

## Call for Contributions

### Best Practices and Women's Role in Local Governance / Community Empowerment in MENA region

The Center of Arab Women Training and Research (CAWTAR), in the frame of the Mediterranean Development Forum (MDF) –a World Bank/ UNDP initiative – invites proposals for papers focusing on the best practices and lessons learned in relation to the role of women in local governance or community empowerment in the MENA region. The contribution can be made at the national, sub-regional or regional level. These best practices should be focused upon **ONE** of the following sub-themes:

- Arab countries efforts toward achieving their full development potential through the participation of women in local governance and / or community empowerment.
- Experiences of women gaining political power at the local and / or community levels through their improved participation in the economic sphere
- Experiences of women overcoming legal impediments to their participation at the local governance level and / or in community empowerment.
- Experiences of women overcoming financial and organizational obstacles affecting their full participation in electoral campaigns for local governance or in community empowerment
- Experiences of women overcoming social, tribal and cultural norms and problems affecting their participation in local governance level and / or community empowerment
- Women benefiting from, quotas and positive political actions in their quest for improvement of their political participation at the local level and / or their better role in community empowerment
- Efforts taken by civil society and political organization (political parties, unions and syndicates) in the promotion of the role of women in local governance and / or in community empowerment

CAWTAR requests the submission in investing the selected sub-theme to provide a background on institutional framework of the country; sub- region; or region under study.

The contribution is expected to shed the light on enabling factors for the success of these experiences or impediments to the success of women's participation in local governance and/or community empowerment.

CAWTAR expects the submission to include recommendations in terms of policy actions needed to improve women's political participation in local governance and / or to reinforce women's role in community empowerment.

### **Contribution Terms:**

- CAWTAR invites submissions from researchers, postdoctoral scholars, research and development centers, specialized regional and international organizations on the MENA region
- Interested researchers are invited to fill attached registration form and to send it together with their submission (10-15 double spaced pages) no later than **15<sup>th</sup> of November, 2005**.
- Please direct queries, subscription forms and contributions to [amine.ghali@cawtar.org](mailto:amine.ghali@cawtar.org) or [cawtar@planet.tn](mailto:cawtar@planet.tn) ; or by fax: (216)71-571-867.

### **Competition Results**

- Papers will be evaluated by an International Jury Panel.
- CAWTAR will preserve all rights in terms of use of selected papers.
- The selected papers will be presented in a regional workshop planned to take place shortly after the Jury announcement of selection results. The workshop will be convened under the theme "Women and Local Governance / Community Empowerment" and a synthesis of the selected papers will be presented in **MDF 5 Forum**.
- The outstanding paper will be awarded the amount of **US\$ 1000**.

Final papers will be made available to participants upon requests