



Palestinian Urban Forum PUFII- Gender Equality in Urban Development

Introduction:

The importance of this event is manifested in giving women the means to become a unique source of knowledge and as agents for urban transformation and sustainable development. This comes as a response to the historic negligence of women's role and contribution in the construction and transformation of our cities and towns. Women have been traditionally excluded from decisions regarding urban development and planning as a result of men's dominance in this field.

The significance of women's participation in this field is very valuable since it helps identify the diversity and different needs of all components of a community and provide a broader and more inclusive vision. Moreover, this encourages women to enjoy the same opportunities as men in all aspects of life which is reflected in distribution of services and resource allocation.

This side event organized by the "Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy" (MIFTAH) focuses on gender mainstreaming in urban planning in Palestine and aims to reinforce sustainable development in line with SDGs 5 (Gender Equality) and 11 (Sustainable cities and communities). Moreover, the participation in this event builds on several interventions that MIFTAH continues to carry out to promote women's effective participation in local decision-making and on MIFTAH's participation in the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development – UN Habitat III, 2016, held in Quito, Ecuador, where MIFTAH participated in a side event addressing "Gender Equality in Urbanization in Fragile Contexts".

The event focused on gearing women council members towards utilizing their leadership skills and roles to overcome their exclusion from active engagement in urban development activities. MIFTAH has worked with a group of active women council members on one selected municipality where the group of women council members worked with an architect to develop a model of an urban plan that shows the effects of women influence on the development of urban plans. Gender-sensitive urban plans consider the needs of persons who are often



overlooked. Thus gender, age and group-specific interests and effects are translated into master plans.

Over all goals

- To encourage women to enjoy the same opportunities in all aspects of life and to ensure the presence of a gender perspective in decision- making of all kind and that women's interests are given the same consideration as men's in terms of rights and allocation of resources.

- The specific objective:

The objective of this assignment is to provide support to local government units and MoLG in presenting the Gender Equality in Urban Development and present the Effect of Women's Influence in Leading Master Urban Plans Development in the side events during the second Palestinian urban forum PUFII held in Birzeit University during October 2016.