

The Gender-Sensitive Fact-File: Profiles of the Arab League Countries

The Institute of Women's Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW), established in 1973, took the whole Arab region as its field of observation and reporting. This far-reaching ambition has sustained the Institute and its publications, especially *Al-Raida*, ever since. Yet the goal of covering such a large area is a challenging one: the Arab League states - 22 - stretch from Mauritania in the West to the Comoros Islands in the East; in addition they vary greatly in size, material resources, political regime, economy, and population composition. Accounting for women's situation and level of organization in each country demands effort and communication resources, especially when one remembers the region's numerous minorities - religious, ethnic, and linguistic.

In this centenary issue, *Al-Raida's* editorial committee decided that it would be valuable to remind ourselves of the scope of our geo-political setting by trying to construct a 'profile' of each Arab League member country which would show the most basic facts about women's situation there: Has X country a constitution? Does the constitution affirm equality between the genders? Is there a nationality law, and does it discriminate against women? Has X country signed international gender equality resolutions such as CEDAW? Where do women stand in relation to the legal and political systems? Do they have the right to become lawyers and judges? What kind of family law and personal status law prevails? Are they allowed to vote? And so on. Through a process of consultation we tried to select those 'facts' that would give a picture not only of the legal and political framework of women's lives, but also of their situation in regard to education, employment, health and culture.

Given the focus of this issue on women's movements, our original intention was to include in the file lists of women's organizations. But this proved impossible, either because of their great number in many countries (eg. Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco), or because we were unable to establish contact with some countries (eg. Comoros, Djibouti, Mauritania, Oman, Somalia). So we limited our search to the following four questions: i) does X country have a section of government concerned with women's issues? ii) does it have a National Council of Women? iii) does it have a National Plan of Action? (both these were recommended at the Beijing Conference of 1995); and iv) does it have NGOs that monitor women's situation? It's difficult to be sure how accurate our information on Gender Monitoring and Action is, but we hope our questions will

rouse local activists to send us their corrections, as well as encourage new researchers to enter this field.

We ought to mention the difficulties we encountered while researching the Fact File, since they are an indication of the state of knowledge about women and gender in our region:

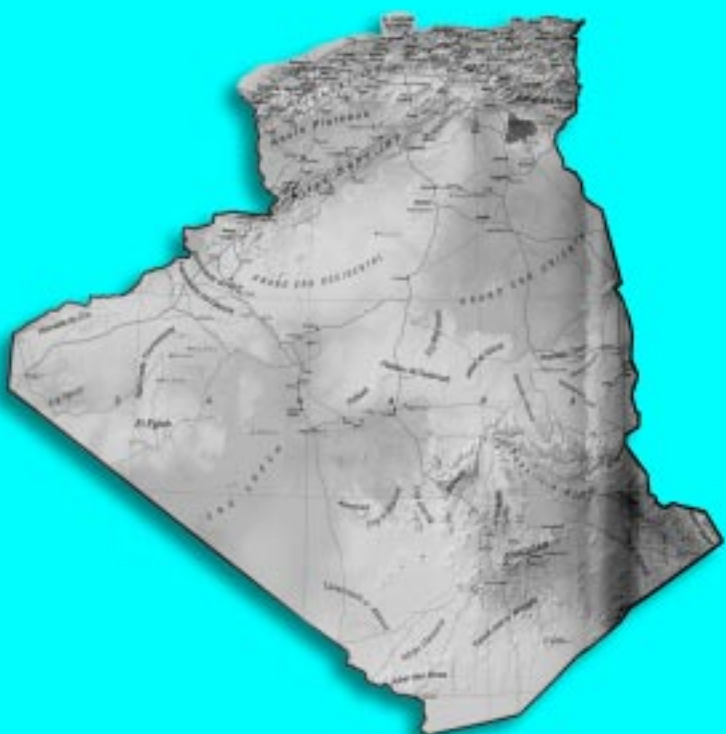
- There is a dearth of data of the kind we wanted.
- Much of the available data is non-comparable across countries.
- Most of the data available on Arab websites about Arab women is actually taken from external sources, mainly the United Nations, but also the U.S. State Department, the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, the Library of Congress Country Studies, the Commission of Human Rights, and the CIA.
- It was particularly hard to find data on certain countries and, more surprisingly, the UNDP's Human Development Report (2002) fails to include Palestine and Iraq.
- A lot of Internet sites give statistics without corresponding dates.
- Different sources - national, regional, and international - are often contradictory.

Given these difficulties, we do not consider the Fact File as a final product, but rather as a work in progress. The statistics and facts offered here may be disputable (like all facts and statistics), but the possibility of comparing women's literacy levels, economic activity rate, or average age at first marriage across all 22 Arab countries yields some significant correlations as well as some surprising results.

We acknowledge our indebtedness to ESCWA's country profiles, the Emory Islamic Family Law website, Macmag-Glip's project on Nationality Laws, and UNDP's Pogar. We urge anybody with more specific or different data to contact IWSAW so as to update the profiles, and make them more accurate and useful.

- Ndf = no data found.
- The gross enrollment ratio means the number of pupils enrolled in the given level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the population in the relevant official age-group. This is why it may be more than 100%.
- All the maps (except Palestine) are taken from [The 21st Century World Atlas](#) (1998) USA: Trident Press International.

Algeria



1. **Constitution?** Yes. Latest version: 28 November 1996. Affirms gender equality? Yes.¹

2. **Nationality law:** gender discrimination? Yes.²

3. **International resolutions:**

a) CEDAW: Yes (May 1996).³
i) With reservations? Yes.⁴

b) ILO Conventions:

- i) Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100), 1951: Yes.
- ii) Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111), 1958: Yes.⁵

4. **Legal system:**

- a) Women's participation:
 - i) Right to raise cases? ndf.
 - ii) Work as lawyers? Yes.⁶
 - iii) Judges? Yes.⁷

- iv) Number of women judges: 547 of 2,324 practising judges in all jurisdictions were women in 1998.⁸ Recently two women were appointed as presiding judges.⁹

b) Are there civic laws that apply only to men or women? Yes.¹⁰

c) Family law:

- i) Codified, religious based.¹¹
- ii) Recent changes? ndf.

5. **Political rights:**

- i) Right to vote? Yes (1962).¹²
- ii) Stand for election (national and municipal levels)? Yes (1962).¹³
- iii) Percentage of women in parliament: 3.4% (lower house), 5.6% (upper house).¹⁴
- iv) Women in the cabinet? Yes, 11 (1982-2001).¹⁵

6. **The state:**

- a) Employment in the state apparatus: Yes.¹⁶
 - i) In which sectors? Civil service, armed forces.¹⁷
 - ii) Heads of government departments: Yes.¹⁸
 - iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues: The Standing Committee of the Ministry of National Solidarity and the Family.¹⁹

7. **Gender monitoring and action:**

- a) National Council of Women? Yes.²⁰
- b) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? Yes.²¹

c) NGOs that monitor women's situation? Yes.²²

8. **Education:**

- a) Adult female/male literacy rates: 57/76.2%.²³
- b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: primary level 104/114%; secondary level 67/66% (2000)²⁴; tertiary level: ndf.
- c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: 45% of school teachers are women.²⁵ In 1995 there were 20 women university teachers for every 100 men.²⁶

9. **The economy:**

- a) Female economic activity rate: 29.5%.²⁷
- b) Economic rights:
 - i) To ownership of property? Yes.²⁸
 - ii) To own and manage businesses? Yes.²⁹

- iii) To open bank accounts and take loans in their own name? ndf.
- iv) To receive social security and pensions in their own names. Yes.³⁰

c) Percentage of female-headed households: ndf.

10. Health:

a) Vital statistics:

- i) Life expectancy (f/m): 71.0/68.1 years (2000).³¹
- ii) Average age of women at first marriage: 27.6 years.³²
- iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: 220 per 100,000 births (1985 -99).³³

b) Reproductive rights:

i) Is contraception legal? Yes.³⁴

ii) Is abortion legal? Yes, in limited cases.³⁵

c) Female genital mutilation? Yes, in southern Algeria.³⁶

d) Employment in the modern health sector: 51.2% of health professionals, 36% of university hospital physicians, 46% of medical specialists, 48.6% of general practitioners, 64.4% of dental surgeons and 65.4% of pharmacists were women in 1996.³⁷

11. Culture:

a) Do women work in the media – print journalism? Radio? TV? Yes.³⁸

b) Do women perform in public (as actors, musicians, etc)? Yes.³⁹

ENDNOTES

1. Art 29: <http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/1078/econst1.htm>
2. Art. 6, Art. 32: Suad Joseph ed. (2000), Gender and Citizenship in the Middle East Syracuse: Syracuse University Press.
3. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/states>
4. Art. 2, Art. 9 paragraph 2, Art. 15 paragraph 4, Art. 16 and Art. 29: www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/algeria.htm
5. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women. Tunisia: CAWTAR.
6. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/algeria.htm>
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid.
9. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/algeria/gender.html>
10. Eg. travel: women under 19 years cannot travel abroad without father's or husband's permission (this law is not generally observed): http://www.afrol.com/categories/Women/profiles/algeria_women.htm.
11. <http://www.law.emory.edu/IFL/legal/Algeria.htm>
12. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.
13. Ibid.
14. Ibid.
15. Saliha Boudeffa "Le Contexte de Crise et les femmes en Algérie" paper presented to IWSAW colloquium, July 2001, p 8.
16. http://www.afrol.com/categories/Women/profiles/algeria_women.htm
17. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/algeria/gender.html>
18. In 1996, 4.8% of women in government employment occupied ministerial and sub-ministerial positions: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/public/percent.htm>
19. Ibid.
20. http://www.wedo.org/monitor/g_survey.htm
21. Ibid.
22. <http://www.euronet.nl/~fullmoon/womlist/countries>

23. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.
24. <http://genderstats.worldbank.org> (check "Summary Gender Profiles")
25. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/algeria.htm>
26. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. Women and Men in the Arab Countries: Education. New York: United Nations.
27. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.
28. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/algeria.htm>
29. http://www.afrol.com/categories/Women/profiles/algeria_women.htm
30. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/algeria.htm>
31. Ibid.
32. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2000). Women and Men In Algeria: A Statistical Portrait. New York: United Nations.
33. United Nations Development Programme (2002) Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.
34. 47% of women aged 15-49 use all methods of contraception: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2000). Women and Men In Algeria: A Statistical Portrait. New York: United Nations.
35. Only if it is to save the life of the mother or preserve her health. <http://www.pregnantpause.org/lex/world02.htm>
36. <http://www.fgmnetwork.org/intro/fgmintro.htm>
37. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/algeria.htm>
38. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2000). Women and Men In Algeria: A Statistical Portrait. New York: United Nations.
39. Ibid.

Bahrain



1. **Constitution?** Yes. Latest version: February 2001. Affirms gender equality? Yes.¹

2. **Nationality law:** gender discrimination? Yes.²

3. International Resolutions:

a) CEDAW: Yes (18 June 2002).
i) With reservations? Yes.³

b). ILO Conventions:

i) Equal Remuneration Convention (No 100), 1951: No.
ii) Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention No 111), 1958: No.⁴

4. **Legal system:**

a) Women's participation:

i) Right to raise cases? Yes.⁵
ii) Work as lawyers? Yes.⁶
iii) Judges? ndf.

iv) Number of women judges: ndf.

b) Are there civic laws that apply only to men or women? Yes.⁷

c) Family law

i) Religious, uncodified.⁸
ii) Recent changes? Yes.⁹

5. **Political rights:**

i) Right to vote? Limited.¹⁰
ii) Stand for election (national and municipal levels)? Yes.¹¹
iii) Percentage of women in parliament? No parliament.¹²
iv) Women in the cabinet: No.¹³

6. **The state:**

a) Employment in the state apparatus: ndf.
i) In which sectors? ndf.
ii) Heads of government departments: None.
iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues: The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.¹⁴

7. **Gender Monitoring and Action:**

a) National Council of Women? The Supreme Council for Women.¹⁵

b) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? Yes.¹⁶

c) NGOs that monitor women's situation? Yes.¹⁷

8. **Education:**

a) Adult female/male literacy rates: 82.6/90.9%.¹⁸

b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: at primary level 104/104%; secondary level 98/89%; tertiary level: 32/20% (2000).¹⁹

c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: 73% of primary school teachers were women in 2000.²⁰ 60.9% of employees in the Ministry of Education are women.²¹

9. **The economy:**

a) Female economic activity rate: 33.5%.²²

b) Economic rights:

i) To ownership of property? Yes.²³
ii) To own and manage businesses? Yes.²⁴
iii) To open bank accounts and take loans in their own name? ndf.
iv) To receive social security and pensions in their own names? ndf.

c) Percentage of female-headed households: ndf.

10. Health:

a) Vital statistics:

- i) Life expectancy (f/m): 71.0/71.6 years (2000).²⁵
- ii) Average age of women at first marriage: 50% of women married before the age of 20 in 1991.²⁶
- iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: 46 per 100,000 births.²⁷

b) Reproductive rights:

- i) Is contraception legal? Yes.²⁸
- ii) Is abortion legal? Yes.²⁹

c) Female genital mutilation? Not sure.³⁰

d) Employment in the modern health sector: ndf.

11. Culture:

a) Do women work in the media – print journalism? Radio? TV? Yes.³¹

b) Do women perform in public (as actors, musicians, etc)? Yes.³²

ENDNOTES

1. Art 2: <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/bahrain/gender.html> & <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/bahrain/constitution.html>

2. Art. 27: http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/ba00000_.html

3. Article 2, Article 9 paragraph 2, Article 15 paragraph 4, Article 16 and Article 29 paragraph 1: <http://www.iwraw-ap.org/ConvReservations.html/>

4. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women. Tunisia: CAWTAR.

5. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/bahrain/gender.html>

6. <http://www.feminist.org/news/newsbyte/uswirestory.asp?id=1849>

7. Laws vary according to *Sunni* or *Shi'a* interpretations: <http://www.escwa.org.lb/divisions/social/profile/bahrain/main.html>

8. <http://www.law.emory.edu/IFL/index2.html>

9. The Personal Status Committee, created to launch awareness among women, has succeeded in "suspending the rule of obedience enacted by the police, and in restricting arbitrary divorce. Now divorce is only legal before a judge." : Sabika Al-Najjar, see article in *Al-Raida*, this issue.

10. Though according to the constitution all citizens are equal before the law; women were not allowed to vote in the only legislative elections held in Bahrain so far (1973). They were allowed to vote, however, in the referendum of February 2001, which approved the National Action Charter: UNDP, Human Development Report 2002.

11. Ibid.

12. Ibid.

13. <http://www.escwa.org.lb/divisions/social/profile/bahrain/main.html>

14. Ibid.

15. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/bahrain/gender.html>

16. http://www.wedo.org/monitor/g_survey.htm

17. <http://www.escwa.org.lb/divisions/social/profile/bahrain/main.html>

18. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

19. <http://genderstats.worldbank.org> (check "Summary Gender Profile")

20. Ibid.

21. <http://www.escwa.org.lb/divisions/social/profile/bahrain/main.html>

22. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

23. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/bahrain/gender.html>

24. United Nations Development Programme. Human Development Report on the Republic of Bahrain: Achievements and Challenges. Bahrain: University of Bahrain Press.

25. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

26. United Nations Development Programme. (1998). Human Development Report: State of Bahrain.

27. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

28. 54% of women used contraceptive methods in 1989: United Nations Development Programme. (1998). Human Development Report: State of Bahrain.

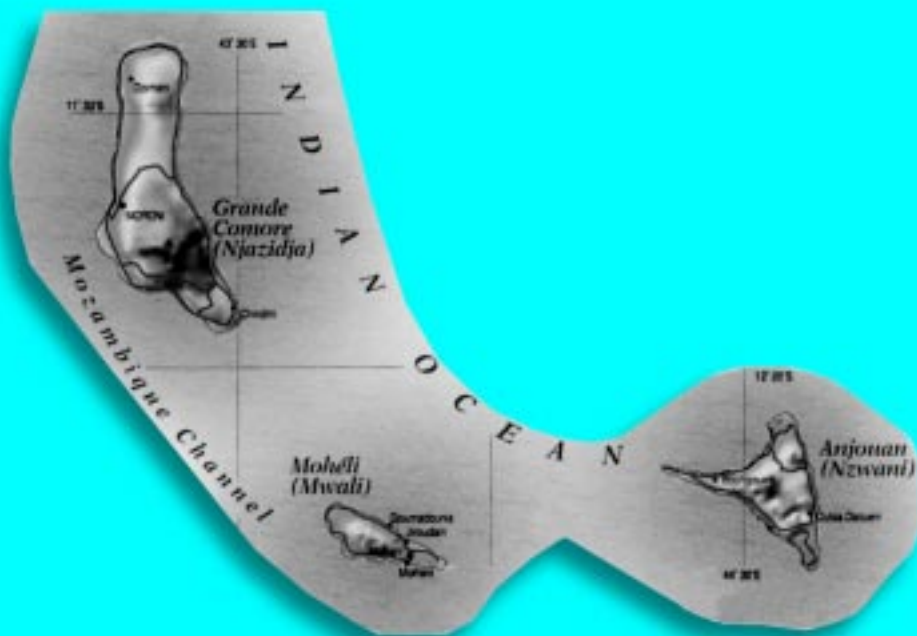
29. <http://www.pregnantpause.org/lex/world02.htm>

30. http://ippfnet.ippf.org/pub/IPPF_Regions/IPPF_CountryProfile.asp

31. *Al-Safir*.

32. Ibid.

Comoros



1. **Constitution?** Yes. Latest version: December 2001. Affirms gender equality? ndf.¹

2. **Nationality law:** gender discrimination? ndf.

3. **International resolutions**

a) CEDAW: No.

b) ILO Conventions:

- i) Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100), 1951: Yes.
- ii) Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111), 1958: No.²

4. **Legal system:**

a) Women's participation:

- i) Right to raise cases? ndf.
- ii) Work as lawyers? ndf.
- iii) Judges? ndf.
- iv) Number of women judges: ndf.

b) Are there civic laws that apply only to men or women? ndf.

c) Family law:

- i) Religious.³
- ii) Recent changes? No.

5. **Political rights:**

- i) Right to vote? Yes (1956).⁴
- ii) Stand as candidates for election? Yes.⁵
- iii) Percentage of women in parliament? None.⁶
- iv) Women in the cabinet? Yes.⁷

6. **The state:**

a) Employment in the state apparatus: ndf.

i) In which sectors? ndf.

ii) Heads of government departments: Yes.⁸

iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues: No.⁹

7. **Gender monitoring and action:**

a) National Council of Women? No.

b) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? No.¹⁰

c) NGOs that monitor women's situation? Yes.¹¹

8. **Education:**

a) Adult female/male literacy rates: 48.7/63.2%.¹²

b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: primary level: 70/82%; secondary level 22/27%; tertiary level 1/1% (2000).¹³

c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: 26% of primary school teachers in 2000 were women.¹⁴

9. The economy:

- a) Female economic activity rate: 62.5%.¹⁵
- b) Economic rights:
 - i) To ownership of property? Yes.¹⁶
 - ii) To own and manage businesses? Yes.¹⁷
 - iii) To open bank accounts and take loans in their own name? ndf.
 - iv) To receive social security and pensions in their own names? ndf.
- c) Percentage of female-headed households: ndf.

10. Health:

- a) Vital statistics:
 - i) Life expectancy (f/m): 61.2/58.4 years (2000).¹⁸
 - ii) Average age of women at first marriage: less than

20 years (1990).¹⁹

- iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: ndf.

b) Reproductive rights:

- i) Is contraception legal? Yes.²⁰
- ii) Is abortion legal? Yes, in limited cases.²¹

- c) Female genital mutilation? No.²²

- d) Employment in the modern health sector: ndf.

11. Culture:

- a) Do women work in the media – print journalism? Radio? TV? ndf.

- b) Do women perform in public (as actors, musicians, etc)? ndf.

ENDNOTES

1. <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/cn.html#govt>

2. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women. Tunisia: CAWTAR.

3. <http://1upinfo.com/country-guide-study/comoros/comoros26.html>

4. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

5. Ibid.

6. Parliament has been dissolved for an indefinite period: United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

7. In 1990/91, two women were appointed Ministers of Social and Women's Affairs and of the Ministry of Population and Women's Affairs. The two ministries were later eliminated: Comoros: Status of Women: <http://1upinfo.com/country-guide-study/comoros/comoros26.html>

8. In 1996, 2.7% of women in the government occupied ministerial positions. <http://1upinfo.com/country-guide-study/comoros/comoros26.html>

9. Ibid.

10. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw>

11. <http://1upinfo.com/country-guide-study/comoros/comoros26.html>

12. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

13. <http://genderstats.worldbank.org> (check "Summary Gender Profiles")

14. Ibid.

15. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

16. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/af/8316.htm>

17. Ibid.

18. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

19. WIDNET, Women in Development Network

20. http://www.prb.org/pdf/Comoros_Eng.pdf

21. To save the mother's life or preserve her health: <http://www.pregnantpause.org/lex/world02.htm>

22. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/af/8316.htm>

Djibouti



1. **Constitution?** Yes. Latest version: 4 September, 1992. Affirms gender equality? Yes.¹

2. **Nationality law:** gender discrimination? No.²

3. **International resolutions:**

a) CEDAW: Yes. (Dec. 1998).³
i) With reservations? Yes.⁴

b) ILO Conventions:

- i) Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100), 1951: Yes.
- ii) Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111), 1958: Yes.⁵

4. **Legal system:**

- a) Women's participation:
 - i) Right to raise cases? Yes.⁶
 - ii) Work as lawyers? Yes.⁷
 - iii) Judges? Yes.⁸
 - iv) Number of women judges: ndf.

b) Are there civic laws that apply only to men or women? Yes.⁹

c) Family law:

- i) Religious.¹⁰
- ii) Recent changes? ndf.

5. **Political rights:**

- i) Right to vote? Yes (1946).¹¹
- ii) Stand for election (national and municipal levels)? Yes.¹²
- iii) Percentage of women in parliament? None.¹³
- iv) Women in the Cabinet? Yes.¹⁴

6. **The state:**

- a) Employment in the state apparatus: ndf.
 - i) In which sectors? ndf.
 - ii) Heads of government departments: Yes.¹⁵
 - iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues: The Ministry of Women's, Family and Social Affairs.¹⁶

7. **Gender monitoring and action:**

- a) National Council of Women? Yes.¹⁷
- b) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? Yes.¹⁸
- c) NGO's that monitors women's situation? Yes.¹⁹

8. **Education:**

- a) Adult female/male literacy rates: 54.4/76.2%.²⁰

b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: primary level 32/46%, secondary level 13/19% (2000); tertiary level (no universities).²¹

c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: 28% of primary school teachers and 22% of secondary teachers were women in 2000.²²

9. The economy:

a) Female economic activity rate: ndf.

b) Economic rights:

i) To ownership of property? Yes.²³

ii) To own and manage businesses? ndf.

iii) To open bank accounts and take loans in their own name? ndf.

iv) To receive social security and pensions in their own names? ndf.

c) Percentage of female-headed households: ndf.

10. Health:

a) Vital statistics:

i) Life expectancy (f/m): 44.2/41.6 years (2000).²⁴

ii) Average age of women at first marriage: less than 20 years (1990).²⁵

iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: ndf.

b) Reproductive rights:

i) Is contraception legal? Yes.²⁶

ii) Is abortion legal? Yes in limited cases.²⁷

c) Female genital mutilation? Yes.²⁸

d) Employment in the modern health sector: ndf.

11. Culture:

a) Do women work in the media – print journalism? Radio? TV? ndf.

b) Do women perform in public (as actors, musicians, etc)? ndf.

ENDNOTES

1. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/djibouti/constitution.html>

2. Law No. 200/AN81 of Oct 24, 1981:

<http://www.dss.mil.nf/adr/forpref/country3.htm#DJIBOUTI>

3. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/states>

4. Except if there is conflict with Islamic law:

<http://undp-pogar.org/countries/djibouti/gender.html>

5. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). *Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women*. Tunisia: CAWTAR.

6. http://www.afrol.com/Categories/Women/profiles/djibouti_women.htm

7. <http://undp-pogar.org/countries/djibouti/gender.html>

8. Ibid.

9. Women are not permitted to travel without the permission of an adult male relative: <http://undp-pogar.org/countries/djibouti/gender.html>

10. http://www.afrol.com/Categories/Women/profiles/djibouti_women.htm

11. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.

12. Ibid.

13. Ibid.

14. The first female minister was appointed in 1999 as Minister

of State for the Promotion of Women's, Family, and Social Affairs:

<http://www.afrol.com/Categories/Women/msindex.htm>

15. <http://undp-pogar.org/countries/djibouti/gender.html>

16. Ibid.

17. http://www.wedo.org/monitor/g_survey.htm

18. Ibid.

19. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/r/ls/hrrpt/2001/af/8362.htm>

20. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.

21. <http://genderstats.worldbank.org> (check "Summary Gender Profiles")

22. Ibid.

23. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/djibouti/constitution.html>

24. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.

25. <http://www.focusintl.com/statr1a1.htm>

26. http://ippfnet.ippf.org/pub/IPPF_Regions/IPPF_CountryProfile.asp

27. Only to save the life of the mother: <http://www.pregnantpause.org/lex/world02.htm>

28. An estimated 95% of women of all ethnic groups are infibulated, though a Penal Code in 1994 outlawed FGM. http://ippfnet.ippf.org/pub/IPPF_CountryProfile.asp

Egypt



1. **Constitution?** Yes. Latest version: 1980. Affirms gender equality? Yes.¹

2. **Nationality law:** gender discrimination? Yes.²

3. **International resolutions:**

a) CEDAW: Yes (16 July 1980, 18 Sept. 1981).³
i) With reservations? Yes.⁴

b) ILO Conventions:

- i) Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100), 1951: Yes.
- ii) Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111), 1958: Yes.⁵

4. **Legal system**

a) Women's participation:

- i) Right to raise cases? Yes.⁶
- ii) Work as lawyers? Yes.⁷
- iii) Judges? Yes.⁸
- iv) Number of women judges: One.⁹

b. Are there civic laws that apply only to men or women? Yes.¹⁰

c) Family law:

- i) Codified, religious based.¹¹
- ii) Family law, recent changes? Yes, many. Latest in 2001.¹²

5. **Political rights:**

- i) Right to vote? Yes (1956).¹³
- ii) Stand for election (national and municipal levels)? Yes.¹⁴
- iii) Percentage of women in parliament? 2.4% (lower house).¹⁵
- iv) Women in the Cabinet? Yes, two (2002).¹⁶

6. **The state:**

- a) Employment in the state apparatus: Yes.¹⁷
 - i) In which sectors? Administration, municipalities, police.¹⁸
 - ii) Heads of government departments: Yes.¹⁹
 - iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues: The General Department of Women's Affairs of the Ministry of Social Affairs.²⁰

7. **Gender monitoring and action:**

a) National Council of Women? The National Committee on Women.²¹

b) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? Yes.²²

c) NGOs that monitor women's situation? Yes.²³

8. **Education:**

a) Adult female/male literacy rates: 43.8/66.6%.²⁴

b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: primary level 96/104% (2000); secondary level 78/84%(2000); tertiary level: ndf.²⁵

c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: 99% of nursery school teachers, 52% of primary school teachers, 42% of intermediate school teachers, and 37% of secondary school teachers were women in 1996-1997. In 2002, 53% of faculty in universities were female.²⁶

9. **The economy:**

a) Female economic activity rate: 35%.²⁷

b) Economic rights:

- i) To ownership of property? Yes.²⁸
- ii) To own and manage businesses? Yes.²⁹
- iii) To open bank accounts and take loans in their own names? ndf.
- iv) To receive social security and pensions in their own names? ndf.

c) Percentage of female-headed households: 22% in 1991.³⁰

10. **Health:**

a) Vital statistics:

- i) Life expectancy (f/m): 68.8/65.7 years (2000).³¹
- ii) Average age of women at first marriage: 21.4 years (1980-90).³²

- iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: 170 per 100,000 births (1985-99).³³
- b) Reproductive rights:
- i) Is contraception legal? Yes.³⁴
- ii) Is abortion legal? Yes, in special cases.³⁵
- c) Female genital mutilation? Yes. Estimated prevalence 97%.³⁶
- d) Employment in the modern health sector: In 1996, women

constituted 27% of the total number of those registered in the Syndicate of Physicians; 35% of those in the Syndicate of Pharmacy, and 33% of those in the Syndicate of Dentistry. Women also constituted 92% of the total number of staff in the nursing field.³⁷

11. Culture:

- a) Do women work in the media – print journalism? Radio? TV? Yes.³⁸
- b) Do women perform in public (as actors, musicians, etc)? Yes.³⁹

ENDNOTES

1. Art. 8 & Art. 11. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/egypt/index.html>
2. Art. 6: Ibid.
3. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/states>
4. Art. 2, Art. 9 paragraph 2, Art. 16, Art. 29 paragraph 2. <http://www.iwraw-ap.org/ConvReservations.html>
5. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). Arab Women's Development Report, Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women. Tunisia: CAWTAR.
6. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/Egypt/gender.html>
7. Ibid.
8. The first woman judge was appointed to the High Constitutional Court in Jan 2003: Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. Unmarried women under age 21 must have their father's permission to obtain passports and to travel; married women of any age require permission from their husbands: http://www.afrol.com/Categories/Women/profiles/egypt_women.htm
11. http://www.afrol.com/Categories/Women/profiles/egypt_women.htm
12. Amendment 1 of 2001 challenges men's unilateral right to divorce for the first time: "Arab Human Development Report, 2002: Arab Women Moving Fast, But Still Far to go." <http://mobile.undp.org:8100/rbas/ahdr/PR4.pds>
13. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.
14. Ibid.
15. Ibid.
16. <http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2002/576/eg22.htm>
17. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/Egypt/gender.html>
18. Ibid.
19. In 2000, 6.1% of women employed in government occupied ministerial-level posts, i.e. as ministers, vice ministers and parliamentary secretaries: United Nations Development Programme (2002) Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.
20. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/Egypt/gender.html>
21. Ibid.
22. http://www.wedo.org/monitor/g_survey.htm
23. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/Egypt/gender.html>
24. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented

World. New York: Oxford University Press.

25. <http://genderstats.worldbank.org> (check "Summary Gender Profiles")

26. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2000) Women and Men in Egypt: A Statistical Portrait. United Nations: New York. & Al-Ahram Weekly Online, "Women of the World," Mar. 7-13, 2002. <http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2002/576/eg22.htm>

27. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

28. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2000). Women and Men in Egypt: A Statistical Portrait. United Nations: New York.

29. Around 17% of private businesses are owned by women: <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/Egypt/gender.html>

30. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2000). Women and Men in Egypt: A Statistical Portrait. United Nations: New York.

31. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

32. www.unesco.org/culture/worldreport/html_eng/

33. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

34. 52% of married women used contraception in 1997. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2000). Women and Men in Egypt: A Statistical Portrait. United Nations: New York.

35. To save the life of the mother, but with further restrictions: <http://www.pregnantpause.org/lex/world02.htm>

36. Both Muslims and Coptic Christians practice FGM. In 1958, it was prohibited, and in 1996 all licensed health professionals were banned from performing it, but in 1997 a court overturned this ban. An appeal is still pending: http://ppfnet.ippf.org/pub/ippf_regions/ippf_countryprofile.asp

37. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2000). Women and Men in Egypt: A Statistical Portrait. United Nations: New York.

38. In 1996, 20% of those enrolled in the press syndicate were women: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2000). Women and Men in Egypt: A Statistical Portrait. United Nations: New York.

39. Ibid.

Iraq



1. **Constitution?** Yes. Latest version: 1990 (Interim). Affirms gender equality? Yes.¹

2. **Nationality law:** gender discrimination? ndf.

3. **International resolutions:**

a) CEDAW: Yes (13 Aug. 1986).²
i) With reservations? Yes.³

b) ILO Conventions:
i) Equal Remuneration Convention (No 100), 1951: Yes.
ii) Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111), 1958: Yes.⁴

4. **Legal system:**

a) Women's participation:
i) Right to raise cases? Yes.⁵
ii) Work as lawyers? Yes.⁶
iii) Judges? Yes.⁷
iv) Number of women judges: ndf.

b) Are there civic laws that apply only to men or women? Yes.⁸

c) Family law:
i) Codified, religious-based.⁹
ii) Recent changes? Yes, several in 1970s.¹⁰

5. **Political rights:**

i) Right to vote? ndf.
ii) Stand as candidates for election? ndf.
iii) Number of women in parliament? ndf.
iv) Women in the Cabinet? No.

6. **The state:**

a) Employment in the state apparatus: Yes.¹¹
i) In which sectors? Police, army.¹²
ii) Heads of government departments: No.
iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues: ndf.

7. Gender monitoring and action:

a) National Council of Women? The National Committee of Women.¹³

b) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? Yes.¹⁴

c) NGOs that monitor women's situation? Yes.¹⁵

8. Education:

a) Adult female/male literacy rates: 43/64% (1998).¹⁶

b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: primary level 80/96%; secondary level 14/25%; tertiary level, 9/17% (2000).¹⁷

c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: 72% of primary school teachers and 57% of secondary school teachers were women (2000).¹⁸

9. The economy:

a) Female economic activity rate: ndf.

b) Economic rights:

i) To ownership of property? Yes.¹⁹

ii) To own and manage businesses? Yes.²⁰

iii) To open bank accounts and take loans in their own name? ndf.

iv) To receive social security and pensions in their own names? ndf.

c) Percentage of female-headed households? ndf.

10. Health:

a) Vital statistics:

i) Life expectancy (f/m): 62/60 years (2000).²¹

ii) Average age of women at first marriage: 22.3 years (early 1990s).²²

iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: 310 per 100,000 births.²³

b) Reproductive rights:

i) Is contraception legal? Yes.²⁴

ii) Is abortion legal? Yes, in limited cases.²⁵

c) Female genital mutilation? No reported instances.

d) Employment in the modern health sector: ndf.

11. Culture:

a) Do women work in the media – print journalism? Radio? TV? Yes.²⁶

b) Do women perform in public (as actors, musicians, etc)? Yes.²⁷

ENDNOTES

1. Art. 19. http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/iz__indx.html

2. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/states>

3. Art. 2 paragraph [f] [g], Art. 16, and Art. 29 paragraph 1. <http://www.iwrawap.org/ConvReservations.html/>

4. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women. Tunisia: CAWTAR.

5. Personal Interview: Nadim Gargoura, *Al-Safir*.

6. Ibid.

7. Ibid.

8. Women are not permitted to travel outside the country unless escorted by a male relative:

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8257.htm>

9. <http://www.law.emory.edu/IFL/legal/iraq.htm>

10. <http://www.law.emory.edu/IFL/index2.html>

11. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/af/8392.htm>

12. Ibid.

13. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/confer/beijing/national/asiasum.htm>

14. http://www.wedo.org/monitor/g_survey.htm

15. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/confer/beijing/national/iraqnap.htm>

16. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/iraq/gender.html>

17. <http://genderstats.worldbank.org> (check "Summary Gender Profiles")

18. Ibid.

19. http://ippfnet.ippf.org/pub/IPPF_Regions/IPPF_CountryProfile.asp

20. United Nations Development Program. (1995). Iraq: Human Development Report. Baghdad: Iraqi Economist Association.

21. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/confer/beijing/national/asiasum.htm>

22. United Nations Development Program. (1995). Iraq: Human Development Report. Baghdad: Iraqi Economist Association.

23. http://ippfnet.ippf.org/pub/IPPF_Regions/IPPF_CountryProfile.asp

24. About 18% of married women use contraception: *ibid*.

25. Only if to save the mother's life or if the unborn child has defects. Restricted interpretation. <http://www.pregnantpause.org/lex/world02.htm>

26. Personal Interview. Nadim Gargoura, *Al-Safir*.

27. *Ibid*.

Jordan



1. **Constitution?** Yes. Latest version: 1984. Affirms gender equality? Yes.¹

2. **Nationality law:** gender discrimination? Yes.²

3. **International resolutions:**

a) CEDAW: Yes (Dec. 1989, July 1992).³
i) With reservations? Yes.⁴

b) ILO Conventions:

i) Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100), 1951: Yes.
ii) Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111), 1958: Yes.⁵

4. **Legal system:**

a) Women's participation:

i) Right to raise cases? Yes.⁶
ii) Work as lawyers? Yes.⁷
iii) Judges? Yes.⁸
iv) Number of women judges: 12 (2001).⁹

b. Are there civic laws that apply only to men or women? Yes.¹⁰

c) Family law:

i) Codified, religious based.¹¹

ii) Recent changes? Yes, in 2002.¹²

5. **Political rights:**

i) Right to vote? Yes (1974).¹³
ii) Stand for election (national and municipal levels)? Yes.¹⁴
iii) Percentage of women in parliament? 1.3% (lower house); 7.5% (upper house).¹⁵
iv) Women in the Cabinet? Yes.¹⁶

6. **The state:**

a) Employment in the state apparatus: Yes.¹⁷
i) In which sectors? The civil service, police, armed forces.¹⁸
ii) Heads of government departments? Yes.¹⁹
iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues: ndf.

7. **Gender monitoring and action:**

a) National Council of Women? Yes, the Jordanian National Committee for Women.²⁰

b) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? Yes.²¹

c) NGOs that monitor women's situation? Yes.²²

8. **Education:**

a) Adult female/male literacy rates: 83.9/95.1%.²³

b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: primary level 69/68%; secondary level 67/65% (2000);²⁴ tertiary level: ndf.

c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: 100% of nursery school teachers, 60% of primary school teachers, and 47% of secondary school teachers were women in 1994-1995. 15 women taught in university for every 100 men (1995).²⁵

9. **The economy:**

a) Female economic activity rate: 26.6%.²⁶

b) Economic rights:

i) To ownership of property? Yes.²⁷
ii) To own and manage businesses? Yes.²⁸
iii) To open bank accounts and take loans in their own name? ndf.
iv) To receive social security and pensions in their own names? ndf.

c) Percentage of female-headed households? 6.1% in 1991.²⁹

10. **Health:**

a) Vital statistics:

i) Life expectancy (f/m): 71.8/69.1 years (2000).³⁰

- ii) Average age of women at first marriage: 23.7 years (1994).³¹
- iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: 41 per 100,000 births (1985- 1999).³²

b) Reproductive rights:

- i) Is contraception legal? Yes.³³
- ii) Is abortion legal? Yes, in limited cases.³⁴

c) Female genital mutilation? No.³⁵

d) Employment in the modern health sector: In 1997, women constituted 12.7% of those registered in the Syndicate of Physicians, 31.1 % of those in the Syndicate of Dentistry, 42.6% in the Syndicate of Pharmacy, and 72.7% in the Syndicate of Nurses.³⁶

11. Culture:

a) Do women work in the media – print journalism? Radio? TV? Yes.³⁷

b) Do women perform in public (as actors, musicians, etc)? Yes.³⁸

ENDNOTES

1. Art. 6. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/jordan/constitution.html> & <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/jordan/gender.html>
2. Art. 9, 10: Suad Joseph, ed. Gender and Citizenship in the Middle East, (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2000).
3. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/states>
4. Art. 9 paragraph 2, Art. 15 paragraph 4, Art. 16 paragraph 1c, d, g: <http://www.iwraw-ap.org/ConvReservations.html>
5. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women. Tunisia: CAWTAR.
6. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (1999). Women and Men in Jordan: A Statistical Portrait. New York: United Nations.
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid.
9. <http://escwa.org.lb/divisions/sdd/women.html>
10. The law provides for the right of citizens to travel freely abroad and within the country except in designated military areas. However, the law requires that all women, including foreign women married to citizens, obtain written permission from a male guardian—usually their father or husband—to apply for a Jordanian passport: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8266.htm>
11. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/jordan/gende.html>
12. Elinor Bray-Collins, "Muted Voices" (MA thesis, 2003. See Bibliography).
13. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.
14. Ibid.
15. Ibid.
16. Women have headed the Ministry of Social Development in 1995-96, and again in 2000-02. Also the Ministry of Post and Telecommunication (2002): Women Heads of Government and Women Ministers:<http://www.guide2womenleaders.com/Jordan.htm>
17. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (1999). Women and Men in Jordan: A Statistical Portrait. New York: United Nations.
18. Ibid.
19. In 1998, 1.6% of women employed by government occupied ministerial positions: Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab

Women. Tunisia: CAWTAR.

20. Al-Raida, "Women's Centers in the Arab World", Vol xvii-xviii, No. 90-91).
21. WEDO, Global Survey on National Action Plans to Implement the Beijing Platform, Sept. 1997, http://www.wedo.org/monitor/g_survey.htm
22. Al-Raida, "Women's Centers in the Arab World", Vol xvii-xviii, No. 90-91.
23. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.
24. <http://genderstats.worldbank.org> (check "Summary Gender Profiles")
25. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. Women and Men in the Arab Countries: Education. New York: United Nations.
26. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.
27. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (1999). Women and Men in Jordan: A Statistical Portrait. New York: United Nations.
28. Ibid.
29. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/x0176e/x0176e04.htm>
30. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.
31. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (1999). Women and Men in Jordan: A Statistical Portrait. New York: United Nations.
32. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.
33. 52.6% of married women use contraception: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (1999). Women and Men in Jordan: A Statistical Portrait. New York: United Nations.
34. To save the life of the mother or preserve her health. Restricted interpretation: <http://www.pregnantpause.org/lex/world02.htm>
35. One southern tribe of Egyptian origin in the village of Rahmah near Aqaba reportedly practises FGM: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea:8266.htm>
36. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (1999) Women and Men in Jordan: A Statistical Portrait. New York: United Nations.
37. 5% of editors-in-chief and 12.6% of all journalists were women in 1998: *ibid*.
38. *Ibid*.

Kuwait



1. **Constitution?** Yes. Latest version: 11 November, 1962. Affirms gender equality? Yes.¹

2. **Nationality law:** gender discrimination? Yes.²

3. **International resolutions:**

a) CEDAW: Yes. (2 Sept. 1994).³
i) With reservations? Yes.⁴

b) ILO Conventions:

i) Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100), 1951: No.
ii) Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111), 1958: Yes.⁵

4. **Legal system:**

a) Women's participation:

i) Right to raise cases? ndf.
ii) Work as lawyers? Yes.⁶
iii) Judges? No.⁷
iv) Number of women judges: None.⁸

i) In which sectors? The Civil Service.¹⁶

ii) Heads of government departments? No.¹⁷

iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues: ndf.

7. **Gender monitoring and action:**

a) National Council of Women? Yes.¹⁸

b) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? Yes.¹⁹

c) NGOs that monitor women's situation? Yes.²⁰

8. **Education:**

a) Adult female/male literacy rates: 79.7/84.0%.²¹

b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: primary level 67%/no data; secondary level 58%/no data; tertiary level: 27%/no data (in 1998).²²

c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: 73% of

b). Are there civic laws that apply only to men or women? Yes.⁹

c) Family law:

i) Codified, religious-based.¹⁰
ii) Have there been recent changes? Yes.¹¹

5. **Political rights:**

i) Right to vote? No.¹²

ii) Stand for election (national and municipal levels)? No.¹³

iii) Percentage of women in parliament? None.¹⁴

iv) Women in the Cabinet? No.

6. **The state:**

a) Employment in the state apparatus: Yes.¹⁵

primary school teachers and 56% of secondary school teachers were women in 2000.²³

9. The economy:

a) Female economic activity rate: 36.6%.²⁴

b) Economic rights:

- i) To ownership of property? Yes.²⁵
- ii) To own and manage businesses? Yes.²⁶
- iii) To open bank accounts and take loans in their own name? ndf.
- iv) To receive social security and pensions in their own names? ndf.

c) Percentage of female-headed households: ndf.

10. Health:

a) Vital statistics:

- i) Life expectancy (f/m): 78.6/74.5 years (2000).²⁷
- ii) Average age of women at first marriage: 22.9 years

(1980-90).²⁸

iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: 5 per 100,000 births (1985-99).²⁹

b) Reproductive rights:

- i) Is contraception legal? ndf.
- ii) Is abortion legal? Yes, in limited cases.³⁰

c) Female genital mutilation? No.

d) Employment in the modern health sector: ndf.

11. Culture:

a) Do women work in the media – print journalism? Radio? TV? Yes.³¹

b) Do women perform in public (as actors, musicians, etc)? Yes.³²

ENDNOTES

1. Art. 29:Kuwait: Constitution, <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/lebanon/constitution.html>
2. Art. 27: *ibid.*
3. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/states>
4. Art. 7(a), Art. 9 paragraph 2, Art. 16(f), Art. 29 paragraph 1: <http://www.iwraw-ap.org/ConvReservations.html/>
5. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women. Tunisia: CAWTAR.
6. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8268.htm>
7. *Ibid.*
8. *Ibid.*
9. Married women need their husband's signature to apply for a passport. A man may prevent his wife from leaving the country by contacting the immigration authorities and placing a 24-hour travel ban on her. After this 24-hour period, a court order is required if the husband still wishes to prevent his wife from leaving the country: *ibid.*
10. State of Kuwait. <http://www.law.emory.edu/IFL/legal/kuwait.htm>
11. A Civil Code was promulgated in 1980, and a Personal Status Code in 1984: <http://www.law.emory.edu/IFL/cases.html>
12. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.
13. *Ibid.*
14. *Ibid.*
15. Kuwaiti Women, <http://kuwait-info.org/women.html>
16. *Ibid.*
17. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human

Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press .

18. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8268.htm>

19. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/confer/beijing/national/asiasum.htm>

20. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press .

21. *Ibid.*

22. <http://genderstats.worldbank.org> (check " Summary Gender Profiles")

23. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

24. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8268.htm>

25. *Ibid.*

26. *Ibid.*

27. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

28. http://www.unesco.org/culture/worldreport/html_eng/

29. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press

30. Legal if it is to save the life of the mother and to preserve her mental and physical health as well as if the unborn child has medical problems or birth defects. In all these cases, significant restrictions are applied:

<http://www.pregnantpause.org/lex/world02.htm>

31. *Al-Safir* newspaper.

32. *Ibid.*

Lebanon



1. **Constitution?** Yes. Latest version: 1990. Affirms gender equality? Yes.¹

2. **Nationality law:** gender discrimination? Yes.²

3. **International resolutions:**

a) CEDAW: Yes. (21 Apr. 1997).³
i) With reservations? Yes.⁴

b) ILO Conventions:

i) Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100), 1951: Yes.

ii) Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111), 1958: Yes.⁵

4. **Legal system:**

a) Women's participation:

i) Right to raise cases? Yes.⁶

ii) Work as lawyers? Yes.⁷

iii) Judges? Yes.⁸

iv) Number of women judges: 55 (1998).⁹

b) Are there civic laws that apply only to men or women? Yes.¹⁰

c) Family law:

i) Religious.¹¹

ii) Recent changes? No.

5. **Political rights:**

i) Right to vote? Yes (1952).¹²

ii) Stand for election (national and municipal levels)? Yes.¹³

iii) Percentage of women in parliament? 2.3%.¹⁴

iv) Women in the Cabinet? No.

6. **The state:**

a) Employment in the state apparatus: Yes.¹⁵

i) In which sectors? The civil service, municipalities.¹⁶

ii) Heads of government departments: Yes.¹⁷

iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues: Ministry of Social Affairs.¹⁸

7. **Gender monitoring and action:**

a) National Council of Women? Yes, the National Commission for Lebanese Women.¹⁹

b) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? Yes, the Lebanese Women's National Strategy.²⁰

c) NGOs that monitor women's situation? Yes.²¹

8. **Education:**

a) Adult female/male literacy rates: 80.3/92.1%.²²

b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: primary level 77/97%; secondary level 79/109%; tertiary level: 39/102% (1998).²³

c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: 62.2% of the teaching profession were women (1997), with 44% working in medium level positions.²⁴

9. **The economy:**

a) Female economic activity rate: 29.6%.²⁵

b) Economic rights:

i) To ownership of property? Yes.²⁶

ii) To own and manage businesses? Yes.²⁷

iii) To open bank accounts and take loans in their own name? nfd.

iv) To receive social security and pensions in their own names? Yes.²⁸

c) Percentage of female-headed households: 2.5% (1997).²⁹

10. **Health:**

a) Vital statistics:

i) Life expectancy (f/m): 74.6/71.5 years (2000).³⁰

- ii) Average age of women at first marriage: 27.5 years (1996).³¹
 - iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: 100 per 100,000 births (1985-99).³²
- b) Reproductive rights:
- i) Is contraception legal? Yes.³³
 - ii) Is abortion legal? Yes, in limited cases.³⁴
- c) Female genital mutilation? No.

d) Employment in the modern health sector: In 1995, the number of women enrolled in the Syndicate of Physicians in Beirut and the North was 1, 178; 1,342 in the Syndicate of Pharmacists, and 589 in the Syndicate of Dentistry.³⁵

11. Culture:

- a) Do women work in the media – print journalism? Radio? TV? Yes.³⁶
- b) Do women perform in public (as actors, musicians, etc)? Yes.³⁷

ENDNOTES

1. Art. 7:Lebanon: Constitution, <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/lebanon/constitution.html>
2. Art. 7: Ibid.
3. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/states>
4. Article 9 paragraph 2; Article 16 paragraph 1c,d,f,g; Article 29 paragraph 2[1]: <http://www.iwraw.ap.org/ConvReservations.html>
5. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women. Tunisia: CAWTAR.
6. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2002). Women and Men in Lebanon: A Statistical Portrait. New York: United Nations.
7. Ibid.
8. Ibn Khaldoun Center. "Civil Society: Democratization in the Arab World" <http://www.ibnkhaldun.org/newsletter/1998/aug/indic.html>
9. Ibid.
10. Married women must obtain their husband's signatures to apply for a passport. Although a man may obtain passports for his children without his wife's approval, a women may not obtain passports for her children without the approval of her husband. Husbands may block foreign travel by their wives: U.S. Department of State. Lebanon: Country Report on Human Rights, <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8270.htm>
11. <http://www.law.emory.edu/IFL/legal/lebanon.htm>
12. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.
13. Ibid.
14. Ibid.
15. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/lebanon/gender.html>
16. Ibid.
17. Two women occupy first rank positions in the government, one is a director general of the Ministry of Social Affairs and the other is an Ambassador. Women in second rank positions in the government mainly work as general secretariat of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2002). Women and Men in Lebanon: A Statistical Portrait. New York: United Nations.
18. http://www.undp_pogar.org/countries/lebanon/gender.html
19. Ibid.
20. WEDO, Global Survey on National Action Plans to Implement the Beijing Platform, Sept. 1997: http://www.wedo.org/monitor/g_survey.htm
21. They include: The NGO Committee for the Follow-Up to

- Beijing, the League for Lebanese Women's Rights, and the Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World. Lebanon: Women in Public Life, <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/lebanon/gender.html>
22. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.
23. <http://genderstats.worldbank.org> (check "Summary Gender Profiles")
24. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2002). Women and Men in Lebanon: A Statistical Portrait. New York: United Nations.
25. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.
26. U.S. Department of State. Lebanon: Country Report on Human Rights, <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8270.htm>
27. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2002). Women and Men in Lebanon: A Statistical Portrait. New York: United Nations.
28. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2002). Women and Men in Lebanon: A Statistical Portrait. New York: United Nations.
29. Ibid.
30. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.
31. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women. Tunisia: CAWTAR.
32. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.
33. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2002). Women and Men in Lebanon: A Statistical Portrait. New York: United Nations.
34. Only to save the life of the mother: Summary of Abortion Laws Around the World, <http://www.pregnantpause.org/lex/world02.htm>
35. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2002). Women and Men in Lebanon: A Statistical Portrait. New York: United Nations.
36. In 1995, 32% of editors-in-chief of Lebanese journals were women. Women also constituted 35% of total employees in radio stations: *ibid*.
37. *Ibid*.

Libya



1. **Constitution?** Yes. Latest version: 2 March 1977. Affirms gender equality? Yes.¹

2. **Nationality law:** gender discrimination? Yes.²

3. **International resolutions:**

a) CEDAW: Yes. (16 May 1989).³
i) With reservations? Yes.⁴

b) ILO Conventions:

- i) Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100), 1951: Yes.
- ii) Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111), 1958: Yes.⁵

4. **Legal system:**

- a) Women's participation:
 - i) Right to raise cases? ndf.
 - ii) Work as lawyers? Yes.⁶

iii) Judges? Yes.⁷

iv) Number of women judges: ndf.

b. Are there civic laws that apply only to men or women? Yes.⁸

c) Family law:

- i) Codified, religious-based. ⁹
- ii) Recent changes? ndf.

5. **Political rights:**

- i) Right to vote? Yes (1964).¹⁰
- ii) Stand as candidates for election? Yes.¹¹
- iii) Percentage of women in parliament? ndf.
- iv) Women in the Cabinet? Yes.¹²

6. **The state:**

- a) Employment in the state apparatus: Yes.¹³
 - i) In which sectors? The civil service, armed forces.¹⁴
 - ii) Heads of government departments: Yes.¹⁵
 - iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues: Department of Women's Affairs (part of the General People's Congress).¹⁶

7. **Gender monitoring and action:**

a) National Council of Women? ndf.

b) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? ndf.

c) NGOs that monitor women's situation? Yes.¹⁷

8. **Education:**

a) Adult female/male literacy rates: 68.2/90.8%.¹⁸

b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: primary level: 154/152%; secondary level: 81/73%; tertiary level: 57/56% (2000).¹⁹

c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: in 1999, women accounted for 80% of the primary teaching profession and 54% of secondary teaching.²⁰

9. **The economy:**

a) Female economic activity rate: 25.5%.²¹

b) Economic rights:

- i) To ownership of property? Yes.²²
- ii) To own and manage businesses? Yes.²³
- iii) To open bank accounts and take loans in their own name? ndf.
- iv) To receive social security and pensions in their own names? Yes.²⁴

c) Percentage of female-headed households: ndf.

10. Health:

a) Vital statistics:

- i) Life expectancy (f/m): 72.8/68.8 years (2000).²⁵
- ii) Average age of women at first marriage: 28.2 years (1995).²⁶

iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: 75 per 100,000 births (1985-99).²⁷

b) Reproductive rights:

- i) Is contraception legal? Yes.²⁸
- ii) Is abortion legal? Yes, in limited cases.²⁹

c) Female genital mutilation? Yes.³⁰

d) Employment in the modern health sector: ndf.

11. Culture:

a) Do women work in the media – print journalism? Radio? TV? Yes.³¹

b) Do women perform in public (as actors, musicians, etc)? Yes.³²

ENDNOTES

1. Art.5:<http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/libya/index.html>, http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/ly_index.html
2. "Gender & Citizenship' Campaign: Women's Right to Nationality," http://www.amanjordan.org/english/daily_news/umview.php?ArtID=73
3. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/states>
4. Art. 2 paragraph 16[c] [d]: <http://www.iwraw-ap.org/ConvReservations.html/>
5. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women, Tunisia: CAWTAR.
6. "Women's Libya: Gaddafi and Gender Equality," <http://www.archive.independent.com.mt/2001/0308/n10.htm>
7. "Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women," 13th Session,<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/docs/49/Plenary>
8. Women must have their husbands' permission to travel abroad: <http://www.afrol.com/Categories/Women/msindex.htm>
9. The Family Law Code was promulgated in 1984: <http://www.law.emory.edu/IFL/legal/libya.htm>
10. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.
11. Ibid.
12. Between 1992 and 1994, there were two women ministers, one who was Minister of Education and one who was Minister of Youth and Sports. In March 2000, all ministries were dissolved and their functions were distributed to the local authorities: <http://www.guide2womenleaders.com/libya.htm>
13. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/libya/gender.html>
14. Ibid.
15. 12.5% of women in the government occupied ministerial and sub-ministerial positions in 2000: United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

16. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/libya/gender.html>
17. <http://www.euronet.nl/~fullmoon/womlist/countries>
18. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.
19. <http://genderstats.worldbank.org> (check "Summary Gender Profiles")
20. United Nations Development Programme. 1999. Libya: Human Development Report.
21. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.
22. [Cwr.utoronto.ca/cultural/English/libya/family.html](http://www.cwr.utoronto.ca/cultural/English/libya/family.html)
23. The Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations, Statement by Dr. Salma Abdul Jabbar. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/followup/beijing+5stat/statments/libya9.htm>
24. Ibid.
25. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.
26. United Nations Development Programme. (1999). Libya: Human Development Report.
27. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.
28. 45.1% of married women used contraceptive methods in 1995: United Nations Development Programme (1999) Libya: Human Development Report.
29. If to save the life of the mother: <http://www.pregnant-pause.org/lex/world02.htm>
30. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8273.htm>
31. LIBYANA. www.libyana.org
32. Ibid.

Mauritania



- ii) Work as lawyers? Yes.⁶
- iii) Judges? Yes.⁷
- iv) Number of women judges: ndf.

b) Are there civic laws that apply only to men or women? ndf.

- c) Family law:
- i) Religious.⁸
 - ii) Recent changes? ndf.

5. Political rights:

- i) Right to vote? Yes (1961).⁹
- ii) Stand as candidates for election? Yes.¹⁰
- iii) Percentage of women in parliament? 3.8 % (lower house); 1.8 % (upper house).¹¹
- iv) Women in the Cabinet? Yes.¹²

6. The state:

- a) Employment in the state apparatus: Yes.¹³
- i) In which sectors? The civil service, police.¹⁴
 - ii) Heads of government departments: Yes.¹⁵
 - iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues: Ministry of Women's Affairs.¹⁶

1. **Constitution?** Yes. Latest version: September, 1996. Affirms gender equality? Yes.¹

2. **Nationality law:** gender discrimination? ndf.

3. International resolutions:

- a) CEDAW: Yes. (10 May 2001).²
- i) With reservations? Yes.³
- b) ILO Conventions:
- i) Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100), 1951: Yes.
 - ii) Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111), 1958: No.⁴

4. Legal system:

- a) Women's participation:
- i) Right to raise cases? Yes.⁵

7. Gender monitoring and action:

- a) National Council of Women? Yes.¹⁷
- b) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? Draft plan.¹⁸
- c) NGOs that monitors women's situation? Yes.¹⁹

9. Education:

- a) Adult female/male literacy rates: 30.1./50.7%.²⁰
- b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: primary level 81/86%; secondary level 15/21% (2000);²¹ at tertiary level: ndf.
- c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: 26% of

primary school teachers and 10% of secondary school teachers were women in 2000.²²

10. The economy:

a) Female economic activity rate: 63.4%.²³

b) Economic rights:

- i) To ownership of property? Yes.²⁴
- ii) To own and manage businesses? Yes.²⁵
- iii) To open bank accounts and take loans in their own name? ndf.
- iv) To receive social security and pensions in their own names? ndf.

c) Percentage of female-headed households: 36.5% in the early 1990s.²⁶

11. Health:

a) Vital statistics:

i) Life expectancy (f/m): 53.1/49.9 years (2000).²⁷

ii) Average age of women at first marriage: 19.4 years (1980-90).²⁸

iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: 550 per 100,000 births.²⁹

b) Reproductive rights:

i) Is contraception legal? Yes.³⁰

ii) Is abortion legal? Yes, in limited cases.³¹

c) Female genital mutilation? Yes.³²

d) Employment in the modern health sector: ndf.

12. Culture:

a) Do women work in the media – print journalism? Radio? TV? ndf.

b) Do women perform in public (as actors, musicians, etc)? ndf.

ENDNOTES

1. Art. 5 & Art. 8: http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/mr_index.html

2. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/states>

3. Except those parts in contradiction with the *shari'a*: <http://www.iwraw-ap.org/ConvReservations.html/>

4. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation Tunisia: CAWTAR.

5. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/af/8392.htm>

6. Ibid.

7. Ibid.

8. http://www.afrol.com/Categories/Women/profiles/mauretania_women.htm

9. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

10. Ibid.

11. Ibid.

12. The Ministries of Health, Social Solidarity and Human Service (1997-2000), and of Women's Affairs (1998) have been headed by women: <http://www.guide2womenleaders.com/Mauritania.htm>

13. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/af/8392.htm>

14. Ibid.

15. 13.6% of women employed by government occupied ministerial positions (2000) : United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

16. <http://www.guide2womenleaders.com/mauritania.html>

17. http://www.wedo.org/monitor/g_survey.htm

18. <http://www.euronet.nl/~fullmoon/womlist/countries/mauritania.htm>

19. Ibid.

20. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

21. <http://genderstats.worldbank.org> (check " Summary Gender Profiles")

22. Ibid.

23. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

24. http://www.metimes.com/issue98-26/reg/mauritania_plugs_into.htm

25. Ibid.

26. http://www.fao.org/docrep/x0176e/x0176e04.htm#P305_32084

27. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

28. http://www.unesco.org/culture/worldreport/html_eng/table25.htm

29. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press .

30. http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi_series_results.asp?rowID=732

31. Only to save the life of the mother: <http://www.pregnant-pause.org/lex/world02.htm>

32. Around 25% average; 95% among the Soninke and Halpulaar, 30% among Moor women. No law prohibits FGM: http://ippfnet.ippf.org/pub/ippf_regions/ippf_countryprofile.asp

Morocco



1. **Constitution?** Yes. Latest version: Sept. 1996. Affirms gender equality? Yes.¹

2. **Nationality law:** gender discrimination? Yes.²

3. **International Resolutions:**

a) CEDAW: Yes. (21 June 1993).³
i) With reservations: Yes.⁴

b) ILO Conventions:
i) Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100), 1951: Yes.
ii) Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111), 1958: Yes.⁵

4. **Legal system:**

a) Women's participation:
i) Right to raise cases? Yes.⁶
ii) Work as lawyers? Yes.⁷
iii) Judges? Yes.⁸

iv) Number of women judges: In 1998, there were 442 female judges.⁹

b) Are there civic laws that apply only to men or women? Yes.¹⁰

c) Family law:
i) Codified, religious based.
ii) Family law, recent changes? Yes, in 1993.¹¹

5. **Political rights:**

i) Right to vote? Yes (1963).¹²
ii) Stand as candidates for election? Yes.¹³
iii) Percentage of women in parliament? 0.6 % (lower house); 0.4 % (upper house).¹⁴
iv) Women in the Cabinet? Yes.¹⁵

6. **The state:**

a) Employment in the state apparatus: Yes.
i) In which sectors? The civil service.¹⁶
ii) Heads of government departments: Yes.¹⁷
iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues: Ministry of Human Rights.¹⁸

7. **Gender monitoring and action:**

a) National Council of Women? ndf.
b) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? Yes.¹⁹

c) NGOs that monitor women's situation? Yes.²⁰

8. **Education:**

a) Adult female/male literacy rates: 36.1/61.8%.²¹

b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: primary level 87/107%; secondary level 35/44%; tertiary level 8/11%.²²

c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: 39% of primary school teachers and 33% of secondary school teachers were women in 2000.²³ In 1998, one-quarter of university professors were women.²⁴

9. **The economy:**

a) Female economic activity rate: 41.4%.²⁵

b) Economic rights:

i) To ownership of property? Yes.²⁶
ii) To own and manage businesses? Yes.²⁷
iii) To open bank accounts and take loans in their own name? ndf.
iv) To receive social security and pensions in their own names? ndf.

c) Percentage of female-headed households: 16% in 1991.²⁸

10. Health:

a) Vital statistics:

- i) Life expectancy (f/m): 69.5/49.9 years (2000).²⁹
- ii) Average age of women at first marriage: 25.8 years (1994).³⁰
- iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: 230 per 100,000 births (1985-99).³¹

b) Reproductive rights:

- i) Is contraception legal? Yes.³²

ii) Is abortion legal? Yes, in limited cases. ³³

c) Female genital mutilation? No.

d) Employment in the modern health sector: One-third of doctors were women in 1998.³⁴

11. Culture:

a) Do women work in the media – print journalism? Radio? TV? Yes.³⁵

b) Do women perform in public (as actors, musicians, etc)? Yes.³⁶

ENDNOTES

1. Art. 5 & Art. 8: http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/mo_index.html

2. Art. 6: Suad Joseph ed., Gender and Citizenship in the Middle East, Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2000.

3. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/states>

4. Art. 9 paragraph 2, Art. 16 and Art. 29: <http://www.iwraw-ap.org/ConvReservations.html/>

5. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women. Tunisia: CAWTAR.

6. <http://www.ibnkhaldun.org/newsletter/1998/aug/indic.html>

7. Ibid.

8. Ibid.

9. Ibid.

10. Eg. women "must obtain the permission of the court in order to join a civil suit against their husband": Laurie Brand, Women, the State, and Political Liberalization. New York: Columbia University Press, 1998, p 58.

11. Major amendments to the code's provisions relating to marriage guardianship, polygamy and divorce: <http://www.law.emory.edu/IFL/legal/morocco.htm>.

12. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

13. Ibid.

14. Ibid.

15. In 2002, there were 3 women in the cabinet:

<http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/morocco/gender.html>

16. http://www.afrol.com/Categories/Women/profiles/morocco_women.htm

17. In 2000, 4.9% of women in the government occupied ministerial positions: United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

18. <http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf> (By Country)

19. http://www.wedo.org/monitor/g_survey.htm

20. http://www.arab.net/morocco/govt/mo_govintro.html

21. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

22. <http://genderstats.worldbank.org> (check "Summary Gender Profiles")

23. Ibid.

24. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/morocco/gender.html>

25. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

26. "Only 5000 Moroccan women lead businesses," <http://www.afrol.com/Categories/Women/msindex.htm>

27. Ibid.

28. http://www.fao.org/docrep/x0176e/x0176e04.htm#P305_32084.

29. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

30. Morocco: The National Human Development Report, 1998/1999.

31. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press .

32. In 1997, 58.8% of married women used contraceptive methods. Morocco: The National Human Development Report, 1998/ 1999.

33. Only to save the life of the mother or to preserve her mental and physical health. Abortion must take place during the first three months of pregnancy. "Summary of Abortion Laws Around the World". <http://www.pregnantpause.org/lex/world02.htm>

34. www.undp-pogar.org/countries/morocco/gender.html

35. *Al-Safir*.

36. Ibid.

Oman



1. **Constitution?** Yes (Basic Law). Latest version: November 6, 1996. Affirms gender equality? Yes.¹

2. **Nationality law:** gender discrimination? Yes.²

3. **International resolutions:**

a) CEDAW: No.³

b) ILO Conventions:

- i) Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100), 1951: No.⁴
- ii) Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111), 1958: No.⁵

4. **Legal system:**

- a) Women's participation:
 - i) Right to raise cases? ndf.
 - ii) Work as lawyers? ndf.
 - iii) Judges? ndf.

iv) Number of women judges: ndf.

b) Are there civic laws that apply only to men or women? Yes.⁶

c) Family law:

- i) Uncodified, religious.⁷
- ii) Recent change? ndf.

5. **Political rights:**

- i) Right to vote? No.⁸
- ii) To stand for election (national and municipal levels)? No.⁹
- iii) Number of women in parliament? There are 2 in the Majlis Al-Shura (Consultative Council), and 5 in the State Council.¹⁰
- iv) Women in the cabinet? None.¹¹

6. **The state:**

- a) Employment in the state apparatus? Yes.¹²
 - i) In which sectors? The civil administration, armed forces, police. Approximately 20% of civil servants are women.¹³
 - ii) Heads of government departments? Yes.¹⁴
 - iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues: the Ministry of Social Affairs, Labor and Vocational Training.¹⁵

7. **Gender monitoring and action:**

- a) National Council of Women? ndf.¹⁶
- b) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? Yes.¹⁷
- c) NGOs that monitor women's situation? Yes.¹⁸

8. **Education:**

- a) Adult female/male literacy rates: 61.6/80.1%.¹⁹
- b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: primary level 72/77%; secondary level 67/68%;²⁰ tertiary level: ndf.
- c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: 52% of primary school teachers and 50% secondary school teachers were women in 2002.²¹

9. **The economy:**

- a) Female economic activity rate: 19.2%.²²
- b) Economic rights:
 - i) To ownership of property? Yes.²³
 - ii) To own and manage businesses? ndf.
 - iii) To open bank accounts and take loans in their own name? No.²⁴
 - iv) To receive social security and pensions in their own names? ndf.

c) Percentage of female-headed households: ndf.

10. Health:

a) Vital statistics:

- i) Life expectancy (f/m): 72.6/69.7%.²⁵
- ii) Average age of women at first marriage: ndf.
- iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: 14 per 100, 000 births (1985-99).²⁶

b) Reproductive rights:

- i) Is contraception legal? Yes.²⁷
- ii) Is abortion legal? Yes, in limited cases.²⁸

c) Female genital mutilation? Yes.²⁹

d) Employment in the modern health sector: Women work as physicians and nurses.³⁰

11. Culture:

a. Do women work in the media – print journalism? Radio? TV? ndf.

b. Do women perform in public (as actors, musicians, etc)? ndf.

ENDNOTES

1. Article 17: http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/mu00000_.html

2. <http://www.hri.ca/forthecord2001/vol3/omantb.htm>

3. <http://www.womenstreaty.org/facts.htm>

4. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women. Tunisia: CAWTAR. p 195.

5. Ibid., p 195.

6. To obtain a passport and leave the country, a woman must have authorization from her husband, father, or nearest male relative. However, a woman having a national identity card (which also must be authorized by a male relative) may travel to certain Gulf Cooperation Council countries without a passport: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2002/18285.htm>

7. <http://www.law.emory.edu/IFL/index2.html>

8. Women have the right to vote for the Consultative Council: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/followup/beijing+5stat/statments/oman8.htm> & Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women. Tunisia: CAWTAR. p 194.

9. Ibid. Also see <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/followup/beijing+5stat/statments/oman8.htm>

Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women. Tunisia: CAWTAR. p. 194.

10. <http://www.gulf-news.com/Articles/news.asp?ArticleID=43140>

11. <http://www.omanet.com/english/government/ministers.asp?cat=gov>

12. <http://www.rop.gov.om/searchresult.asp>

13. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/oman/gender.html> & <http://www.internationalspecialreports.com/middleeast/99/oman/18.html>

14. Ibid. The first Omani woman ambassador was appointed in September 1999.

15. The ministry provides support for women's affairs through support and funding of the Oman Women's Association (OWA) and local community development centers: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8286.htm>

16. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/oman/gender.html>

17. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/confer/beijing/national/omannap.htm>

18. The Coordination Committee for Women's Voluntary Work. <http://www.newsbriefsoman.info/features/omanwomen.htm>

19. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

20. <http://genderstats.worldbank.org> (check "Summary Gender Profiles")

21. Ibid.

22. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

23. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8286.htm>

24. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8286.htm>

25. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

26. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

27. http://www.overpopulation.com/faq/Population_Control/contraception/near_east.html

28. Only if it is to save the life of the mother or preserve her health: <http://www.pregnantpause.org/lex/world02.htm>

29. FGM is practised by a few communities in the interior. The number of cases is small and declining annually:

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8286.htm>

30. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/oman/gender.html>

Palestine



The boundaries of the eventual state of Palestine have not yet been determined. On view here is the map of 1948 Palestine/Israel, the West Bank and Gaza on the eve of the 1967 war.

1. **Constitution?** Draft Basic Law. Affirms gender equality? Still under negotiation.¹

2. **Nationality law:** gender discrimination? ndf.

3. **International resolutions:**²

[a] CEDAW: No.³

[b] ILO Conventions:

- i) Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100), 1951:
- ii) Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111), 1958

4. **Legal system:**⁴

a) Women's participation:

- i) Right to raise cases? Yes.⁵
- ii) Work as lawyers? Yes.⁶

iii) Judges? Yes.⁷

iv) Percentage of women judges: 3.13% of judges in the West Bank and 5.56% of judges in Gaza were women in 1997.⁸

b) Are there civic laws that apply only to women? As in Jordan and Egypt.

c) Family law: religion-based in all areas.⁹

5. **Political rights:**

i) Right to vote? Yes.¹⁰

ii) Stand for election (national and municipal levels)? Yes.

iii) Percentage of women in parliament (Legislative Council): 5.7%.¹¹

iv) Women in the cabinet? None.

6. **The state:**

a) Employment in the state apparatus? Yes.¹²

i) In which sectors? The civil service, social services, police.¹³

ii) Heads of government departments? Yes.¹⁴

iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues: Yes, see above.¹⁵

7. **Gender monitoring and action:**

a) National Council of Women? No.¹⁶

b) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? No.¹⁷

c) NGOs that monitor women's affairs? Yes.¹⁸

8. **Education:**

a) Adult female/male literacy rates: 86.4/95.7%.¹⁹

b) Female/male gross enrollment ratios: primary level 96.6/95.1%; secondary level 64.0/56.1%; tertiary level 23.8/24.7%.²⁰

c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: 17,452 teachers at schools and 569 teachers at higher education institutions were women.²¹

9. **The economy:**

a) Female economic activity rate: 10.4%²²

b) Economic rights:

i) To ownership of property? Yes.²³

ii) To own and manage businesses? Yes.²⁴

iii) To open bank accounts and take loans in their own name? ndf.

iv) To receive social security and pensions in their own names? ndf.

c) Percentage of female-headed households: 11.2%.²⁵

10. Health:

a) Vital statistics:

- i) Life expectancy (f/m): 73.8/70.7 (2003)²⁶
- ii) Average age of women at first marriage: 20.1 years (2003)²⁷
- iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: n.d.f.

b) Reproductive rights:

- i) Is contraception legal? Yes.²⁸
- ii) Is abortion legal? No.²⁹

c) Female genital mutilation? No.³⁰

d) Employment in the modern health sector? In 2002 the number of registered female doctors in the Doctor's Union was 571 and the number of registered nurses at the Nursing Union 2562.³¹

11. Culture:

a. Do women work in the media – print journalism? Radio? TV? Yes.³²

b. Do women perform in public (as actors, musicians, etc)? Yes.³³

ENDNOTES

1. The 1-year model women's parliament (1998) -- organized by a coalition of women's NGOs -- has raised reforms in family and personal status law to the National Authority: <http://www.law.emory.edu/IFL/index2.html>

2. "Not yet having gained formal recognition as a state Palestine is not yet able to ratify international human rights instruments": <http://www.law.emory.edu/IFL/index2.html>

3. See endnote 2. But the Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling participates with other Arab women's groups in a project to extend CEDAW, "The Exclusion of Women in the Arab World from Effective Protection of International Human Rights Law": <http://www.wclac.org/units.html>

4. Until the Oslo Accords, the West Bank was ruled by Jordanian law, Gaza by Egyptian law, East Jerusalem by Israeli law. Since Oslo, unification of the legal systems of the West Bank and Gaza has been on the agenda of the Palestinian Authority: <http://www.law.emory.edu/IFL/index2.html>

5. Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (1998) Women and Men In Palestine: Trends and Statistics, Ramallah: PCBS.

6. Ibid.

7. Ibid., p 178.

8. Ibid., p 178.

9. As with the general legal system, so with Family and Personal Status Law. Muslim Palestinians in the West Bank follow Jordanian PSL, in Gaza Egyptian PSL; in East Jerusalem, they choose between the Jordanian or Israeli shari'a courts. However, since 1994, some new regulations have been issued by the Palestinian Qadi al-Quda: Palestine/Palestinian Territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip: <http://www.law.emory.edu/IFL/index2.html> See also "Islamic Family Law and the Transition to Palestinian Statehood: Constraints and Opportunities for Legal Reform": www.law.emory.edu/IFL/cases/Palestine.htm

10. Women voted and stood as candidates in the elections for the Legislative Council in 1996. There were 25 women candidates, five of whom were elected, among them Hanan Ashrawi. A woman, Samiha al-Khalil, also competed in the presidential elections of the same year.

11. www.europarl.eu.int/meetdocs/delegations/

12. Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (1998) Women and Men In Palestine: Trends and Statistics, Ramallah: PCBS.

13. Ibid.

14. A woman, Zahira Kamal, heads the Gender Department in

the National Authority's Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation.

15. See endnote 14.

16. Palestinian delegations participated in the UN Decade for Women conferences, though not as representing a state.

17. The General Union of Palestinian Women held a conference in Jerusalem in August 1994, and formulated their proposals for a constitution that would embody full gender equality: <http://www.gupw.net/publications/publications.html>

18. Eg. the Women's Studies Program at Birzeit University; the Women's Action Technical Committees (WATC); the Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling.

19. PCBS (2003) Labour Force Survey Database: 2002, Ramallah: PCBS (unpublished data).

20. PCBS (2002) Education Census 2001/2002 Database - Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Ramallah: PCBS (unpublished data).

21. Ibid.

22. PCBS (2003) Labour Force Survey: Annual Report: 2002, Ramallah: PCBS.

23. PCBS (1999) Ownership and Access to Resources Survey, Ramallah: PCBS.

24. Ibid.

25. PCBS (2003) Labour Force Survey Database: 2002, Ramallah: PCBS (unpublished data).

26. PCBS (1999) Population in the Palestinian Territory, 1997-2025, Ramallah: PCBS (unpublished data).

27. PCBS (2003) Database of Marriages and Divorces in the Palestinian Territory, Ramallah: PCBS (unpublished data).

28. In 1996, 65.7% of married women used contraceptive methods: PCBS (1998), Women and Men In Palestine: Trends and Statistics, Ramallah: PCBS.

29. Abortion is illegal, but permitted in certain health circumstances: PCBS (2000) Health Survey - 2000: Main Findings, and PCBS (2003), Health Database - 2002 (unpublished data).

30. Ibid.

31. Ibid.

32. In 1994, women made up 29% of the total 41 employees in radio stations and TV channels in the West Bank; and 17.4% of the total 133 employees in Gaza. No statistics with regard to print media: PCBS (1998), Women and Men In Palestine: Trends and Statistics, Ramallah: PCBS.

33. Ibid.

c) Percentage of female-headed households: ndf.

10. Health:

a) Vital statistics:

- i) Life expectancy (f/m): 71.3/68.7 years (2000).²²
- ii) Average age of women at first marriage: ndf.
- iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: 10 per 100,000 births (1985-99).²³

b) Reproductive rights:

- i) Is contraception legal? Yes.²⁴
- ii) Is abortion legal? Yes, in limited cases.²⁵

c) Female genital mutilation? Yes.²⁶

d) Employment in the modern health sector: Of the 335 physicians employed in the government sector in 1999, 173 were female.²⁷

11. Culture:

a) Do women work in the media – print journalism? Radio? TV? Yes.²⁸

b) Do women perform in public (as actors, musicians, etc)? ndf.

ENDNOTES

1. On April 29, 2003 a referendum took place in which Qataris approved a written constitution recognising a woman's right to vote and run for office: <http://www.dawn.com/2003/05/07/int9.htm>

2. <http://www.womenstreaty.org/facts.htm#countries>

3. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women. Tunisia: CAWTAR. p. 194.

4. *Ibid.*, p 195.

5. <http://www.escwa.org.lb/divisions/sdd/women.html> (Check "Gender Profiles" section)

6. To obtain a driving license, a Qatari woman must prove that her daily life requires it, and that she has a male guardian's permission to drive. Although women are legally able to travel abroad alone, social pressure causes most to travel with male escorts: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8292.htm>

7. <http://www.law.emory.edu/IFL/index2.html>

8. <http://www.dawn.com/2003/05/07/int9.htm>

9. Women have the right to vote and run as candidates for the Central Municipal Council. The first municipal elections in which women were allowed to vote and stand as candidates were in March 1999. None were elected: <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/qatar/gender.html> & <http://www.arabicnews.com/ansub/Daily/Day/010310/20001031044.html>

10. The appointment followed the April 2003 referendum (see footnote 1). In November 2002, the Ruler gave his sister the rank of minister, as deputy chairman of the Higher Council for Family Affairs, but without joining the cabinet: <http://www.dawn.com/2003/05/07/int9.htm>.

11. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8292.htm>

12. In 1996, the Emir named a woman under-secretary of the Ministry of Education, the highest position ever held by a woman in the Qatari Government: <http://csmweb2.emcweb.com/durable/1999/03/12/text/p7s1.html>

13. The Department is divided into four sections, covering maternity and childhood, programmes, development and training for women: <http://www.escwa.org.lb/divisions/sdd/women.html> (Check "Gender Profiles" section)

14. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8292.htm>

15. The government has not permitted the establishment of an independent women's rights organization. The Supreme Council for Family Affairs (SCFA) is working with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) to set up a national strategy for women's advancement. The Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) is a regional leader with regard to gender issues and has active women's sections with a wide range of activities, and with a particular focus on welfare. The Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development has established a Family Development Centre, said to offer women counseling, protection, medical care, as well as skills development and training programmes: <http://www.escwa.org.lb/divisions/social/profile/qatar/main.html>

16. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

17. <http://genderstats.worldbank.org> (check "Summary Gender Profiles").

18. *Ibid.*

19. Women and Men in the Arab Countries: Education, ESCWA

20. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

21. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8292.htm>

22. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

23. *Ibid.*

24. <http://www.escwa.org.lb/divisions/sdd/women.html> (Check "Gender Profiles" section)

25. If the mother's life is in danger or to preserve her health. Also in cases where the unborn child has medical problems (restricted): <http://www.pregnantpause.org/lex/world02.htm>

26. http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/corporateinformation/publications/pdfs/haw_pdf/mutilation2.PDF

27. <http://www.escwa.org.lb/divisions/sdd/women.html> (Check "Gender Profiles" section).

28. In 1999 there were 10 Qatari women working in the press cf. 55 men: <http://www.escwa.org.lb/divisions/sdd/women.html> (Check "Gender Profiles" section).

Saudi Arabia



1. **Constitution?** Basic Law, March 1992. Affirms gender equality? No.¹

2. **Nationality law:** gender discrimination? Yes.²

3. **International resolutions:**

a) CEDAW: Yes, 7 September 2000.³

i) With reservations? Yes.⁴

b) ILO Conventions:

i) Equal Remuneration Convention (No.100), 1951: Yes.⁵

ii) Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111), 1958: Yes.⁶

4. **Legal system:**

a) Women's participation:

i) Right to raise cases? ndf.

ii) Work as lawyers? No.⁷

iii) Judges? No.⁸

iv) Number of women judges: None.

c) NGOs that monitor women's situation? None.¹⁴

8. **Education:**

a) Adult female/male literacy rates: 66.9/83.1%.¹⁵

b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: primary level: 70/73%; secondary level: 62/70%; tertiary level: 22/17% (2000).¹⁶

c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: 54% of primary school teachers and 55% of secondary school teachers were women in 2000.¹⁷

9. **The economy:**

a) Female economic activity rate: 21.2%.¹⁸

b) Economic rights:

i) To ownership of property? Yes.¹⁹

ii) To own and manage businesses? Yes.²⁰

iii) To open bank accounts and take loans in their own name? ndf.

b) Are there civic laws that apply only to men or women? Yes.⁹

c) Family law:

i) Uncodified, religious.

ii) Recent change? ndf.

5. **Political rights:**

i) Right to vote? No.¹⁰

[ii] Stand for election (national and municipal levels?)

[iii] Percentage of women in parliament:]

[iv] Women in the cabinet:]

6. **The state:**

a) Employment in the state apparatus: Yes.¹¹

i) In which sectors? Education, health care, and the civil service.¹²

ii) Heads of government departments? No.¹³

iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues? ndf.

7. **Gender monitoring and action:**

a) National Council of Women? ndf.

b) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? ndf.

- iv) To receive social security and pensions in their own names? ndf.
- c) Percentage of female-headed households: ndf.

10. Health:

- a) Vital statistics:
- i) Life expectancy (f/m): 73.0/ 70.5 years (2000).²¹
 - ii) Average age of women at first marriage: ndf.
 - iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: 23 per 100,000 live births (1995).²²
- b) Reproductive rights:

- i) Is contraception legal? ndf.
- ii) Is abortion legal? Yes, in limited cases.²³

- c) Female genital mutilation? Uncertain.²⁴
- d) Employment in the modern health sector: ndf.

11. Culture:

- a. Do women work in the media – print journalism? Radio? TV? ndf.
- b. Do women perform in public (as actors, musicians, etc)? ndf.

ENDNOTES

1. Article 26 addresses human rights and states, " The state protects human rights in accordance with the Islamic Shari'ah": <http://www.trybunal.gov.pl/constit/constitu/constit/sarabia/sarabi-e.ht> & <http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/sa00000.html>
2. <http://csf.colorado.edu/forums/femisa/2000/msg00133.html>
3. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/states.htm>
4. Articles 9 (2) and 29: <http://www.iwraw- ap.org/ConvReservations.html>
5. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women. Tunisia: CAWTAR. p 195.
6. Ibid., p 195.
7. http://www.amanjordan.org/english/daily_news/wmview.php?ArtID=132
8. <http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/engMDE230132000>
9. Women may not drive motor vehicles and are restricted in their use of public facilities when men are present. Women must enter city buses by separate rear entrances and sit in specially designated sections. They risk arrest for riding in a vehicle driven by a male who is not an employee or a close male relative. They are not admitted to a hospital for medical treatment without the consent of a male relative. By law and custom, women may not undertake domestic or foreign travel alone. Recently the Government announced that women could obtain their own identity cards; however to receive a card required permission from their nearest male relatives. Identity cards are not mandatory for women, but in 1999 the Ministry of Interior announced plans to issue identity cards to women, a step toward giving women legal identities independent of men: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8296.htm>
10. There is no parliament in Saudi Arabia. Two women are members of the Majlis Al-Shura, a 90 member national consultative council appointed by the King: Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of

Arab Women. Tunisia: CAWTAR. p 194.

11. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/saudi/gender.html>
12. Ibid.
13. In the summer of 2000, a woman member of the ruling family was appointed assistant undersecretary for Education Affairs - the highest position ever held by a woman in the Saudi government. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/saudi/gender.html>
14. There are no women's rights groups in Saudi Arabia.
15. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.
16. Women are excluded from studying engineering, journalism and architecture: <http://genderstats.worldbank.org> (Check "Gender Profiles" section).
17. Ibid.
18. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.
19. While *Shari'a* provides women with a basis to own and dispose of property, they are often constrained by legal and social barriers from asserting such rights: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8296.htm>
20. Most women allow male relatives to control these businesses. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/saudi/gender.html>
21. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.
22. <http://genderstats.worldbank.org> (check "Summary Gender Profiles").
23. Only to save the life of the mother, or to preserve her health (restricted practice): <http://www.pregnantpause.org/lex/world02.htm>
24. Some sources give evidence of FGM, eg. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8296.htm>. No national reports or other documented evidence were found regarding the practice.

Somalia



1. **Constitution?** Draft constitution. Latest version: 20 February 1995. Affirms gender equality? Yes.¹

2. **Nationality law:** gender discrimination? ndf.

3. **International resolutions:**

a) CEDAW: No.²

b) ILO Conventions:

i) Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100), 1951: No.³

i) Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111), 1958: Yes.⁴

4. **Legal system:**

a. Women's participation:

i) Right to raise cases? ndf.

ii) Work as lawyers? ndf.

iii) Judges? ndf.

iv) Number of women judges: ndf.

b) Are there civic laws that apply only to men or women? Yes.⁵

c) Family law:

i) Codified (draft, 1975), religious-based.⁶

ii) Recent change? ndf.

5. **Political rights:**⁷

i) Right to vote? ndf.

ii) Stand for election (national and municipal levels)? ndf.

iii) Number of women in parliament: ndf.

iv) Women in the cabinet? ndf.

6. **The state:**

a) Employment in the state apparatus: ndf.

i) In which sectors? ndf.

ii) Heads of government departments? ndf.

iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues: ndf.

7. **Gender monitoring and action:**

a) National Council of Women? ndf.

b) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? ndf.

c) NGOs that monitor women's situation? Yes.⁸

8. Education:

a) Adult female/male literacy rates: ndf.

b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: primary level 7/13%; secondary level 4/8%; tertiary level 1/4 % (1995).⁹

c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: ndf.

9. The economy:

a) Female economic activity rate: ndf.

b) Economic rights:

i) To ownership of property? ndf.

ii) To own and manage businesses? ndf.

iii) To open bank accounts and take loans in their own name? ndf.

iv) To receive social security and pensions in their own names: ndf.

c) Percentage of female-headed households: ndf.

10. Health:

a) Vital statistics:

i) Life expectancy: ndf.

ii) Average age of women at first marriage: 20.1 years (1980-90).¹⁰

iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: ndf.

b) Reproductive rights:

i) Is contraception legal? ndf.

ii) Is abortion legal? Yes.¹¹

c) Female genital mutilation? Yes.¹²

d) Employment in the modern health sector: ndf.

11. Culture:

a) Do women work in the media – print journalism? Radio? TV? ndf.

b) Do women perform in public (as actors, musicians, etc)? ndf.

ENDNOTES

1. http://www.civicwebs.com/cwvlib/africa/somalia/1995/reunification/appendix_1.htm & <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/somalia/constitution.html>

2. <http://www.womenstreaty.org/facts.htm>

3. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women. Tunisia: CAWTAR. p 195.

4. *Ibid.*, p 195.

5. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8296.htm>

6. The FLC of 1975 aimed to suppress customary law; civil courts have jurisdiction over cases arising from *shar'ia*: www.law.emory.edu etc)

7. In 2000, all of the Somali clans met in Djibouti and devised a transition government. Women were to hold 25 seats in the 245-member Transitional National Assembly. Seats in the Assembly were distributed to provide parity between competing clans. Each of the four major clans was represented by five women, while the

five remaining women were from minor clans. These women have formed a bloc to represent female interests across clan lines: <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/somalia/gender.html>

8. The Voice of Somali Women for Peace, Reconciliation and Political Rights: <http://www.undppogar.org/countries/somalia/gender.html>

9. <http://genderstats.worldbank.org> (check "Summary Gender Profiles").

10. Cultural Context: Demography and Health, UNESCO.

11. Only to save the life of the mother: <http://www.pregnant-pause.org/lex/world02.htm>

12. FGM is a near-universal practice, estimated to reach 98%. Infibulation, the most harmful form of FGM, is practised. It was banned in 1991, and remains illegal under the Penal Code; however, the law is not enforced: http://www.afrol.com/Categories/Women/profiles/somalia_women.htm

Sudan



1. **Constitution?** Yes. Latest version: 1 July 1998. Affirms gender equality? Yes.¹

2. **Nationality law:** gender discrimination? ndf.

3. **International resolutions:**

a) CEDAW: No.²

b) ILO Conventions:

i) Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100), 1951: No.³

ii) Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111), 1958: Yes.⁴

4. **Legal system:**

a. Women's participation:

i) Right to raise cases? ndf.

ii) Work as lawyers? Yes.⁵

iii) Judges? Yes.⁶

iv) Number of women judges: 67 out of 800. Five women sit in the High Court.⁷

b) Are there civic laws that apply only to men or women? ndf.

c) Family law:

i) Codified (1991), religious-based.⁸

ii) Recent change? ndf.

5. **Political rights:**

i) Right to vote? Yes (1964).⁹

ii) Stand for election (national and municipal levels)? Yes.¹⁰

iii) Percentage of women in parliament 9.7% (lower house).¹¹

iv) Women in the cabinet? Yes.¹²

6. **The state:**

a) Employment in the state apparatus: Yes.¹³

i) In which sectors? The diplomatic corps, the civil service, senior posts in police and army.¹⁴

ii) Heads of government departments: 2.1% of women employed in government occupied ministerial levels (2000).¹⁵

iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues: There is a Women's Policy Unit within the Ministry of Social Planning. Many ministries, corporations, and institutes of higher education have women's development units.¹⁶

7. **Gender monitoring and action:**

a) National Council of Women? ndf.¹⁷

b) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? Yes.¹⁸

c) NGOs that monitor women's situation? Yes.¹⁹

8. **Education:**

a) Adult female/male literacy rates: 46.3/69.5%.²⁰

b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: primary level 51/60%; secondary level 28/30%; tertiary level 7/8%.²¹

c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: 68% of primary school teachers, and 57% of secondary school teachers were women in 2000.²²

9. **The economy:**

a) Female economic activity rate: 34.8%.²³

b) Economic rights:

i) To ownership of property? ndf.

ii) To own and manage businesses? ndf.

- iii) To open bank accounts and take loans in their own name? ndf.
- iv) To receive social security and pensions in their own names? ndf.

c) Percentage of female-headed households: ndf.

10. Health:

a) Vital statistics:

- i) Life expectancy (f/m): 57.4/54.6 years.²⁴
- ii) Average age of women at first marriage: 18.7 years (1980-90).²⁵
- iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: 550 per 100, 000 births (1985- 99).²⁶

b) Reproductive rights:

- i) Is contraception legal? Yes.²⁷
- ii) Is abortion legal? Yes, in limited cases.²⁸

c) Female genital mutilation? Yes.²⁹

d) Employment in the modern health sector: ndf.

11. Culture:

a. Do women work in the media – print journalism? Radio? TV? Yes.³⁰

b. Do women perform in public (as actors, musicians, etc)? ndf.

ENDNOTES

1. Articles 15 & 2: <http://www.sudan.net/government/constitution/english.html>
2. <http://www.womenstreaty.org/facts.htm>
3. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women. Tunisia: CAWTAR. p 195.
4. Ibid., p 195.
5. <http://www.saveaslave.com/articles/sudanwomen.html> & <http://www.pogar.org/countries/sudan/index.html>
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid.
8. Because of Sudan's religious heterogeneity, the Constitution does not proclaim Islam as state religion, but as religion of the majority of the population. <http://www.law.emory.edu/IFL/index2.html>
9. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women. Tunisia: CAWTAR. p 194.
10. Ibid., p 194.
11. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.
12. There have been women ministers in Sudanese governments since the early 1970s, holding portfolios such as health, social welfare, public service and manpower, and cabinet affairs: <http://www.saveaslave.com/articles/sudanwomen.html> & <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/sudan/gender.html>
13. <http://www.saveaslave.com/articles/sudanwomen.html>
14. Ibid. This source reports that there are women major-generals in the police, and women are numerous in the army.
15. An Advisor on Women's Affairs (cabinet-level) was appointed in 2000. There is also an Advisor for Women's Affairs in the Southern States' Coordinating Council: United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York:

- Oxford University Press & <http://www.saveaslave.com/articles/sudanwomen.html>
16. <http://www.saveaslave.com/articles/sudanwomen.html>
17. Ibid. The Sudanese Women's General Union is an officially recognized women's organization.
18. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/confer/beijing/national/natplans.htm>
19. Eg. The Democratic Women's Alliance, and the Sudan Women's Association: <http://www.saveaslave.com/articles/sudanwomen.html>
20. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.
21. <http://genderstats.worldbank.org> (check "Summary Gender Profiles").
22. Ibid.
23. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.
24. Ibid.
25. Cultural Context: Demography and Health, UNESCO.
26. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.
27. http://ippfnet.ippf.org/pub/IPPF_CountryProfile.asp
28. Only if to save the life of the mother, or if the unborn child has defects: <http://www.pregnantpause.org/lex/world02.htm>
29. 89% of northern Sudanese women practise FGM. The number is much less in the south. A 1946 Penal Code prohibited infibulation, but permitted the less radical form of FGM. In 1991, the government affirmed its commitment to eradicate FGM, but the 1993 Penal Code leaves this unclear: International Planned Parenthood Federation, 1999.
30. <http://www.saveaslave.com/articles/sudanwomen.html>

Syria



1. **Constitution?** Yes. Latest version: 13 March, 1973. Affirms gender equality? Yes.¹

2. **Nationality law:** gender discrimination? Yes.²

3. **International resolutions:**

a) CEDAW: Yes, March 28, 2003.³
i) With reservations? Yes.⁴

b) ILO Conventions:

- i) Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100), 1951: Yes.⁵
- ii) Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111), 1958: Yes.⁶

4. **Legal system:**

a. Women's participation:

- i) Right to raise cases? ndf.
- ii) Work as lawyers? Yes.⁷
- iii) Judges? Yes.⁸
- iv) Number of women judges: 11% of all judges (1998).⁹

b) Are there civic laws that apply only to men or women? Yes.¹⁰

c) Family law:

- i) Codified, religious based.¹¹
- ii) Recent changes? Personal Status Law of 1953 amended in 1975.¹²

5. **Political rights:**

- i) Right to vote? Yes, 1949 – 1953.¹³
- ii) Stand for election (national and municipal levels)? Yes, 1953.¹⁴
- iii) Percentage of women in parliament: 10.4% (single house).¹⁵
- iv) Women in the cabinet? Yes.¹⁶

6. **The state:**

- a) Employment in the state apparatus: Yes.¹⁷
 - i) In which sectors? The diplomatic corps, civil service, armed forces.¹⁸
 - ii) Heads of government departments? 11.1% of women in government occupied ministerial levels in 2000. There has been one woman ambassador.¹⁹
 - iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues: The Ministry of Social and Work Affairs; the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform has a Gender and Development Unit.²⁰

7. **Gender monitoring and action:**

- a) National Council of Women? The National Committee of Women's Affairs.²¹
- b) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? Yes.²²
- c) NGOs that monitor women's situation? Yes.²³

8. **Education:**

- a) Adult female/male literacy rates: 60.5/88.3%.²⁴
- b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: primary level 99/109%; secondary level 39/44%;²⁵ tertiary level: ndf.
- c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: In 1998, 57% of all teachers were women.²⁶ In 2000, 65% of primary school teachers and 47% of secondary school teachers were women.²⁷ In 1998, 19% of university professors were women.²⁸

9. **The economy:**

- a) Female economic activity rate: 28.6%.²⁹
- b) Economic rights:
 - i) To ownership of property? Yes.³⁰
 - ii) To own and manage businesses? Yes.³¹
 - iii) To open bank accounts and take loans in their own name? ndf.
 - iv) To receive social security and pensions in their own names? ndf.

c) Percentage of female-headed households: 9.3% in 1994.³²

10. Health:

a) Vital statistics:

i) Life expectancy (f/m): 72.4/70.0%.³³

ii) Average age of women at first marriage: 23.3 years (1994).³⁴

iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: 110 per 100, 000 births (1985- 99).³⁵

b) Reproductive rights:

i) Is contraception legal? Yes.³⁶

ii) Is abortion legal? Yes, in limited cases.³⁷

c) Female genital mutilation: No.

d) Employment in the modern health sector: ndf.

11. Culture:

a. Do women work in the media – print journalism? Radio? TV? Yes.

b. Do women perform in public (as actors, musicians, etc)? Yes.

ENDNOTES

1. Article 44, Article 45: http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/sy00000_.html

2. A Syrian woman cannot grant her children Syrian nationality if she marries a foreigner even if they were born in Syria: <http://www.kamilat.org/DV/syria.htm>

3. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/states.htm>

4. No data found with regard to the articles containing reservations.

5. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women. Tunisia: CAWTAR. p 195.

6. Ibid., p 195.

7. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (1999). Women and Men In Syria: A Statistical Portrait. New York: United Nations. p 118.

8. Ibid., p 118.

9. Ibid., p 118.

10. A husband may request that his wife's travel abroad be prohibited (see Section 2.d.). Women generally are barred from traveling abroad with their children unless they are able to prove that the father has granted permission for the children to travel: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8298.htm>

11. <http://www.law.emory.edu/IFL/index2.html>

12. <http://www.law.emory.edu/IFL/index2.html>

13. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women. Tunisia: CAWTAR. p 194.

14. Ibid., p 194.

15. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

In the 1998 elections, 26 women were elected to the national parliament out of 250 total seats. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/syria/gender.html>

16. Two women currently hold Cabinet positions, as Ministers of Culture and Social Affairs. (appointed in 2000): <http://www.escwa.org.lb/divisions/sdd/women.html> (Check "Gender Profiles" section)

17. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (1999). Women and Men In Syria: A Statistical Portrait. New York: United Nations. p 118.

18. Ibid., p 118. Women comprise approximately one-fifth of all government workers, but most are employed in clerical and staff positions.

19. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

20. <http://www.escwa.org.lb/divisions/sdd/women.html> (Check "Gender Profiles" section).

21. Ibid.

22. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/confer/beijing/national/syrianap.htm>

23. The General Union of Syrian Women, The Syrian Arab Red Crescent, The Syrian Family Planning Association, and The Syrian Women's League to Protect Childhood and Motherhood: <http://www.escwa.org.lb/divisions/sdd/women.html>

24. <http://genderstats.worldbank.org> (check "Summary Gender Profiles")

25. Ibid.

26. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/syria/gender.html>

27. <http://genderstats.worldbank.org/genderRpt.asp?rpt=education&cty=SYR,Syrian%20Arab%20Republic&hm=home2>

28. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (1999). Women and Men In Syria: A Statistical Portrait. New York: United Nations. p 118.

29. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

30. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (1999). Women and Men In Syria: A Statistical Portrait. New York: United Nations.

31. Ibid, p 106. Specific number not provided. "There is a marked discrepancy in the number of men who own businesses as opposed to women. "

32. Ibid., p 122.

33. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

34. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (1999). Women and Men In Syria: A Statistical Portrait. New York: United Nations. p 31.

35. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

36. In 1993, 49.2% of women residing in urban areas were using family planning methods and 27.4% in rural areas. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (1999). Women and Men In Syria: A Statistical Portrait. New York: United Nations. p 89.

37. Only to save the life of the mother: <http://www.pregnant-pause.org/lex/world02.htm>

Tunisia



1. **Constitution?** Yes. Latest version: July 12, 1988. Affirms gender equality? Yes.¹

2. **Nationality law:** gender discrimination? No.²

3. **International resolutions:**

a) CEDAW: Yes, September 20, 1985.³

i) Reservations? Yes.⁴

b) ILO Conventions:

i) Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100), 1951: Yes.⁵

ii) Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111), 1958: Yes.⁶

4. **Legal system:**

a. Women's participation:

i) Right to raise cases? ndf.

ii) Work as lawyers? Yes.⁷

iii) Judges? Yes.⁸

iv) Number of women judges: 291 cf. 921 men (1998).⁹

b) Are there civil laws that apply only to men or women? ndf.

c) Family law:

i) Codified, religious-based with some exceptional features.¹⁰

ii) Recent changes? PSL amended in 1959, 1964, 1981, 1993.¹¹

5. **Political rights:**

i) Right to vote? Yes, 1957-1959.¹²

ii) Stand for election (national and municipal levels)? Yes, 1957-1959.¹³

iii) Percentage of women in parliament: 11.5%.¹⁴

iv) Women in the cabinet: Yes. In 2000, 10% of women in government occupied ministerial levels.¹⁵

6. **The state:**

a) Employment in the state apparatus? Yes.

i) In which sectors? The civil service, public health, education and social services.¹⁶

ii) Heads of government departments? Yes.¹⁷

iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues? Ministry of Women and Family Affairs, the National Women and Development Commission, and the National Council of Women and the Family.¹⁸

7. **Gender monitoring and action:**

a) National Council of Women? The National Council of Women and the Family.¹⁹

b) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? Yes.²⁰

c) NGOs that monitor women's situation? Yes.²¹

8. **Education:**

a) Adult female/male literacy rates: 60.6/81.4%.²²

b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: primary level: 116/123%; secondary level: 73/72%, tertiary level: 17/18%.²³

c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: ndf.

9. **The economy:**

a) Female economic activity rate: 36.8%.²⁴

b) Economic rights:

i) To ownership of property? Yes.²⁵

ii) To own and manage businesses? Yes.²⁶

iii) To open bank accounts and take loans in their own name? ndf.

iv) Receive social security and pensions in their own names? ndf.

c) Percentage of female-headed households: 11% (1994).²⁷

10. Health:

a) Vital statistics:

- i) Life expectancy (f/m): 71.4%/69.0 years.²⁸
- ii) Average age of women at first marriage: 25 years (1994).²⁹
- iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: 70 per 100,000 births (1985-99).³⁰

b) Reproductive rights:

- i) Is contraception legal? Yes.³¹

ii) Is abortion legal? Yes.³²

c) Female genital mutilation? No.

d) Employment in the modern health sector: In 1998, 35% of doctors, 45% of nurses, and 67-69% of pharmacists were women.³³

11. Culture:

a. Do women work in the media – print journalism? Radio? TV? Yes.³⁴

b. Do women perform in public (as actors, musicians, etc)? Yes.

ENDNOTES

1. Article 6: [egora.unimuenster.de/ifp/lehrende/smitten/binda-ta/tunesien_constitution.pdf](http://www.unimuenster.de/ifp/lehrende/smitten/binda-ta/tunesien_constitution.pdf)
2. <http://www.tunisieinfo.com/documents/options/chapter3.html>
3. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/ratifica.htm>
4. Article 9, 15, 16, 29: <http://www.iwraw-ap.org/ConvReservations.html>
5. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women. Tunisia: CAWTAR. p 195.
6. Ibid., p 195.
7. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia & The Ministry of Women and Family Affairs (1999) Women and Men In Tunisia: A Statistical Portrait.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid. Women constitute 60 percent of all judges in the capital and 24 percent of the nation's total jurists.
10. The Personal Status Law of 1956 prohibits polygyny and extra-judicial divorce, and gives decision about custody of children in divorce cases to judge: <http://www.law.emory.edu/IFL/index2.html>
11. <http://www.law.emory.edu/IFL/index2.html>
12. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women. Tunisia: CAWTAR. p. 194.
13. Ibid., p. 194.
14. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.
15. Ibid.
16. Women constitute 37% of civil service employees, primarily at the middle or lower levels in the fields of health, education, and social affairs. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8303.htm>
17. Four women were made deputy governors in 2001 bringing the number to ten out of 24. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8303.htm>
18. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/tunisia/gender.html>
19. Ibid.

20. <http://www.un.org/esa/gopherdata/conf/fwcw/natrep/NatActPlans/tunisia.txt>

21. Eg The National Union of Tunisian Women (UNFT), L'Association Tunisienne des Femmes Democratres, the Center for Studies, Research, Documentation and Information on Women (CREDIF), Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR). <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/tunisia/gender.html>

22. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

23. <http://genderstats.worldbank.org> (check "Summary Gender Profiles")

24. Ibid.

25. 4,850 women owned private business companies. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia & The Ministry of Women and Family Affairs. (1999). Women and Men In Tunisia: A Statistical Portrait.

26. Ibid.

27. Ibid.

28. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

29. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia & The Ministry of Women and Family Affairs. (1999). Women and Men In Tunisia: A Statistical Portrait.

30. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

31. 65% in 1998. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia & The Ministry of Women and Family Affairs. (1999). Women and Men In Tunisia: A Statistical Portrait.

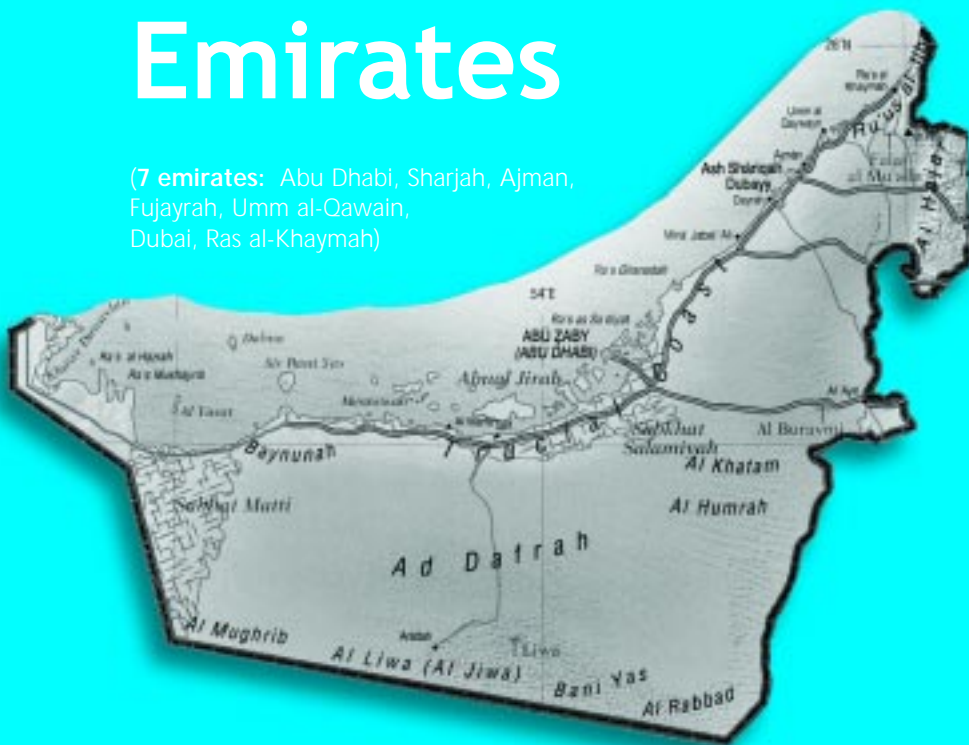
32. Only during the first three months of pregnancy: <http://www.pregnantpause.org/lex/world02.htm>

33. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia & The Ministry of Women and Family Affairs (1999) Women and Men In Tunisia: A Statistical Portrait.

34. The ratio of women to men journalists was 25:75% (in 1998), and 37% of all those working in radio and TV were women: *ibid.*

United Arab Emirates

(7 emirates: Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, Ajman, Fujairah, Umm al-Qawain, Dubai, Ras al-Khaymah)



1. **Constitution?** Yes. Latest version: December 2, 1996. Affirms gender equality? Yes.¹

2. **Nationality law:** gender discrimination? ndf.

3. **International resolutions:**

a) CEDAW: No.²

b) ILO Conventions:

i) Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100), 1951: Yes.³

ii) Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111), 1958: No.⁴

4. **Legal system:**

a. Women's participation:

i) Right to raise cases? ndf.

ii) Work as lawyers? Yes.⁵

iii) Judges? ndf.

iv) Number of women judges: ndf.

b. Are there civic laws that apply only to men or women? No.⁶

[iii] Number of women in parliament:]

[iv] Women in the cabinet: None]

c) Family law:

i) Uncodified, religious.

ii) Recent changes? ndf.

5. **Political rights:**

i) Right to vote? No.⁷

ii) Stand for election (national and municipal levels)? No.⁸

6. **The state:**

a) Employment in the state apparatus: Yes.⁹

i) In which sectors? The civil service, public education and health services, the police, and the armed forces.¹⁰

ii) Heads of government departments? ndf.

iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues: Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.¹¹

7. **Gender monitoring and action:**

a) National Council of Women? UAE Women's Federation.¹²

b) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? ndf.

c) NGOs that monitor women's situation? ndf.

8. **Education:**

a) Adult female/male literacy rates: 79.3/75.0%.¹³

b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: primary level 92/96%; secondary level 80/75%¹⁴; tertiary level ndf.

c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: 100% of nursery school teachers, 55% of primary school teachers and 65% of intermediate and secondary school teachers are women.¹⁵

9. The economy:

a) Female economic activity rate: 31.7%.¹⁶

b) Economic rights:

i) To ownership of property? Yes.¹⁷

ii) To own and manage businesses? Yes.¹⁸

iii) To open bank accounts and take loans in their own name? ndf.

iv) To receive social security and pensions in their own names? ndf.

c) Percentage of female-headed households: ndf.

10. Health:

a) Vital statistics:

i) Life expectancy (f/m): 78.0/73.7 years.¹⁹

ii) Average age of women at first marriage: 19.7 years for women between 30-34 years, 21.7 years for women between 25-29 (1995).²⁰

iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: 3 per 100,000 births (1985-99).²¹

b) Reproductive rights:

i) Is contraception legal? ndf.

ii) Is abortion legal? Yes, in limited cases.²²

c) Female genital mutilation? Yes, according to some sources.²³

d) Employment in the modern health sector: 54.3% of all employees are women and 81% of nurses are women.²⁴

11. Culture:

a. Do women work in the media – print journalism? Radio? TV? Yes.²⁵

b. Do women perform in public (as actors, musicians, etc)? ndf.

ENDNOTES

1. http://www.arab.net/uae/ue_womenconstitution.htm

2. <http://www.womenstreaty.org/facts.htm>

3. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women. Tunisia: CAWTAR. p 195.

4. Ibid., p 195.

5. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8306.htm>

6. According to custom, not law, a husband may bar his wife, minor male and female children, and adult unmarried daughters from leaving the country. A married woman may not accept employment without her husband's written consent. *ibid*.

7. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women. Tunisia: CAWTAR. p 194.

8. *Ibid*.

9. http://www.arab.net/uae/govt/ue_womenemploy.html

10. 40% of all government employees are women. Women constitute 4% of the military: *ibid*.

11. http://www.arab.net/uae/govt/ue_womenwelfare.html

12. http://www.arab.net/uae/govt/ue_womenfederation.html

13. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

14. <http://genderstats.worldbank.org> (check "Summary Gender Profiles").

15. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/uae/gender.html>

16. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

17. There are no legal prohibitions against women owning property. However, there are restrictions. For example, women must inherit property or businesses from a father or husband, or, if unmarried, receive a grant of land from the ruling family in the emirate in which they reside. In the case of women who are married, the land must be granted to the husbands. But a woman's property remains separate from that of her husband: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8306.htm>

18. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8306.htm>

19. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

20. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women. Tunisia: CAWTAR.

21. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.

22. Only to save the life of the mother: <http://www.pregnant-pause.org/lex/world02.htm>

23. <http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/intcam/femgen/fgm1.htm>.

However, no national reports or other evidence were found regarding FGM.

24. http://www.arab.net/uae/govt/ue_womenemploy.html

25. *Ibid*.

Yemen



1. **Constitution?** Yes. Latest version: September 29, 1994. Affirms gender equality? Yes, with contradiction.¹

2. **Nationality law:** gender discrimination? Yes.²

3. **International resolutions:**

a) CEDAW: Yes (May 30, 1984).³

i) With reservations? Yes.⁴

b) ILO Conventions:

i) Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100), 1951: Yes.⁵

ii) Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111), 1958: Yes.⁶

4. **Legal system:**

a) Women's participation:

i) Right to raise cases? ndf.

ii) Work as lawyers? Yes.⁷

iii) Judges? Yes.⁸

iv) Number of women judges: No figure available.⁹

b) Are there civic laws that apply only to men or women? Yes.¹⁰

c) Family law:

i) Codified, religious based.¹¹

ii) Recent changes? ndf.

5. **Political rights:**

i) Right to vote? Yes (1967).¹²

ii) Stand for election (national and municipal levels)? Yes.

iii) Percentage of women in parliament: 0.7% (lower house).¹³

iv) Women in the cabinet: None.¹⁴

6. **The state:**

a) Employment in the state apparatus: Yes.¹⁵

i) In which sectors: The civil service and the police.¹⁶

ii) Heads of government departments? Yes.¹⁷

iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues: the General Directorate for Working Women's Development, Women's Development Directorate at the National Council for Population, the Gender Unit for Projects Planning at the Social Development Fund, and Men and Women Statistics Directorate at the Central Organization of Statistics.¹⁸

7. Gender monitoring and action:

- i) National Council of Women? The Women's National Committee (government-sponsored, semi-independent).¹⁹
- ii) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? Yes.²⁰
- iii) NGOs that monitor women's situation? Yes.²¹

8. Education:

- a) Adult female/male literacy rates: 25.2/67.5%.²²
- b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: primary level 55/100%; secondary level: 24/66%; tertiary level: 5/16%.²³
- c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: 21% of primary school teachers and 19% of secondary school teachers were women in 2000.²⁴

9. The economy:

- a) Female economic activity rate: 30.5%.²⁵
- b) Economic rights:
 - i) To ownership of property? No laws prohibit women from property ownership.²⁶
 - ii) To own and manage businesses? ndf.
 - iii) To open bank accounts and take loans in their own name? ndf.
 - iv) To receive social security and pensions in their own names? Women are eligible for pensions at age 55, on

condition that they have subscribed to an insurance plan for a minimum of 15 years.²⁷

- c) Percentage of female-headed households: 13% in 1994.²⁸

10. Health:

- a) Vital statistics:
 - i) Life expectancy (f/m): 61.6/59.4 years (2000).²⁹
 - ii) Average age of women at first marriage: One in four Yemeni females marries between the age of 15-19 and 69% between the age of 20-24.³⁰
 - iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: 350 per 100,000 births (1985-99).³¹
- b) Reproductive rights:
 - i) Is contraception legal? Yes.³²
 - ii) Is abortion legal? Yes, in limited cases.³³

- c) Female genital mutilation? Yes. 20% of women mutilated (does the source use 'mutilated' or 'circumcised?') before marriage, 23% after marriage (1997).³⁴

- d) Employment in the modern health sector: ndf.

11. Culture:

- a. Do women work in the media – print journalism? Radio? TV? Yes.³⁵
- b. Do women perform in public (as actors, musicians, etc)? ndf.

ENDNOTES

1. Articles 19, 34, 42: b & 43: http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/mu00000_.html. Women are specified in relation to rights and duties assigned by *shari'a*: <http://www.law.emory.edu/IFL/index2.html>
2. Children of a Yemeni mother and foreign father do not have an automatic right to obtain Yemeni nationality, even if they were born and currently live in Yemen (Article 6): <http://www.yementimes.com/98/iss35/focus.htm>
3. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/ratifica.htm>
4. Article 29: <http://www.iwraw-ap.org/ConvReservations.html>
5. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). *Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women*. Tunisia: CAWTAR. p 195.
6. *Ibid.*, p 195.
7. *Report on the Status of Women in Yemen Five Years after Beijing* 1995 p 36. http://www.arabwomenconnect.org/awc/e_regions.asp?r_id=10
8. *Ibid.*, p 36.
9. 3% of judicial administrators were women in 1998: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2002). *Women and*

Men In Yemen: A Statistical Portrait. New York: United Nations. p 87.

10. Women must obtain permission from husbands or fathers to obtain a passport and to travel. They also are expected to be accompanied by male relatives, though enforcement is inconsistent. The Penal Code is lenient towards "crimes of honor". The law says that a man who murders a woman should be executed; but a husband who murders his wife and her lover is fined. According to a 1995 Interior Ministry regulation, any citizen who wishes to marry a foreigner must obtain the permission of the Ministry. A woman wishing to marry a foreigner must present proof of her parents' approval to the Interior Ministry. A foreign woman who wishes to marry a citizen man must prove to the Ministry that she is "of good conduct and behavior," and "is free from contagious disease." There are no corresponding requirements for men to demonstrate parental approval, good conduct, or freedom from contagious diseases: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8313.htm>

11. Unified Personal Status law promulgated in 1992. <http://www.law.emory.edu/IFL/index2.html>

12. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women. Tunisia: CAWTAR. p 194.
13. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press. In the 1997 elections, two women won seats in the 301-member parliament: <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/yemen/gender.html>
14. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2002). Women and Men In Yemen: A Statistical Portrait. New York: United Nations. p 86.
15. Ibid., pp 87-88.
16. Ibid., pp 87-88.
17. The first female undersecretary (of information) was appointed in 1997. The prime minister of Yemen announced in 1998 that each ministry must have a woman at the director-general level. In 1999, the country appointed its first female ambassador: <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/yemen/gender.html>
18. Report on the Status of Women in Yemen Five Years after Beijing 1995 pp 40-41. http://www.arabwomenconnect.org/awc/e_regions.asp?r_id=10
19. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8313.htm>
20. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/confer/beijing/national/natplans.htm>
21. The Social Association for Productive Families, the Women and Children's Department of the Center for Future Studies, the Woman and Child Development Association, and the Yemeni Council for Motherhood and Childhood. There are many recently established women's charitable associations: *ibid.* pp 41-42.
22. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.
23. <http://genderstats.worldbank.org> (check "Summary Gender Profiles")
24. *Ibid.*
25. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.
26. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. (2002). Women and Men In Yemen: A Statistical Portrait. New York: United Nations.
27. *Ibid.*, p 9.
28. *Ibid.*
29. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.
30. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women. Tunisia: CAWTAR.
31. United Nations Development Programme (2002). Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World. New York: Oxford University Press.
32. In 1997-1998, 36% of women residing in urban areas were using family planning methods and 16% in rural areas. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (2002) Women and Men In Yemen: A Statistical Portrait. New York: United Nations. p 63.
33. Only to save the life of the mother: <http://www.pregnant-pause.org/lex/world02.htm>
34. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (2002). Women and Men In Yemen: A Statistical Portrait. New York: United Nations. p 66.
35. One woman was a 'decision and policy maker' in media (1997-1998), and 7 were editors -in-chief: *ibid.*, p 88.

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