To promote female candidates in municipal elections:

The Center of Arab Women for Training and Research and the Omani Ministry of Social Affairs strengthen journalists’ skills in the elections media coverage

Starting this morning, Monday, 14 November 2016, in the Omani capital Muscat, the activities of the training session: “Building the capacity of media professionals to support women candidates in municipal elections” began, under the patronage of His Excellency Ali Bin Khalfan Al-Jabri, the Deputy Minister of Information. The session is carried out by the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research “Cawtar,” with Omani Journalists Association in cooperation with the Department of Women's Affairs, Omani Ministry of Social Development, with the support of the Arab Gulf programme for development “AGFUND”.

The training session’s activities aim to enable twenty participating journalists to use media coverage tools and to increase their knowledge on professionalism, legal measures and the Code of Ethics while covering the elections, and building their skills in respecting citizenship rights, human rights, Shura values and voting rights. The session also aims to enable journalists to consult both the political and the mediatic maps and to deal with active actors in the elections in a way that suits the Code of Ethics and to know the rights and duties of every party in the electoral process, from the campaign period to the polling day.
The session’s program includes twelve training meetings that will deal with topics and issues in connection with: women’s participation in the elections, the obstacles blocking participation in legislative aspects and decision making, media and stereotypes, the electoral law in the sultanate and the most important actors, and the informative lessons learned from the first session. The other meetings will also treat equity issues, the guaranty of equal opportunities in the elections and new media as tools to search for opportunities of change.

During the session, there will be a debate with the female candidates for the municipal elections on the role of media in promoting women’s participation in the elections with an essay on women’s participation in the elections that will be written by the participants.

It is to highlight that the Sultanate of Oman will hold municipal elections in December 2016, the second in the Sultanate’s history, after the 2012, that will have female candidates for the municipal councils.