



Press Release

Arab Women Legal e-Platform launched

Comprehensive information on the legal status of women in the region, now publically available online

Tunis, 28 March 2016 – The Centre for Arab Women Training and Research (CAWTAR) launched the Legal and Human Rights of Women and Men: between Equality and Gaps, an online information tool that aims to feature “legal status and rights” compiling laws related to the status of gender and human rights in 20 Arab countries. The e-platform aims to assist policy makers, women machineries and concerned civil society organization to better asses, analyse and understand the legal status of women across the region. The e-platform is in a continuous process to avail information in Arabic through a searchable online portal (<http://www.arabwomenlegal-emap.org/>), and will be available in English and as a mobile application (womenlegalmap). The ultimate objective is to promote gender equality through improving national partners’ access to legal information on women’s rights and status.

The e-platform comes as an outcome of a fruitful collaboration between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and CAWTAR. This collaboration has benefited from the financial support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, and the Arab Gulf Program for Development (AGFUND).

“This reliable, updated and interactive tool will support evidence-based policy dialogues aiming for the improvement of women legal rights,” emphasized the Executive Director of CAWTAR, Dr. Soukaina Bouraoui. “We launched the e-platform shortly after the International Woman’s Day to underline our strong commitment to accelerate gender equality and women’s empowerment and our role is to provide knowledge and evidences for policy dialogue and advocacy for change.”

The e-platform enables users to search by different topics and related rights, such as education, health, violence, political participation and contribution, access to justice and right to litigation in economy in each country. The tool also avails detailed country profiles that include information on the status and actions taken by governments in line with their international commitments to gender equality. The e-platform also allows for regional, cross-country comparisons across topics and indicators and provides information about best practices to facilitate experience exchange among Arab countries, and accordingly encourage legal reforms.

“We trust that availing this innovative knowledge tool online will prove to be a valuable asset for advocates and practitioners in the quest to bring about positive change on women’s legal rights in the region,” said Khaled Abdel Shafi, Director of UNDP’s Regional Hub for Arab States in Amman. “Wide access to such critical legal information is key to facilitating public action for equality.”

The e-platform is to be continuously improved and updated. There will be leaflets to provide the public audience with general legal knowledge to foster women and men statuses and rights in the region.

“Change starts with knowledge.” stressed Mohammad Naciri, UN Women’s Regional Director for Arab States, “Our aim is to prepare the grounds for women from different backgrounds to understand and exercise their legal rights more freely in a region overwhelmed with complexities”.

For media inquiries, please contact:

Name: Hedia Belhaj Youssef
Title: Head of the Knowledge Management Unit
Organization: CAWTAR
Tel: 0021698696494
Email: documentation@cawtar.org
Website: www.cawtar.org

Name: Shatha Mahmoud
Title: Gender Analyst
Organization: UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States
Tel: 0096262003180
Email: shatha.mahmoud@undp.org
Website: www.undp.org

Name: Mayy El-Sheikh
Title: Regional Communication Specialist
Organization: UN Women
Tel: 00201096276437
Email: communications.roas@unwomen.org
Website: arabstates.unwomen.org