of a new election law which resulted in the fact that only 14 women made it to parliament which was subsequently dissolved. Of these 14 women, half were elected and the others appointed, which meant a regression of women's representation to 1.97 % (2% in the Lower house and 4.4% in the Upper House).

These developments have been taken into consideration in the evaluation which accordingly examines the contribution of project activities to the stated Objective and Outcomes during the period from November 2009 to December 2010 and subsequently from January 2011 and until October 2011.

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<sup>11</sup> Women in Democratic Transition: Political Participation Watchdog Unit: 1<sup>st</sup> narrative report, January 1, 2010 – June 30, 2010

<sup>12</sup> Khattab, Moushira: *Women's Rights under Egypt's Constitutional Disarray*. January 17, 2013  
<http://www.wilsoncenter.org/islamists/articles-islamists>

<sup>13</sup> Fatma Khafagy in an interview in the IPI Global Observatory on April 1, 2013

## 4.2 Project Activities

### Activity Area 1: Monitoring the 2010 Elections from a Gender Perspective

The purpose of this activity as articulated in the project document is that it will a gap in the data available concerning women's political participation, as well as provide reliable baseline information against which women's political performance can be monitored. In that context, the 2010 elections are especially important because of the application of the women quota.

The first progress report shows that the Project was kick started with the development of an action plan for the implementation of the various activities, including those related to monitoring (the establishment of the Watchdog Unit, the research plan and procedures as well as the training of researchers and field observers from various governorates and regions). In that context, meetings were held with governorate based NGOs to develop a strategy for joint cooperation in the monitoring process. . The NGOs were selected according to certain criteria which include a track record of working with women's rights issues, as well as geographical and regional representation. An impressive number of NGOs (134) participated in the process (100 of which were organizations that ECWR had not previously had contact with), and 180 field monitors were trained. The first training entitled "**Monitoring and Authentication methods**" administered in May 2010, targeted the Shura elections which took place in June of 2010. The second training in October of 2010, was entitled "**Mechanisms of monitoring and establishing of coalitions**", and the third in November of the same year focused on monitoring the elections from a gender perspective

The decision to issue the monitoring reports on a quarterly basis was made in agreement with UN Women on the basis that it would allow for enough time to collect and process data from various sources (18 newspapers as well as field data). Accordingly 4 quarterly reports about women's status in "significant spaces" within the public sphere were issued during the period between signing the project document and January 2011. The first report titled "**Political Participation Watchdog Unit**" provided the baseline against which the status of women was monitored and reported on in the following 3 reports, including the final titled "**Postponed Rights in the State's Council and Temporary Rights in the Parliament**" which was the project's statement about women's subjugation in the public sphere.

According to the end of project narrative report, a report about the 2010 elections was prepared though not in final form since these elections were cancelled. However, the results of the monitoring report were first presented in a round table at Al Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies on May 2010, and then again later in 2011 at a conference that was held by the Alliance for Arab Women (AAW). Moreover, the content of this report was mentioned a number of times in various newspapers and blogs

Additional outputs during the period leading up to the revolution include a number of research papers entitled: "**Parliamentary elections within quota system**" - an objective analysis to women's participation in the parliamentary elections from a gender perspective and an overview of the organizational and political problems in the application of quota system; "**Electoral violence and its effects on female voters and candidates**," which was based on the field monitoring of women's participation in the elections of 2005; as well as an analytic piece on "**Women's participation in the legislative elections**."

Following the events of 2011, and during the period from January 2011 to December 2011, the Watchdog Unit's intensified its activities, monitoring and reporting on professional syndicate elections,

the 2011 parliamentary elections, student union elections in 8 Egyptian universities, as well as the media's coverage and support of women issues. Outputs included monitoring reports about the elections as well as about the coverage of women issues on the most popular TV shows, press releases, daily briefs about the regressive discourse and violence exercised against women during election phases in the public sphere, editorials in the national and international media by the project director<sup>14</sup>, as well as a report on "**Women's Status After the Revolution.**"

## Activity Area 2: Advocacy and Public Awareness

The design of the project was highly cognizant of the importance of public awareness and of the power of the media in influencing both public opinion and policy. Hence, the engagement with the media began during the first quarter of project implementation with the organization of a number of meetings with media experts, gender and communication specialists, and researchers to discuss which were the issues deemed critical to women's participation in the elections of 2010, as well as the focus of the public awareness messages that the project would support. Violence against women voters (VAW) and the newly established quota system were identified as the priority research and monitoring areas, with the public campaign focusing on the themes of women's political participation and gender equality. In that context, two posters and one sticker were printed in 5000 copies (2000 for each poster and 1000 for the sticker) which were distributed all over Egypt (Appendix 3: Advocacy messages in posters and sticker)

During the period until December 2010, 25 press releases were issued exceeding the project target by 1. Moreover, during the 2010 elections, 13 of the press releases intended under this project were issued, providing information about women's participation as voters and candidates, the support provided by parties and NGOs, and the challenges they encountered during the various phases of the electoral process. A total of 36 press releases were issued during the project's lifespan. (Appendix 4) Furthermore, 6 press conferences were organized in collaboration with partners in the Egyptian Coalition for Monitoring Elections to inform the media and accordingly the public about the purpose and process of monitoring, as well as about results and violations observed in the field.

Two of four planned seminars were held during this period. The first which was held during the first 6 months of project implementation deserves special mention as it reflects the proactive response of the project to discussions around two proposed laws concerning the exercise of political rights that were taking place in parliament as well as in Al Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies. A review of both proposals revealed the absence of the gender dimension. Accordingly, the project was quick to organize the first of its seminars entitled "**Towards a Fair Law to Practice the Political Rights**" on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The second seminar entitled "**Parliamentary Election 2010 within a Quota System**" was organized in September 2010, discussed problems related to the quota system and the size of the constituencies as well as the resources required for the successful campaigning of women. Both seminars were widely attended by politicians, jurists, human rights activists, media representatives and NGOs. The National women Machinery was also represented in both seminars. The output from the seminars included a number of critical recommendations including the importance of maintaining a dialogue with policy makers about the importance of including women in political processes, adopting an electoral system based on proportional representation in addition to a placement of candidates on

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<sup>14</sup> <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/02/11/AR2011021105531.html>

party lists candidates in an order that guarantees the presence of women among the first three names, and another in the third icon of four names, a system that is known as (3/3/4). Additional recommendations designed to affecting changes in culture and attitude of society towards women, including providing role models of successful women, integrating and human rights in university curricula. Despite the timeliness of these topics, the media briefs and relations established by ECWR, it was noted that the coverage of these events was rather sparse. Al Ahram Online and the widely read El Masry al Yom daily newspaper (Egypt Independent), published brief notice of the event, and the organizers but very little was mentioned about the content and recommendations that came out of the seminars.<sup>15</sup>

Following the January 2011 uprising, the project intensified its communications, outreach and networking efforts, reaching out to the press, civil society and human rights organizations, as well as public figures. 100 youth leaders of NGOs in Beheira and Alexandria were trained on "Constitutional amendments ... to where?" Five press releases were issued condemning the cancellation of the quota, the absence of women from the nomination of governors, and the conundrum they faced during the 2011 elections, whilst running in the absence of adequate backing from the political parties. A press conference was called for to inform about issues related to the nomination phase.

The two seminars remaining seminars in the project's work plan were held in May and June of 2011. The first one was entitled "**Egyptian Laws Crisis and Method of Solving**". The seminar which was attended by media representative discussed the status of women after the revolution, how women can participate in effective ways in all phases of the transitional period, and the importance of the media in addressing women's issues. The second seminar focused on the upcoming parliamentary election, brought together 30 female partisan leaders to discuss the status of women after the revolution and how to prepare for the elections.

The ECWR launched the largest coalition at the national level with members in all 27 governorates, entitled "**The Egyptian Coalition for Civic Education and Women's Participation**". At the writing of the final project narrative, the coalition included 454 NGOs. Under the umbrella of the coalition, ECWR organized a number of consultative meetings with partner NGOs in the coalition in order to formulate an action plan for the transitional period, focusing on advocacy on behalf of the adequate representation of women in the constitutional drafting process. (Appendix 5)

The coalition was very active during 2011, organizing press conferences and communicating intensively with the media through press conferences, press releases and personal appearances on television to explain the importance and measures required to support women's political participation, and candidacy in the 2011 elections.

Initially ECWR had formed a steering committee for the coalition which included 7 NGOs. This committee was responsible for managing the work of the coalition during the first 9 months of the coalition existence. By September 2011 a new steering committee was elected. The new steering committee currently includes 8 NGOs in addition to ECWR. Women and men are represented in the

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<sup>15</sup> <http://www.almasryalyoum.com/node/159628>

<http://digital.ahram.org.eg/articles.aspx?Serial=261939&eid=1408>

<http://digital.ahram.org.eg/articles.aspx?Serial=341298&eid=5608>



steering committee and geographic distribution has been taken into consideration, hence NGOs from Cairo, Qalyubeya, Al-Fayoum, Sohag, Alexandria, Aswan, and Suez are included.

### Activity Area 3: Training for Women Leaders

The project document committed to training 150 women leaders from all over Egypt to run for the 2010 parliamentary elections. However, it became apparent that the number of women who were willing to run was too small to fulfill this number and that the parties had a limited number of women on their lists. Moreover, the National Democratic Party (NDP) and the opposition parties' late announcement of their female candidates, together with the delayed announcement of the nomination phase meant that this activity started later than was initially anticipated, and that instead of conducting six trainings as planned, only 3 trainings were held in October of 2010. The total number of trainees was 75 women from various governorates in the greater Cairo region as well as from both Lower and Upper Egypt. Participants were provided with information on how to communicate with voters, the different types of propaganda, the legal aspects of campaigning, and the function of the Operations Room established by the project. ECWR exerted significant efforts to identify a critical mass of female candidates, starting with the meetings held with NGOs and the female secretariats of political parties to help identify and vet viable candidates, and the establishment of the Operations Room staffed by gender specialists to communicate with the candidates during the various stages of the electoral process, as well as the establishment of a web based interactive map (in English and Arabic), providing information about the candidates, their history and experience as well as the constituencies they represented, and the symbol identifying them. A hotline was also established to receive and process the complaints and queries of candidates, as well as reports from monitors and partner NGOs. The information received through the hotline was referred to in the various press releases, and reports.

A decision was made to train the women who succeeded in getting elected and in that context the project decided to organize in the second half of January 2011 a round table to discuss "**The role of the civil society in support of the quota experience and female members' participation in the parliament**". However, the event was cancelled due as a result of the uprisings.

The 2011 parliamentary elections presented the project with the opportunity to conduct further trainings for women leaders bringing the total number of trained female leaders under this project to 135 candidates. The number of candidates in 2011 was much bigger than in the 2010 parliamentary elections with 984 candidates as opposed to 404 candidates. Accordingly, ECWR organized three intensive trainings for 90 individual and partisan candidates in the First and Second phases entitled "**Managing the Operation Room for the Female Candidates and their Staff.**"

Analyses of the evaluation forms that were distributed following the trainings of 2010 and 2011 are positive, indicating that most participants felt they had benefitted from the information provided about the legal and technical aspects of the electoral systems, as well as from the communication skills acquired. *"Although it is not my first time to run, the trainings was very useful because I learnt so much about the legal loopholes of the current election system, what to avoid and also how to use the system to my advantage,"* said one of the trainees. *"The trainings about how to use the social media were especially useful"* said another, while a third said that learning about the various phases of the election was very useful.

The project support to the 2011 elections also included agreement with Greater Cairo (Radio Station) to air information on the platforms of women candidates on a daily basis. ECWR provided the radio station with the required information.

#### Activity Area 4: International Outreach

ECWR prepared a calendar for the International events that would happen in 2009 /2010 including all the meetings relating to women's issues in order to help us to participate and follow up these meetings. Under this activity area, the project planned participation in 2 international events per year, meaning that by project closure, the project would have participated in 4 events.

In 2011 ECWR participated in 3 events, namely the 55 session of the CSW in March, a study tour to the USA in June, and also in June, a seminar on "**Arab changes**" in Vienna, Austria organized by the Der Standard Diplomatic Academy of Vienna and the Renner Institute.<sup>16</sup> The theme of the CSW session was "**Access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work.**" Dr. Abou Al Komsan participated in a panel discussing Egyptian Women's status after the revolution, including the rising sexual violence against women and the impunity of perpetrators. The issues raised in the discussion and in the papers presented were taken up in a book entitled '**Horeyya Al Midan**' also translated in English and entitled '**The Freedom of the Square: Reflections on the Course of the Egyptian Revolution and the Participation of Women**', as well as in the national and international media<sup>17</sup> and in subsequent meetings with US senators during the study tour and in Vienna. (Attachment 1)

An important output of the CSW and the Vienna meeting was the international community's appreciation of the threats facing women after the revolution and the importance of exerting pressure on the national authorities to ensure women's political participation. In that context, in May of 2011 following the CSW, a letter signed by 5 US senators was sent to the SCAF, urging them to ensure women's inclusion in transitional processes. (Attachment 2)

The study tour to the US was very beneficial explained Dr. Abou el Komsan "*because we learnt about the Violence Act and how legislation affects people's behavior and a society's culture. In Egypt, the argument has always been that the change of culture must precede legislation. This understanding was transmitted to the Coalition and to political parties and our advocacy message changed as a result.*"

#### 4.3 Evaluation Conclusions

A review of the Quarterly and interim Monitoring Reports and the final narrative indicates that the overall performance of the project has exceeded expectations in terms of process and deliverables as set in the project document logical framework. Moreover, the contextual relevance of the project was reaffirmed during implementation as reflected by the participation of women, and civil society actors in project activities, as well as by the birth and growth of the coalition and the significant media coverage. The four activity areas responded to the needs of women aspiring to engage in the political sphere as well as being in concert with a growing realization among civil society actors of the need to collaborate and have one resonant voice advocating for women's rights.

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<sup>16</sup> <http://ichmachpolitik.at/questions/1194>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.ahram.org.eg/925/2012/06/09/44/154291/219.aspx>

Examination of the implementation process indicates the following:

#### 4.3.1 Effectiveness

The outputs from the activities of the Watchdog, Research Units of the ECWR, and international outreach were widely disseminated to the media, to experts, to civil society activists as well as to the international community and policy makers, through ECWR publications<sup>18</sup>, as well as discussions with media representatives, press conferences, and expert seminars. ECWR's monitoring reports were mentioned a number of times in various newspapers, TV talk shows and programmes as well as referred to by the social media, and posted on the website of ECWR and other social websites including Women's and Constitution, World Blog, Baheya ya Masr. Moreover, a review of the research papers produced by the project reveal a significant depth of analysis. While, the concern is women, the reports do in fact attempt a broader analysis of the political and legislative environment as a whole, providing blatant evidence of the forces working against inclusive governance, including women's participation and contribution to the public sphere.

The project was visible both in the national and international arenas, partly because of the track record and experience of ECWR, but also due to the dynamic personality of the ECWR chair who took every opportunity to write and talk about women's rights to participate in politics, and the monitoring and training that were being carried out by the project.

Although only one of the candidates -from the Freedom and Justice Party (FJP)-trained by the project was elected, the trainings delivered did in fact develop the capacity of women to participate in electoral campaigns. The evaluation forms attest to the candidate's appreciation of the skills gained and information proffered. The fact that only the candidate from the FJP won confirms that there are flaws inherent in the electoral process also testifying to the intimidation and harassment that non FJP candidates were subjected to, monitored and documented.

The increased number of women running for parliament is attributed to the awareness raising and advocacy and capacity development efforts of civil society actors, including ECWR. In that context, the evaluation concludes that **the project was effective in contributing to the overall objective, and that it has delivered on all three Outcomes**

#### 4.3.2 Efficiency

Efficiency is measured by timeliness of implementation and delivery and maximization of outputs from the human and financial resources allocated and mobilized by the project. The total budget of the project is \$ 365,000 with a co-financing from the Arab Consultancy Office of \$65,000. The budget allocated for salaries, rent and equipment represents approximately one third of the total budget, with the remaining directed towards project activities. If we look at the deliverables within this context, the project has fully fulfilled its commitments in terms of outputs under each of the activity areas, even

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<sup>18</sup> Although most publications were in Arabic, the project developed summaries which

exceeding them in certain cases (ex. number of press releases, newspaper editorials, monitoring of syndicate and student union elections). Project activities with minor exceptions were implemented as scheduled despite situations beyond the control of the project (The MOI late announcement of nomination phase, the late announcement of women candidates on party lists, and the security situation after the revolution). **Through its networking activities and the alliances established with other civil society actors (organizations and volunteers), the project was able to maximize its efficiency in terms of timeliness as well as outputs from allocated resources.**

### 4.3.3 Sustainability

Sustainability is most difficult to guarantee because it depends on factors, many of which are beyond the control of any one project or organization. However, striving to ensure lasting impact is good practice as we have learnt from past experience, but again what aspects of sustainability are we talking about? Is it in the lessons learnt from the process of implementation, or in the results achieved, or is it both?

The project evaluation contends that sustainability measures have been introduced by the project on the front of process as well as results. More stringency would have been warranted in certain activity areas; however, the overall conclusion of the evaluation with regard to sustainability is positive because of the following factors:

- The project capitalizes on the track record and mission of the ECWR, building on its ongoing approaches and methodologies and activities. The project gave the organization the resources to expand the scope of its activities and contributed to enhancing institutional knowledge as well as the capacity of project team members involved.
- The fact that the project is co-financed reflects the commitment of the executing agency to the cause addressed which is one of the measures of sustainability. It is an investment that will undoubtedly attract more funding for activities designed to empower women, as well as encouraging ECWR and other civil society actors to build on achieved results
- The capacity development and knowledge imparted to civil society actors and women leaders cannot be reversed. The women who did not win in the 2010 and 2011 elections will run more effectively in the 2013 elections helped by the CSOs that the project engaged and attracted to the coalition
- The concept of monitoring and documenting Egyptian elections has not been introduced by the project; however, its added value has been reconfirmed through the project's dissemination and advocacy activities. The project made good use of the data generated to address the media, public opinion, policy makers and the international community
- The knowledge products generated have been made available in print and on websites for future actions to refer and add to

One of the issues that could have been addressed with more attention by the project is the issue of capacitating a wider spectrum of actors in the language and tools to address the international community. The international outreach undertaken by the project mainly involved the project director who as pointed out in the Vienna meeting is "*one of the usual suspects*" There is a need to both expand the number of women's rights defenders capable of addressing the international community, and to diversify their profile and geographical representation.

**The evaluation concludes that the project has successfully introduced measures to ensure that there was capacity developed and awareness- raised regarding the discriminatory context of women’s political participation; that measures have been taken to maintain and further the progress achieved by the project following the UNDEF funding.**

#### 4.3.4 Impact

The project’s impact in terms of addressing gender related strategies is partially addressed by ECWR in the final project narrative as grounded in the contribution to: a) the strong relationships established with political forces, which encouraged them to invest in preparing a cadre of young women leaders to participate in the elections; b) the knowledge building and awareness raising activities were instrumental to introducing HR language in the political discourse; and, c) the significance of coalition lobbying for maintaining women’s gains. In that context, the women machinery despite the difficulties it has encountered after the revolution is still in existence and actively engaged in promoting women’s rights with the support of UN Women and other donors, and the legal gains attained by women during the decade preceding the revolution have so far been maintained. However, the next period will require additional efforts to empower Egyptian women and to exert accountability from the authorities in charge.

**The evaluation therefore concludes that the project has contributed to addressing gender related strategies, and that the results so far achieved possess the requisite conditions for maintenance and furtherance.**

## 5. Summary of Lessons Learned and Recommendations

### *Lessons Learned*

The first and foremost lesson that transpired during the evaluation is that successful HR projects require experience and commitment, both of which are apparent in this project. The fact that the organization was required to do what it was already doing but more and better, was definitely a factor in the successful implementation and completion of the project, despite the politically unstable environment and precarious security situation of the revolution.

The second lesson is related to the project design and relationship with the funding agency, which allowed for course adjustments, and unintended consequences. In this case, the project was able to monitor the elections of 2011 which were not anticipated in the project design and train the candidates, thereby capacitating more women than initially planned (165 instead of 150). The project was also encouraged by UN women to exert effort in coalition building and to monitor a number of elections that were unrelated to the 2010 parliament (professional syndicates and student unions)

The importance of requiring rigorous documentation from the executing agency is the third and critical lesson learned. In this context, it should be mentioned that the documentation provided to the consultant was comprehensive, showing the expanse of project activities as well as detailing the process, progress achieved, course changes, etc.

Finally, the fact that the project was co-financed was undeniably a contributing factor in the executing agency's motivation and commitment to ensuring the efficient achievement of results. Co-finance as a practice should be exercised more often by donors especially when dealing with the more well to do civil society actors, or in the case of ECWR when the organization is the civil society sister of a for profit enterprise. Not all NGOs are poor, and many of the Egyptian HR activists, including the ECWR Chair, are lawyers who have successful practices.

### *Recommendations*

A problem encountered during the course of many evaluations, especially evaluations of projects implemented by civil society actors, is the funding agency's requirement that the main progress documents be produced in the English language. In addition, to constituting a burden on the organization in terms of time, effort and resources, the output does not do full justice to the organization's performance and achievements. The lack of clarity observed in sections of the progress reports, was often due to ambiguous use of the English language. CSOs should be allowed to report in their native language, and produce brief summaries in English for the donor agency. Both content and clarity would be served by doing so.

Another problem encountered by ECWR is related to the financial reporting format required by the UNDAF. In discussions with the UN Women Project Associate she expressed concern about the time and difficulties that the executing agencies have in complying with the format required, *"a training session should be considered at the onset of the project but leaving the organization to figure it out is neither fair nor efficient."* It is therefore recommended to either simplify the format for financial reporting of UNDEF projects, or to organize a training/orientation session for the financial manager or team of the executing agencies. Should the organization apply for future UNDEF funding, the training will have proved useful.

Finally, it is recommended that the participation in international outreach activities should include more and different project team members and stakeholders. This will definitely have budget implications but the return in the capacity development and knowledge gained by a wider and more diverse group of civil society actors and experts will be worth the extra cost.



# Appendices

## Appendix 1

### List of reports and studies consulted

All project related documents (signed project document, quarterly progress reports, interim report and final narrative **report**, research papers and publications, press releases, and media articles)

Egyptian Women and Political Participation from July 52 to January 25: Review of Reality and Prospective Future, Maat for Peace

Bringing Gender Justice to the Egyptian Parliament, Institute of Development studies Policy Briefing, Issue 30, December 2012

**Egypt Human Development Report: Choosing our future: Towards a New Social Contract, 2005**

**Lisa Blaydes and Safinaz El TaroutyIn: Women’s Electoral Participation in Egypt: The Implications of Gender for Voter Recruitment and Mobilization. Middle East Journal 63/3 (July 2009).**

Zaatary, Zeina : No Democracy without Women’s Equality: Middle East and North Africa, **Report published in 2013** by the SSRC Conflict **Prevention and Peace Forum**

**Khattab. Moushira: Women’s Rights under Egypt’s Constitutional Disarray. January 17, 2013**



## Appendix 2

### List of Project team members interviewed

#### ECWR

Name	Title
Nehad Abo El- Komsan	Programme director
Noha El kholy	International Relations Assistant
Sahar Salah	Training Preparation of training and training report
Dina Hussien	Hot line coordinator
Ghada Lotfy	Trainer

#### UN Women

Rana Korayem

Programme Associate

## **Appendix 3**

### **Advocacy messages in posters, sticker and block notes**

The printed messages on the posters and block notes were as following:

- "Women's participation in the Parliament will lead to Gender Equality, Our votes represent our future."
- "Support them for your interests in the parliament, and then you gain their support."

The stickers said "our votes are our freedom; Women's participation in the Parliament will lead to Gender Equality."

## Appendix 4

### Press Releases

- 1) 1 press release on the detention of human rights activists in Nag' Hammadi.
- 2) 4 press releases on women in decision-making positions (women's crisis within jurisdiction), as well as one article written by the head of ECWR; published in El Mosawer magazine.
- 3) 1 press release prior to the Shura Council elections discussing women's nominations in the elections.
- 4) 4 press releases concerning the gender-based monitoring of the Shura Council elections.
- 5) 1 press release ECWR's monitoring of the opposition's stance towards women, entitled "The Muslim Brotherhood: Returning Egypt to an age without law." The Muslim Brotherhood held controversial mock presidential elections to demonstrate a model of governance: Egypt under a Civil Islamic Government. The election's controversy centered on the idea of nominating a woman for the presidency. The administration of "Muslim Brotherhood's Youth Forum" that was responsible for holding the elections refused the request of a group of the forum's Muslim Sisters to be nominated for president. The website of the administration declared its insistence on adopting the group's opinion, which states that women are not allowed to be nominated as presidents of the state.
- 6) 1 press release entitled "Egypt's poor ranking in the Global Gender Gap report 2010," issued after the World Economic Forum's 2010 report on gender equality was released. Egypt ranked towards the bottom of the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2010 at 125<sup>th</sup> out of the 134 ranked countries. Furthermore, Egypt ranked 13<sup>th</sup> on the list of the regional countries. Israel and the United Arab Emirates were the highest ranked countries for eliminating the inequality gap between the genders in Middle East and the Arab world. Kuwait, Tunisia, Bahrain, Mauritania, Lebanon, Qatar, Algeria, Jordan, Oman, and Syria ranked in the next tier.
- 7) 7 press releases on the parliamentary elections in the two stages of nomination and appeal. Entitled:
  - "Complaints on nomination phase"
  - "Parties' nominations of women"
  - "Operations room"
  - "Female candidates of NDP"
  - 2 press releases on female candidates' complaints in the appeal phase
  - "High Commission of Elections and issuing incomplete cards to the centre"
- 8) 3 press releases issued on election day, November 28, 2010, to analyze the field monitoring of ECWR in women's constituencies in all the Egyptian governorates. Entitled:
- 9) "Electoral bullying and bribery in all the Egyptian governorates"
- 10) "The day after election day"
- 11) "Closing the electoral constituencies and using women for supporting NDP female candidates"
- 12) 3 press releases during the runoff elections in a number of constituencies, on December 5th, in order to follow the runoff election of 28 female candidates in 9 governorates.
- 13) 1 press release on ECWR's monitoring of runoff constituencies that include women
- 14) 1 press release entitled "An Appeal from Women's Polling Stations: Forging Ballots is the Norm"
- 15) 1 press release Runoff elections marred by violence and fraud.
- 16) "ECWR condemns the excessive use of force against peaceful demonstrators in Cairo"
- 17) "Young men's revolution protect Egypt's streets"

- 18) "The Egyptian Centre for Women's Rights calls for the end of the bloodbath, and calls all the national powers to speed up the dialogue (which should include all categories of the society especially women)"
- 19) "The Egyptian Centre for women's Rights condemns the violations on female activists on 8th of March."
- 20) "The Egyptian Centre for Women's Rights condemns the overuse of force in ending sit-ins, commenting on the acts of violence which occurred on 9th March in Tahrir Square."
- 21) "The necessity of considering women's rights as an integral part of human rights and setting them on the agenda of the new Council for Human Rights". ECWR comments on the reestablishment of the National Council for human rights: the appointment of its people witnessed a diversity of prominent characters in all fields of the society, in addition to the experience in human rights of many of its members.
- 22) "Women have been excluded from governors' positions", it condemns women's exclusion from being appointed of new governors.
- 23) "Male and female students of Faculty of Mass Communication – Cairo University students were exposed to hitting and physical violation"
- 24) "The victory of the Revolution shall be achieved by preserving human rights not by repealing them"
- 25) "The revolution started its first steps towards a victory of human rights in general and women's rights in particular"
- 26) "Not in my name-Revolution's women participated in a march against sectarian strife".
- 27) "ECWR condemns the collective rape of Libyan women"
- 28) "Tunisia approved the equal membership in the National Constituent Assembly".
- 29) "Kosovo female president"
- 30) "The Egyptian Center for Women's Rights condemns the arrest of the lawyer Rag'ya Omran during her follow-up of the events in regards of the referendum on the constitutional amendments"
- 31) "The Revolution will not be complete without women's participation," published after the seminar of D. Yousef Zidan
- 32) Cancellation of the Quota for Egyptian Women: going backwards and marginalizing women from the political life and decision making positions. "
- 33) "ECWR starts the Operation Room for monitoring the 2011 parliamentary election from a gender perspective. "
- 34) "The exclusion of women from the nomination of Governors confirms that the exclusion of women has become a systematic policy."
- 35) "The Egyptian Women... in the 2011 Parliamentary Election: 'Between Giving Up the Political Parties and Widen The constituencies ... Egyptian Women in a Maze'"
- 36) "The Nomination Phase: Women's Nomination in the Governorates of the First Phase"

## Appendix 5

### A report on The Planning Meeting of the Coordinative NGOs for the work of the Egyptian Coalition for Civil Education and Women's Participation

*Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> of September 2011*

ECWR held a planning meeting for the coordinative NGOs for the work of "The Egyptian Civil Education and Women's Participation" on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> of September 2011 in attendance with 25 participants from 14 governorates (Cairo, Giza, Al-Qalubaya, Alexandria, As-Sharqaya, Al-Gharbaya, Kafr El-Sheikh, Suez, Port Said, Al-Fayoum, Bani Swif, Al-Mainya, Sohag, and Qena).

#### The planning meeting aimed at the following:

- Develop future planning of the Coalition.
- Identify the mission of each coordinative NGO in each governorate.
- Discuss the problems of work within each governorate.
- Discuss the first draft of the Executive Regulation of the Coalition's Work.
- Elect a new steering committee to facilitate the work of the coalition during the upcoming 6 months including the coordinative NGOs of the coalition in the governorates to follow up and facilitate the work of the coalition.

In the **First Session**; a PowerPoint was presented the coalition's work including the activities of the coalition since it began until now.

The **Second Session**; a PowerPoint was presented on the executive regulation, then the attendance was divided into four workshops to develop a draft of the executive regulation to agree on it "the final regulation is attached"

The **Third Session**; this session addressed the strategic plan and discussed the implementation planning for a year at least.

Then the participants discussed the problem of the name of the coalition and its difficult; as it causes the lack of unclear vision that happened during the work especially with the word "Civil Education". So that, the participants suggested the necessitate of abbreviating of the name to have a clear significance, the aim is concentrating on the women's support through the civil education and not the civil education in general.

After the discussion with the attendance, they agreed on a new name of the coalition which is "**The Egyptian Coalition for Women's Participation**"

Then, the participants developed the criteria that make from the coalition a strong body particularly at the level of partner NGOs, and develop specific criteria when we choose the partner NGOs in the coalition, the criteria are as follows:

- To have vision and mission corresponding with the vision and mission of the coalition.
- To have at least one program for women.
- To have the qualification and effectiveness in making sub- coalitions in their governorates.
- To be active and interactive in the surrounding community.

- To be a headquarters, previous work, employees” and not to be based on one or two persons.
- To be capable to document the work.
- To commit to develop a future action plan for the work of the upcoming three month for the four coalition’s components (Legal, Raise Awareness, Media, and Youth).
- The ability to use the new technology

**Important factors to success the work in the governorates:**

- The importance of activating the media role for the specialists in the governorates,
- To add the mechanism in the implementation to show the services that can be provided to the partners NGOs
- To take in to account the economic dimension during the work on raising women awareness politically through the programs that the coalition develops for supporting women economically
- The need to work to separate the political dependency of women, whether for the husband or the father through hold seminars for raising the awareness of men and women together.
- The ability to coordinate with the governmental bodies such “ youth centers, clubs, civil education centers ... etc”
- Issue a newsletter that will be provided by news from the governorates and to be publish in the different media means.
- The political awareness speech should take into account all the educational levels of the Egyptian women.

**The action plan at the short term (Three months):**

- A training for female candidates of the parliamentary election will be provided as an activity of the coalition which is specialized training on the managing the electoral campaigns for the female candidates and their team work.
- The election will be monitored from a gender prospective
- Meetings will be held to raise awareness in cooperation with the NGOs.

**Action plan at the mid-term:**

The frame of planning was distributed; each coordinative NGO will hold a meeting with the partner NGOs in their governorates to discuss the following:

- Presenting the results of the meeting and its outcomes especially the new of the outcomes.
- Choosing the partner NGOs in the governorates according to the criteria that were agreed on in order to attend the general assembly’s meeting of the coalition “the strategic meeting” that will be attended by all the partner NGOs
- The final list of the partner NGOs
- Develop an integrated action plan to be submitted in strategic meeting

They also agreed to check the date of the meeting and study its postponing to the end of the October 2011