



Centro de Estudios de Oriente Medio
Fundación Promoción Social de la Cultura

II CONFERENCE

Cooperation for Development and Non-Governmental Organisations. Working in the Middle East, Region of Conflicts. Women and Human Rights

Madrid, 25th November 2009

Summary Executive Report

High level speakers and discussants from various countries of the Middle East, North Africa and Europe representing grassroots, national and International policy-makers, practitioners, researchers, experts and donors concluded during the 25th of November 2009 CEMOFPSC Madrid Roundtable on Working in the Middle East, region of conflicts. Women and Human Rights, that women have a tremendous role to play to advance Human Rights and thus development and peace for all.

Within the context of speeches and presentations made and issues raised during the Roundtable, the following eight issues have been highlighted as critical:

1. Conflict issue: The specific context of the region.
2. Governance issue.
3. Discrimination, discrepancies (minorities, women, etc.).
4. Violence against women.
5. Women participation in decision-making process at all levels (Parliament, municipalities, etc.)
6. Women representation/participation in peace building process.
7. Human Rights Standards especially universal basic education, access to water, access to social justice.
8. Lack of implementation of the Human Rights Principles especially participation, civic engagement, non discrimination and accountability.

During the large, rich and free debate, the Roundtable drew up the following conclusions:

1. There is a necessity to address the situation in the Middle East (what is on the ground) taking into account the larger picture of the specific conditions of the region in conflict.
2. Good governance is a duty.
3. Importance of implementation of Human Rights standards (referred to the minimum acceptable level of standards for the achievement of an outcome, especially universal basic education, access to water and access to social justice) and necessity to have clear prioritization, adequate budgeting and realistic implementation.
4. Importance of implementation of Human Rights Principles especially participation and civic engagement, non discrimination and accountability which are the specific conditions of a legitimate and accountable process for achieving the outcomes.
5. Importance of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) focusing on respect of diversity and respect of minorities.
6. Trust-building, common understanding and interest that lead to win-win situation.
7. Importance of women proactive and active participation in decision-making process, peace building process, conflict prevention and conflict resolution, at all level and for all phases: needs assessment; prioritization; formulation of policies, programs and projects; budgeting; implementation; monitoring; evaluation; report; audit etc.
8. Active participation in Human Right Based Approach (HRBA), UPR and all relevant reports in and on the region.
9. Necessity of Capacity Building; Training for all, especially in HRBA, gender equality based approach, civic engagement in public policies, integrated approach for women and sustainable development and peace for all and by all, ethics, communications and networking skills.
10. Sensitive and well coordinated International assistance, regional cooperation are essential for a successful peace building process, sustainable development for all and by all with HRBA.