

**Mandate of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice**

REFERENCE: OL  
ARE 6/2014:

14 November 2014

Excellency,

I have the honour to address you in my capacity as Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 23/7.

The Working Group is following up on the information on the United Arab Emirates, published by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in its 2014 annual note regarding **gender equality in legal provisions in nationality laws**. According to this information, women in the United Arab Emirates can only confer their nationality to their children if the father is either unknown, stateless, his nationality is not known or the filiation to the father has not been established.

In this regard, the Working Group wishes to recall CEDAW's Concluding Observations on the United Arab Emirates (CEDAW/C/ARE/CO/1), in which the CEDAW Committee expressed concern that, to date, women of the United Arab Emirates continue to be denied nationality and citizenship rights that are equal to those guaranteed to men. The Committee urged the State party to take all necessary steps to expedite the adoption of the amendment of the Nationality and Passports Law to grant women equal rights with regard to conferral of nationality and withdraw its reservation to article 9 of CEDAW.

The Working Group would also like to recall the recommendations made in the context of the Universal Periodic Review of United Arab Emirates, which are under consideration or are supported by the United Arab Emirates which called on the State to continue its efforts to promote gender equality and eliminate discrimination against women and girls, pay attention to promoting gender equality and eliminating discrimination against women and strengthen protective measures and legal rights for women and children (see recommendations 128.74, 128.88. & 128.95. in A/HRC/23/13).

The Working Group would like to draw to your Excellency's Government's attention the existence of good practices by States in your region, which, in recent years,

have repealed legislative provisions that discriminate against women in the matter of nationality.

In order to clarify the measures being taken by the government to repeal the discriminatory legislative provisions on nationality, the Working Group would be grateful if you could address the following matters:

1. Please provide any additional information on the current status of the relevant legislation with regard to the right of women to pass their nationality to the children on an equal footing with men;

2. Please provide information on any measures that your Excellency's Government has taken or intend to take in order to implement the recommendations by UN human rights mechanisms, referred to above, and to bring its legislation into compliance with international human rights law.

The Working Group would appreciate a response within 60 days and remains available for any type of technical advice on legislative reform that your Excellency's Government may require.

This communication and your Excellency's Government's response will be made available in a report to be presented to the Human Rights Council for its consideration.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Frances Raday  
Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the issue of  
discrimination against women in law and in practice