

(2003-2005) with the aim of providing legal counseling to women facing gender discrimination within the family or at the workplace.



Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD):

◀ AFESD is partially supporting a project targeting poor female heads of households. In 34 villages in 20 governorates where micro credits were provided to allow 6000 women to start a micro business that will help them support their families.



◀ **The African Development Bank (ADB):** The African Development Bank partially supported NCW's Comprehensive Illiteracy Eradication Pilot project in Fayoum.

IBM. IBM:

◀ IBM is partially supporting NCW's Information Technology Program by providing the required hardware to equip two training computer laboratories and the initiation of the "Portal For Women Development".

The Government of the Netherlands:

◀ The Government of the Netherlands is partially supporting the training program in NCW's Center for the Political Empowerment of Women. In addition the Government of the Netherlands sponsored the participation of a number of NCW members in international meetings related to women.



Konrad Adenauer Stiftung



Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

◀ Provided partial support to the training program of the Women Business Development Center (WBDC).




The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA):

◀ CIDA supported a training workshop in NCW's WBDC.

A number of **fellowships/participation in conferences** in various development-areas related to women were sponsored by:

 The Government of Sweden,

 The Government of Finland,

 The Government of Spain,

 The Government of the UK,

 The Ford Foundation.

Networking / Cooperation:

◀ Extensive networking has been established between NCW and the following institutions:

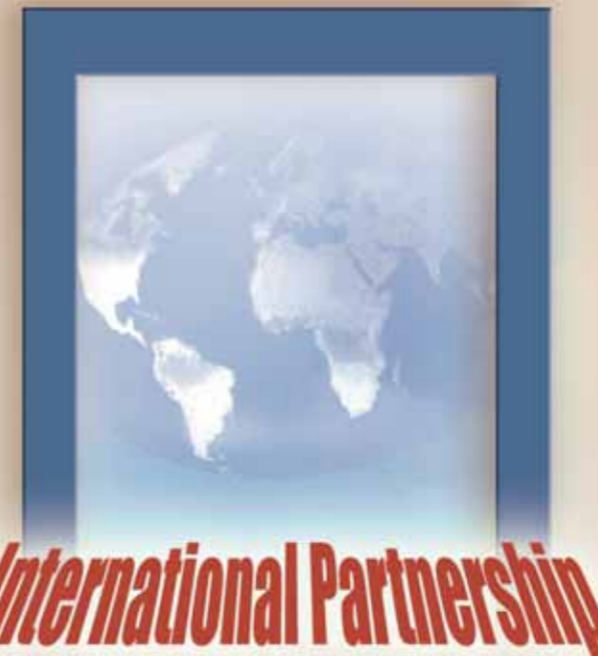
- **The UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)** and The UN Social and Economic Commission for Western Asia, (ESCWA) in connection with the reporting on the international conventions and peace building initiatives.
- **The Arab Women's Organization (AWO)** in relation to the organization of intellectual fora relating to Arab women development.
- **Arab Women International Forum (AIWF)**, in the area of building strategic partnerships for development and peace initiatives.
- **The American University in cairo** has partially supported the NCW's literacy efforts through a pilot project implemented in Fayoum governorate, and also hosts a website devoted to the empowerment of women within its Social Research Centre.
- **The Gender Advisory Board (GAB)** of the United Nations Commission for Science and Technology in Development (UNCSTD), where NCW has established the North African Node in Egypt, with chapters in Tunisia, Sudan and Egypt.
- **The International Preparatory Committee of the Global Summit of Women**, which is an international NGO aiming at the economic empowerment of women through international exposure and increased opportunities for women entrepreneurs.



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National Council for Women



The National Council for Women

The National Council for Women (NCW) was established in the year 2000 by the Presidential Decree No. 90, as an autonomous institution aiming at ensuring women's effective participation in all areas of development. NCW is composed of thirty members both men and women and is presided by Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, Egypt's First Lady. NCW is entrusted with a broad and multi-sectoral mandate that allows it to carry out numerous functions.

"As partners working together on both the national and international levels.. we can make a difference to ensure gender equality, development and peace."

*Suzanne Mubarak
June 2005*

Partnerships and Networking

One of the key functions of NCW is networking and partnership which involve forging a vast number of linkages with development partners including both governmental and non governmental institutions at the national, regional and international levels.

International Partnership

The National Council for Women is a full member of the Gender and Development subgroup of the Development Assistance Group (Egypt), which is composed of representatives of UN Agencies, the World Bank, donor countries and other institutions concerned with development issues in Egypt.

Through the continuous cooperation between Egypt and its international partners, NCW is carrying out a number of development projects, aiming at fulfilling its mandate.

UN Joint Collaborative Agreement:

One of the remarkable activities undertaken by NCW and its partners, is the initiation of "A Joint UN Program in Support of

the National Council for Women” which is a unique program of collaboration with four UN agencies: UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNIFEM. The initiative, the first of its kind, was to build on the comparative advantages, technical expertise, financial assistance, and mandates of the four agencies to support NCW’s mission and to ensure the efficient use of the available resources.

NCW Partners:

United Nations Development Program (UNDP)



- ◀ **Implementation of International Commitments of Egypt :** The project aims at strengthening the capacity of NCW to monitor, evaluate and report on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action (BPA), and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) ... etc.
- ◀ **Center for the Political Empowerment of Women (CPEW):** Partial support of CPEW which provides training programs aiming at the political empowerment of women to help and encourage them to run for parliamentary elections.
- ◀ **Results-based Management Training Program:** A program aiming at strengthening NCW’s capacity for planning, monitoring and evaluation and to ensure the full coordination and synergies between planning and implementation.
- ◀ **Raising women’s awareness of their legal rights:** Within a multi-country project implemented by ICT-DAR, this project provides women, particularly rural women, with easily understandable legal information, aiming at raising their awareness of their legal rights.



United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

- ◀ **Gender Equality Measured Through Statistics (GEMS):** Within the context of the GEMS regional project, involving three countries: Jordan, Syria and Egypt,

the project aims at strengthening statistical monitoring systems, and the accuracy of the data available, to fulfill the national and international commitments for gender equality.

- ◀ **Engendering Economic Governance (EEG):** EEG project aims at building the capacity of NCW to better advocate women’s concerns in social and economic policy debates and formulation. The project also through various activities furnishes an important forum for policy makers to realize the differential impact of economic policies on women and men and to provide means to engender Egypt’s economic policies.
- ◀ **Gender Budgeting Program:** The program aims at supporting gender responsive budgeting initiatives at the national and local levels. The project examines the processes of budget development from a gender perspective. Capacity building for line ministries in gender budgeting, gender auditing and performance based budget from a gender perspective, is a major component of the project.



United Nations Fund for Children (UNICEF):

- ◀ **Media Watch Unit at NCW:** Within the context of “Communication for Behavioral Change”, UNICEF is partially supporting the Media Watch Unit at NCW. The main function of the unit is to monitor media portrayal of Egyptian women. It also provides training programs utilizing the most up-to-date media monitoring methods. The findings of the project are presented in periodic reports which are used as effective advocacy tools.



United Nations Fund for Population (UNFPA):

- ◀ **Mainstreaming Gender in Development Planning, Institutionalization, Monitoring, and Evaluation:** The project focuses on building the capacities of relevant institutions at the local level and works in a bottom-up approach to ensure the engendering of the next National Socio Economic 5-year Development Plan (2007-2012). The project also provides



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization: (UNESCO):

- ◀ UNESCO is partially supporting the NCW’s strategy for women in the labour force is also partially contributing to NCW’s program of “Women as Custodians of the National Cultural Heritage” by partially financing the project “Enhancing Women’s role as Custodians and Artisans of Egyptian Handicrafts.
- ◀ NCW specialized library was established with partial support from UNESCO and UNDP.
- ◀ The Library offers internal reading facilities and internet access services to visitors interested in fields related to women.



International Labour Organization (ILO):

- ◀ ILO has partially supported the formulation of a Strategy for Human Resources Development for women’s empowerment.
- ◀ ILO has also sponsored the participation of two study-tours to ILO Turin Center relating to women and labour.



World Bank (WB):

- ◀ **Country Gender Assessment:** The World Bank has sponsored the preparation of a country gender assessment for Egypt which is used as a reference while preparing for NCW’s action plans.
- ◀ **Institutional Development Fund:** This project aims at strengthening the institutional capacity of NCW in the areas of gender strategic planning, performance measurement, and identification of gender indicators, in order to ensure appropriate gender mainstreaming in all national policies, programs and projects.

extensive training programs to enhance the capacity of planning departments in line ministries both at local and central levels on gender planning, monitoring and evaluation.



United States Agency for International Development (USAID):

- ◀ **USAID fully supported the initiation of NCW Information and Documentation Center.** USAID contributed to the establishment of the Women Business Development Center, aiming at increasing women’s participation in the formal and informal sectors of the Egyptian labor market by providing them with the required skills for their effective participation in the economic growth of Egypt.



Italian Cooperation for Development:

- ◀ **Multi-faceted Development Program in Minya Governorate:** The program provides a holistic approach to development, targeting poor women in four villages by building their capacities to enable them to participate in all areas of development.
- ◀ **CATALYST:** Catalyst participated in the Minia Multi-faceted Development project by introducing a component concerned with research and awareness raising on women’s health.



European Union (EU):

- ◀ **The Ombudsman Project:** The EU partially supported NCW’s Office of the OMBUDSMAN (2001-2003) and will resume its support as of 2006 until 2008.
- ◀ **The Ombudsman Office:** Receives and analyzes complaints of discrimination against women within the family or at the workplace and provides counseling and legal assistance.



Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA):

- ◀ **DANIDA supports partially the NCW’s Ombudsman Office in Aswan Governorate:** aims at providing legal counseling and assistance to women facing gender discrimination within the family or at the workplace.

The British Global Opportunities Fund (BGO):

- ◀ BGO Is partially supporting NCW’s Ombudsman Office