



**Fourth Regional Conference of Women Parliamentarians and Women in  
Political Decision Making Positions of the GCC States**

*National plans on gender equality : the role of women parliamentarians*

**Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, 09-10 December 2009**

**Provisional Programme**

**Wednesday, 9 December**

09:30-10:30 **Opening Ceremony**

10:30-11:00 **Coffee break**

11:00-11:30 **Keynote address**

11:30-13:30 **Strategies and plans of action for women**

- Foundations of national plans: Development, democracy and international commitments
- Objectives, preparation and implementation of national plans  
*Experiences from the region and abroad*
- National plans and national machineries

The presentations will be followed by a debate

13:30-15:00 **Lunch**

15:00-16:30 **Women MPs and the development of national plans for women**

- Advocating for national plans and strategies
- Participation in designing plans and strategies  
*Does this participation happen, where and how?*
- Women MPs' added value in national consultation processes and sensitization in the preparation and adoption of national plans and strategies

The presentations will be followed by a debate

**Thursday, 10 December**

09:30-11:00 **The role and impact of parliamentarians, in particular women MPs, in the implementation of national plans**

- Input in the implementation of national plans: information and resources, legislation, budgeting, monitoring and committees' work  
*What is the place of national plans in Parliament? How can women MPs monitor and enhance the implementation of national plans? Does this take place? Why? What are the needs? How does it happen in other countries? What are the needs?*
- Sensitization, liaison and consultations on the impact of plans and strategies

The presentations will be followed by a debate

11:00-11:30 **Coffee break**

11:30-13:30 **Capacity building session: How to influence the debate on women's issues ?**

- How to enhance women MPs' input in the implementation of national plans of action?
- Debate and influence, including introducing gender, leadership and relation with the media
- Needs assessment for future capacity building sessions

13:30-15:00 **Lunch**

15:00-16:00 **Wrap up and actions for the future:**

- Strategy for an enhanced input of women MPs in the implementation of national plans
- Cooperation and partnerships: between women MPs (caucuses...), partnership with men MPs and politicians, coordination and cooperation with the Government, networking with CSOs and others

The presentations will be followed by a debate

16:00-16:30 **Closing session**