

UN Women Iraq: Gender capacity building training workshop for senior level government officials in the Kurdistan region of Iraq

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4th December 2016 Erbil, Iraq – As part of 16 days of Activism, UN Women and the High Council of Women Affairs, the key gender machinery for the Kurdistan region, co-hosted the Gender Capacity building training workshop for government officials in the Kurdistan region of Iraq. This two day training workshop held on November 30th and December 1st, aimed to build the capacity of decision makers at directorate and ministry levels so that they are knowledgeable and are skilled supporters of gender equality and gender mainstreaming in their institutions. This activity is also part of the many activities for UN Women's Women, Peace, and Security program which aims to protect and support Iraqi women's role in peace-building and reconciliation processes, particularly through coalition building amongst women's civil society organizations on implementation of the Iraq National Action Plan (INAP) for UNSCR 1325. Iraq is the first country in the Middle East to commit to and endorse the National Action Plan for women's political participation. Thirty senior level government officials participated in the workshop from different line ministries including 1 Governor, 6 mayors (2 of whom are female mayors), Judges and Ministers.

"We believe in and work for a world where women and girls can flourish and prosper peacefully alongside men and boys, sharing in and benefitting from societies that value their skills and accept their leadership" said, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women in her speech entitled "The price of no change is unacceptable" on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

The objectives of the training workshop were to build the capacity of government officials in strengthening gender mainstreaming in their respective institutions and contributing towards INAP implementation. The key aims included:

- i. Strengthen government capacity in technical knowledge and expertise in gender mainstreaming;
- ii. Promote stronger coordination and communication among partners to encourage streamlined implementation of programs including INAP.
- iii. Promote robust workable plans within their institutions for women empowerment especially in relation to women participation in the decision making process.

"We are pleased to have ongoing collaborations with the High Council of Women Affairs to support this important workshop for high level officials. The commitment of senior officials to gender mainstreaming was evident", said, Dr. Paulina Chiwangu, Deputy Country Representative for UN Women Iraq.

At the end of the workshop officials received resources in the form of a matrix tool that can be adapted to their institutional context to evaluate gender mainstreaming as part of a

<http://reliefweb.int/report/iraq/un-women-iraq-gender-capacity-building-training-workshop-senior-level-government>

year-long process. Officials were also honoured with a certificate at the end of the workshop.

“Gender mainstreaming ensures that the needs of males and females are equally attended to and not an afterthought”, said, Dr. Sally El Mahdy, UN Women Political Participation Advisor and Facilitator for the workshop.

UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide.

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