

ANNEX 1: Jordan's National Strategy

In 2006, the Jordanian government endorsed the updated National Strategy for Jordanian Women, which will direct and drive the work of women movement and the organizations working in the field of women development in five priority areas over the next five years. This strategy was accomplished under the umbrella of the Jordanian National Commission for Women JNCW, chaired by HRH Princess Basma Bint Talal.

The main purpose of updating the strategy was to provide a framework for policy and programme actions that reflect the constantly evolving needs of women it serves, and to keep pace with the changing conditions and circumstances at international, regional and national levels. This was based on the lessons learned echoed in the evaluation of progress made on the national strategy for Jordanian women during the period 1993-1999.

Simultaneously, the updating initiative focused on uniting all stakeholders in a common vision on which all are compelled to act if they are to meet the needs of women in Jordan, specially that there has been recently a considerable increase in the number and range of Governmental, Non-Governmental, civil society and grassroots organizations involved in responding to the multiple challenges presented by gender inequalities, and the proliferation of these entities and programmes has, at times, occurred at the expense of accountability and quality programming, and has led to fragmentation of the their 'voice' in advancing women situation.

Within the above mentioned framework, the product of a nation-wide consensus focused on the "**Unfinished Business**" in five strategic priorities emphasized and chosen to be focused on by JNCW, over a five-year period:

1. Legislation
2. Economic empowerment
3. Women Participation in public life
4. Communication and media
5. Human security and social protection which include ten sub- areas: education, health, violence, elderly Women, poverty, female headed households, People with special needs, Food Security and Environment.

The updated strategy has been forged through a comprehensive and participatory consultative process. The invigorated draft of the strategy was created and each of the challenges of the key areas were revisited. The consultative process comprised a three-pronged strategy:

- collection of studies and surveys related to the suggested key thematic areas of the strategy,
- presentation of the outputs in a series of workshops held in the north, middle and in the south of the Kingdom, to a number of representatives of government and nongovernmental organizations and to specialists and concerned persons for discussion and including their recommendations in the formulation of the first draft of the strategy,
- distributing the first draft to a large number of institutions and individuals and including their comments and suggestions in the strategy.