Role of civil society, women and media in the achievement
of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals

Second call for background papers based on:

Case studies and practical experiences on sustainable development

In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as the world (as a whole) and the Arab world in particular are at the heart of national and local development challenges.

The Declaration therefore stressed the need for "States to engage in mobilizing the resources needed to implement the Strategy through the revitalization of the Global Partnership ... and with the participation of all stakeholders and all peoples."

Thus, it reflected the true partnership philosophy of involving stakeholders and all peoples. It calls for the promotion of various partnerships, whether sectorally, geographically or others, to ensure the implementation of the Agenda at the national and local levels, besides what was stated about global partnership.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals have given central importance to issues of poverty, health and gender and to the need to combat discrimination, marginalization, exclusion and violence in all its forms, to promote social justice and to ensure security, peace and the realization of rights.

The Strategy and its goals also included an obligation to protect the environment and natural resources, improve the exploitation of water resources and develop production and consumption patterns, considering the relationship of all these to comprehensive development.

In the 2030 development goals, emphasis has been placed on the social dimension (people), the environment (planet), the economy (prosperity), the political (peace and good governance) and the cognitive-cultural. They also highlighted five principles included in this concept, which are a kind of policy guidelines, namely equality, sustainability, effectiveness / productivity, empowerment and human rights.
The role of civil society organizations as an "intermediary between citizens and the State" has been established beyond doubt, and it organizes and manages this relationship in a peaceful and orderly manner, offering alternatives to traditional loyalties and affiliations, in which individuals engage voluntarily to promote participation in public life.¹

The democratic transition process, experienced by a number of Arab countries, has been a crucial opportunity to pay attention to them and keep up with their development.

Efforts have been stepped up to build a strong civil society acting as lobbying and bargaining power on the one hand and a force to consolidate local democracy and provide citizens with all forms of participation and the dimensions of political, economic, social and cultural citizenship, on the other hand.

Despite their paucity, the data highlight the development of civil society organizations, particularly in countries undergoing democratic transition. For example, in 2012, there were 37,000 registered civil society organizations in Egypt, 9,000 in Yemen and 90,000 in Morocco.

According to statistics of the Ministry in charge of Relations with Constitutional Institutions and Civil Society, Tunisia had more than 18,000 organizations by the end of 2015.

In contrast, civil society structures and organizations face a major challenge of ensuring their sustainability². They also face other challenges related to the organizational capacity, legal environment, financial autonomy and the competence and skills of their cadres. Therefore, the opportunity to work on the 2030 Agenda allows approaching this actor in critical and analytical way to consider its role in implementing and/or monitoring its implementation.

On the other hand, the Arab societies have witnessed in recent years a new dynamic that has accompanied the continuous development of civil society organizations and local/regional media institutions, particularly radio stations, both in terms of their economic pattern and their social and political functions.

On the other hand, studies, including CAWTAR Center’s 6th Arab Women Development Report on the 2030 Development Strategy in the local media, showed that the media contents in the local media³ focused mainly on the political issues related to central government policies, Sustainable development and local affairs, thus far away from the sustainable development agenda 2030.

With regard to the 2030 Development Strategy, it has singled out equality with the Goal 5 which is «Gender Equality, Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of all Women and Girls», but this goal cannot be integrated into the rest of the objectives: It is no longer feasible, based on the results achieved in the Millennium Goals, to work on each goal separately without linking it to other goals⁴.

¹ Reality of Civil Society in the Arab World, Dr. Ibtisam Hatem Alwan, Journal of the Faculty of Arts, No. 97.
² 2012 Civil Society Organization Sustainability Report for the Middle East and North Africa
⁴ See annex
As the starting point for the implementation of the Goals and Strategy 2030 was officially launched in January 2016, the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR) has taken it as an umbrella for its reference framework in its Five-Year Plan 2017-2021 and has dedicated to it, an integrated program of research, training and advocacy entitled "Achieving Sustainable Development Goals 2030 ". In this context, the Center intends to prepare the Seventh Arab Women Development Report on two research questions:

- Are civil society organizations, especially those concerned with the empowerment of women and their human rights, active components in advancing the implementation of the 2030 Strategy for Sustainable Development?

- Are civil society organizations, which attract women more than other public space structures, able to follow up the implementation of the Agenda as it is one of the available mechanisms for the empowerment of women?

Therefore, CAWTAR is launching the second round of this call by contributing with background papers that provide case studies and real experiences for local development on the following topics:

**First background paper**

**The 2030 Agenda and Gender: The challenges of the Arab region:** it includes all the political, social, economic, environmental and cultural challenges, etc., in relation to the issue of gender equality and the empowerment of women and their position in society (as a central issue in the democratic transformation, modernization and development of the Arab countries) with special focus on the priority issue or issues in the Arab region such as youth, population, health, women in war and conflict zones, refugee women, the most important environmental challenges and the role of women in confronting them.

**NB: the topic should be presented on the basis of a case study in an Arab country or an experience of sustainable development.**

**Second background paper**

**The 2030 Agenda and Gender: The role of civil society (especially associations operating locally and working in the areas of women / gender and human rights):** on the concept of partnership, partnerships and roles of partners in the concept of sustainable human development, on the roles of Arab civil society at the local level, The future of the organizations that have been involved in the 2030 development agenda, obstacles to the role of civil society and the challenges it faces, in general and from a gender perspective in particular, with concrete examples (case studies in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development).

**NB: the topic should be presented on the basis of a case study in an Arab country or an experience of sustainable development.**
Third background paper

The 2030 Agenda and Gender: The Cultural Dimension: The cultural dimension in development, the cultural transformation needed in accordance with the 2030 Agenda, the cultural problems and challenges in the Arab region from a gender perspective (scope of gender equality, women's position and their status in society, they have to occupy a privileged position here)... (In relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development): the issue of education can be emphasized as a central issue related to cultural challenges in the Arab region.

NB: the topic should be presented on the basis of a case study in an Arab country or an experience of sustainable development.

The fourth background paper

The 2030 Agenda and Gender: the Media Dimension

On the media and its role in societal transformation/and features an overview (information) on the media landscape (institutions, outlets and contents related to women's contribution to development) and the role of the media as active partner in the social transformation, the problems and challenges of the media taking up its role in spreading the culture of rights and development and contributing to the cultural and societal transformation, from a gender perspective, with concrete examples and case studies.

Examples of topics: What is its discourse, for example, in the field of women's education? Women and peace? Youth, population and health issues from a gender perspective? Is it an actual partner in sustainable development issues (contained in 2030 Strategy?) Or not? Why should it be a partner? when? And how?

NB: the topic should be presented on the basis of a case study in an Arab country or an experience of sustainable development.

Fifth background paper

The 2030 Agenda and Gender: Integrated Local Intervention: definition of the local concept, the role of the local level in implementing the global and national development agenda, and the position of the local level in the context of the broader approach. Which role for civil society and how? (Always according to a gender perspective)

Examples of integrated intervention experiences at the local level: What are the lessons learned? Have they benefited women? And how? (In relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development).

NB: the topic should be presented on the basis of a case study in an Arab country or an experience of sustainable development.
1. All papers shall comply with the following: **under the overall umbrella of the 2030 Agenda** with three horizontal entries and three vertical entries as follows:

- **Horizontally**: All papers shall commit to the integration of the gender dimension, the cultural dimension, and the dimension related to the distinction between rural and urban and according to social conditions.

- **Vertically**: All papers shall commit to the rights approach and the development approach according to the concept of improved development, to the issue of peace and political reform, which is a crucial and decisive feature of all the development situations in our countries.

**Abstract of the paper, problems to be raised and bibliographic references**: May 15, 2018.

3 pages. After which the participant will receive a negative or positive response. If the abstract is accepted, the final paper shall be sent: June 30, 2018

A **scientific committee oversees the selection of papers**

**Final paper size**: 14 - 30-pages Traditional Arabic

**Content**: The major problems related to each topic, the topic in most recent studies, the position of women and civil society within the problems raised, concepts, latest data, figures and statistics, examples of experiences in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development... Conclusions and recommendations.

Bibliography: according to the model in the annex

Fees: US $ 1000 given immediately after sending the final paper to media@cawtar.org

**info@cawtar.org**
Annex 1. Classification of studies and research, while writing the paper’s bibliography as follows:


**Book with two or three authors:**

The same as above but write the first name and surname of the first author then the term “and” followed by the first name and surname of the second author, followed by a comma (and the rest without change)

Put the names of the book in the order they appear on the cover of the book or the title page.

**A book with more than three authors:**

Write the first name and surname of the first writer then the word and others, then a comma (the rest unchanged)

**A book or report of an institution, ministry or organization...**

When the author is an institution or an organization, its name or its symbol shall be placed in the place of the author (the rest is unchanged)

**Translated book:**


**Chapter from a writer’s book:**

Last name of author of the chapter or article, first name. (Year of Publication). Title of the article. Writer’s name is not reversed (writer), the title of the book in italics (E. Edition number, pp. range of pages). Country. Publishing House / Publishing Corporation: Publisher. Number of pages

**Chapter of a book without a writer:**


**Websites and articles**

Last name of author, first name. (Year article was published, Day and month). The title of the article is in italics. Taken on the date, day, month, year of (website address)
Annex 2

Goal 1 - End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Goal 2 - End Hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

Goal 3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Goal 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Goal 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Goal 6 - Ensure Access to Water and Sanitation for All

Goal 7 - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Goal 8 - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Goal 9 - Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Goal 10 - Reduce inequality within and among countries

Goal 11 - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Goal 12 - Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Goal 13 - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Goal 14 - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Goal 15 - Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Goal 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions

Goal 17 - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.