

Agenda

Tuesday, 5 October 2010

9:00-9:30

Registration

9:30-10:30

Opening session

Welcome Address:

-Dr. Richard Wilkins, Managing Director,
Doha International Institute for Family Studies and
Development

Opening Remarks:

- H.E. Noor Al Malki, Board Member, Doha International
Institute for Family studies and Development; Secretary General,
Supreme Council for Family Affairs, Qatar

-Dr. Patience Stephens, Special Assistant to the United Nations
Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women

10:30-11:00

Break

11:00-12:45

**Session I: The concept of empowerment from a gender per
spective – political, socio-economic and cultural
dimensions** Moderator – Prof. Tracey McDonald

Introductory remarks –

Ms. Yakin Erturk
Prof. Layachi Anser
Dr. Astrid Stuckelberger
Mr. Ronald Wiman
Dr. Ranjana Kumari

Questions for discussion

- Why is empowerment a prerequisite for gender equality?
- What are the connections between empowerment and human rights?
- Why is the life-course approach to empowerment important?
- How is empowerment linked to the MDGs (poverty reduction, maternal health, etc)?
- Mainstreaming a gender perspective into social development

Discussion

12:45-14:15

Lunch Break

14:15-15:45

Session II: Women's participation at the national level: what has been achieved and what could be done to overcome existing impediments Moderator – Mrs. Faith Innerarity

Introductory remarks – Dr. Joanna McMinn
Dr. Kaltham Al Ghanim
Mrs. Lilit Asatryan
Dr. Asma Al Attiyah

Questions for discussion

Presence of women in the work force, politics, business and education: what are the current trends?

What are the impediments specific to the region which need to be addressed?

- What are the economic, social and cultural impediments?
- What are the institutional impediments?
- What could be done in the short term and in the long-term?
- How to improve access to resources?
- * Why women's social exclusion is so detrimental to society?

Discussion

15:45-16:15

Break

16:15-17:45

Session III: Institutional capacity building for empowerment Moderator – Prof- Layachi Anser

Introductory remarks – Prof. Maria Amparo Cruz-Saco
Dr. Fatma Elkubeissy
Dr. Julie Newton

Questions for discussion

- How can gender education be enhanced?
- What political steps can be taken to support empowerment?
- What is the role of the stakeholders:
 - the State
 - civil society
 - private sector
 - family

Discussion

17:45-18:00

Wrap-up by the Rapporteurs of day one

Dr. Julie Newton
Prof. Maria Amparo Cruz Saco

19:00 Dinner

Wednesday, 6 October 2010

9:00-10:30 **Session IV: Making policy responses more effective**
Moderator – Dr. Patience Stephens

Introductory remarks – Mrs. Faith Innerarity
Dr. Rania Al Jazairi
Prof. Tracey McDonald
Ms. Olga Patricia Cortes

Questions for discussion

- How can empowerment of women be promoted in the region?
- What practical methods can be implemented at various levels?
- What specific policies could be recommended in the rural and urban contexts?
- Role of media and information
- Prevention of violence against women

Discussion

10:30-11:00 **Break**

11:00-12:30 **Session V: Issues affecting specific groups**
Moderator – Dr. Ranjana Kumari

Introductory remarks – Dr. Sergei Zelenev
Dr. Richard Wilkins

Questions for discussion

- Girls and young women: how can the issues affecting girls and young women in the region be addressed (e.g. challenges of socialization, education, prevention of early marriage, etc.)
- Older women: how discrimination can be overcome and how can the rights of older women be protected.
- Policy comparisons with other regions: what can work, what should be avoided

- Women and Disability

Discussion

12:30-14:00

Lunch break

14:00-15:30

Session VI: Preparation of draft recommendations

Working group A Moderator – Prof. Tracey McDonald; Rapporteur: Dr. Asma Al Attiyah

Working group B Moderator - Ms. Faith Innerarity

Rapporteur: Dr. Kaltham Al Ghanim

Presentation of the findings by the Rapporteurs

15:30-16:00

Break

16:00-17:00

Session VII: Review of recommended approaches and methods

Moderator – Dr. Ronald Wiman

Discussion

17:00-18:00

Distillation of findings and finalization of the recommendations

Moderator – Ms. Amina Mesdoua

Discussion

18:00-18:30

Adoption of recommendation by the experts

18:30

Concluding remarks by Dr. Richard Wilkins and Dr. Patience Stephens

Farewell and Closing