



## **Promoting the participation of women and youth at decision making levels within the Palestinian political system, especially within the PLO**

### **Introduction:**

Women and youth constitute the largest portion of the Palestinian society. Insufficient participation and inclusion in leadership and decision-making positions severely impacts the ability to mobilize Palestinian resources, maximize efficiency and effectiveness of their utilization to their utmost efficiency and effectiveness, limits development opportunities and the prospect to influence international politics. The underrepresentation of Palestinian youth and women on the political and economic levels correlates with their minimal impact in actively participating in Palestinian political and economic development efforts. Women are currently underrepresented, particularly in leadership positions in the public and private sectors, while youth and women unemployment is disproportionately high.

In general, the role of civil society in advancing policy reforms towards women and youth issues has been marginal. Hence, MIFTAH's strategy is aligned towards supporting youth and women's transformative leadership, creating a solid platform for lobbying at the policy formulation level and advocating for adoption of youth and gender responsive policies. There is an opportunity to consolidate public, private and civil society efforts and align them with national policy development priority to maximize ability of women and young people to fully participate in and access opportunities for self-advancement in a burgeoning economy and progressive society.

Through this project, MIFTAH seeks to advocate on enhancing policy formulation for ensuring higher representation of women and youth at different decision making levels, within the Palestinian political system, especially within the PLO.



### **Overall Goal:**

To formulate the public policies to make sure that women and youth leaders are represented at decision making level within the Palestinian political system, specifically PLO.

### **The Specific Objectives:**

- To Activate the national efforts towards engage the woman and youth leaders in decision-making positions within the PLO.
- To expand the dialogue between the national political actors and the youth leaders to support women political participation and identify the gaps within the political order, as well as identify the effective tools in order to narrowing these gaps.

### **The main activities:**

- Establish the steering committee, which includes the representation of women in political factions and youth leaders.
- Conduct a research study in order to examine the policy gaps that hinder the political participation of women and youth leaders in decision-making positions and public spheres.
- Continuous consultation meeting with the steering committee, and related authorities to determine the specific gaps within the political system that hinder the participation of women and youth at decision-making levels.
- Prepare position paper.
- Address and inform the public through a steering committee's statement, which aims at putting the pressure on decision-makers to reform the public policies, in order to make sure that women and youth's voices are heard.