EGM on "Technology as a Renewed Hope to Achieving Gender Equality in the Arab Region: A Fact or Illusion?"

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Technology and Women Leadership at all levels of Decision Making

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Outline

- **Targets of Focus**

- **Regional Situation**

- **ICT as an opportunity for women to make their voices heard**

- **ICT as an opportunity to promote the participation of women in decision making**

- **ICT as a tool for governments to enhance access to services for women and girls**

- **Guiding questions**

Targets of Focus

Target 5.5. Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

*Women's full and **effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making**, in political, economic and public life is a condition to ensure that the outcomes of the development process are equally benefiting to all according to their needs, that they are cumulative and feeding into the development cycle. Therefore, women's participation in decision-making is necessary to the realization of various SDGs including reducing inequalities, and promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, increasing productivity and contributing to economic growth, improving health outcomes, participating to reducing climate change and sustainably managing natural resources.*

Regional Situation : Targets 5.5

- Since 2010, progress has been witnessed at the level of **women's political representation in the Arab region** but it remains low when compared to the global average at various governance levels.

- The Arab region continues to register the lowest rates of women's political representation at 17%, far below Europe and the Americas.

- **Only two Arab countries, Tunisia and Sudan, have attained the 30 percent female political representation** level advised by the Beijing Platform for Action.

- **Representation of women in the cabinet is improving in the region**. However, women are generally assigned with portfolios corresponding to the traditional social roles namely education and health.

- **Representation of women in the judiciary is improving** following a slow and uneven path depending on the type of courts.

- **Women are poorly represented in local councils** in most countries and women mayors are rare particularly in larger municipalities

ICT as an opportunity for women to make their voices heard

ICTs can broadly enable women to communicate with each other online

ICT can be alternative channels for self-expression and interaction in the public and political sphere for girls and women, enabling action regardless of physical or geographical location and whether they are inhibited or cons

using ICTs at the local level to interact with policy makers to state their claims, improve local conditions, and increase the quality or quantity of services. trained from voicing their concerns in their society.

Radio is an important venue for women's voice, particularly in rural areas

ICT as an opportunity to promote the participation of women in decision making

- ICT can be used by women to attain leadership positions, support their agendas, develop networks and promote their political messages.

- ICT-based networks can be used to provide mutual support and capacity development to women already in political positions

- Promoting campaigns for political office and for justice for women in politics, increased knowledge gained through digital ICTs can support women's attaining of political positions.

- Delivery modes that overcome some of the barriers to access women face, such as physical distance, mobilities, and sociocultural restrictions on male and female interactions outside of the family

- ICTs can be used to collect data to improve the targeting of services

Guiding Questions

- How can ICT be used by Arab women to make their voices heard in politics and decision making?
- How can ICT promote the participation of Arab women in politics and decision making?
- How can Arab governments improve services for women and girls using ICT?
- What good practices from the global and/or regional level are compatible with the context of the region? What are the factors to consider?
- What are the challenges that may hinder the use of ICT to achieve target 5.5 in the Arab region?
- What are the recommendations on using ICT for achieving target 5.5 in the Arab region?

Thank You

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