



# **State of Palestine**

Ministry of Women Affairs

## **National Report on Beijing + 25 Accomplishments, Challenges and Procedures**

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**State of Palestine  
April 2019**

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## **Introduction:**

It is a pleasure for the State of Palestine to prepare a special report on the status of Palestinian women in the occupied Palestinian Territories since 5 June 1967, which includes West Bank, including East Jerusalem, as well as Gaza Strip. The Beijing +25 report is one of the reports that are issued by the United Nations (UN) to monitoring promotion of gender equality all over the world. The report basically depends on Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action held in 1995 and attended by a wide spectrum of women leaders and movement from all over the world. The Declaration adopted a set of measures to be implemented by Government institutions, civil society institutions and international organizations to bridge gender gap.

The report focuses mainly on the measures taken by State of Palestine towards gender equality. These measures are related to policies, legislation, laws, decisions, capacity building, awareness-raising, education and service delivery. The report highlights the major achievements and obstacles, as well as the challenges relating to those measures which have achieved, or hindered from achieving, the promotion of gender equality.

The Beijing report is published every five years at the request of the United Nations Secretary-General. The report of the Secretary-General is based mainly on inviting all international parties and organizations such as UN Women and the Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA) to provide support to all states to prepare their reports and submit them to competent authorities.

## **Beijing + 25 Report Preparation Methodology:**

As Palestine is a member state of Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA), it was invited for a consultative meeting held in January 2019 and represented by Ministry of Women Affairs (MWA) to learn about the international harmonized methodology for report writing, and the comments on previous reports to avoid them. When became familiar with the methodology, MWA announced beginning of work on the Beijing report by circulating official memoranda from Minister to all ministries and civil society organizations, especially women institutions, to obtain all the procedural information implemented in during the five-year period (2014-2018), and which contributed to promotion of gender equality. Commitment was made to adhere to the harmonized form and guidelines developed by the United Nations in New York.

Since Beijing report is primarily a national report that seeks to identify all measures from all parties, a meeting was held with UN Women (as the agency that works on local and global women's issues within the UN system) and the General Federation of Palestinian Women (as the agency in the Palestinian Liberation Organization and Office of Prime Minister in charge of women issues and umbrella for women institutions locally and globally). An agreement was reached on the importance of coordinating efforts to produce a harmonized national report that reflects State of Palestine. Since all information and procedures have been obtained from Government institutions and civil society organizations, an extensive national workshop was held with representatives of these entities to discuss the draft report in its final form to confirm what has been documented.

The information contained in this report is formally obtained from Government institutions and civil society organizations and, therefore, reflects the efforts of the institutions towards promoting gender equality. All the figures provided stated are documented by Ministry of Women's Affairs

and compared with official reports and links approved by ministers and heads of institutions. The huge information contained in the report has been organized and classified according to themes and titles of international report methodology to facilitate comparison between countries firstly, facilitate writing of the final international report secondly, and to ensure what has been achieved by Palestine in the regional and international report.

### **Political context of Palestinian society**

The preparation of the Beijing +25 report comes in the wake of serious political and economic repercussions that afflict the Palestinian people, threaten the future of their State, their civilizational and struggle history, and strangling the Palestinian people in separate and isolated cantons and slums. Achieving sustainable development and implementing the Beijing Platform for Action in the Palestinian reality constitutes a major challenge. The continuation of the Israeli occupation, and its repressive policies which violate the human rights of the Palestinians. This requires commitment of the parties to work to end the Israeli occupation, implement the resolutions of international legitimacy to establish a Palestinian State with Jerusalem as its capital, the right of refugees to return, and to contribute to empowering the Palestinian community with its Governmental and non-Governmental institutions to achieve sustainable development agenda.

The Israeli occupying power didn't keep its obligations and has not adhered to implement what it agreed upon with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). It has not complied with the rules of international law, and continued its systematic colonial policies of ethnic cleansing, racial segregation, and collective punishment, including confiscation and theft of land and resources, house demolitions and forced displacement, in order to expand the settlements, construction of racial segregation wall, erection of military barriers, terror and violence by settlers against innocent civilian people, especially women, with the absolute protection and immunity of the Israeli occupation forces, the attack on Christian and Islamic shrines, in addition to extra-judicial killings, arrest, retention of dead bodies, illegal continuous blockade and military aggression in Gaza Strip.

The policies of reunification and the withdrawal of Jerusalem identity cards where the Jerusalemites lose their right to start a family, maintain family, social and cultural ties, deprive them and their children of health and social insurance, and loss of freedom of movement and lack of security. Fifty Six Palestinian women are still held in Israeli jails, strip-searched, subject to humiliation between detention centres and prisons, denied health care and basic human needs. In addition to the serious escalation against the rights of prisoners in Israeli jails and the continued attacks against them, especially in the Ofer and Rimon detention centres.

Israel is still stifling Gaza Strip with blockade by air, land and sea. Unarmed children face live ammunition and rockets. Some dozens of the peaceful children have their legs cut off because of being shot by internationally-banned Israeli bullets. In Gaza, about two thirds of the population suffers from lack of water, and there is insufficient electricity for sewage treatment stations. The coastal aquifer, which supplies most of its water to Gaza, is subject to over-pumping, resulting in pollution by sea water and untreated sewage. Currently, 97% of the water withdrawn from the reservoir is unsafe for drinking, and only 10% of Gazans have access to safe drinking water.

Israel power still occupies 65 per cent of the West Bank, which is populated by the majority of the Palestinian population, and besieges the rest of the territories, controls water, electricity and all

components of life. For example, it does not allow establishing of power plants in all Palestinian Territories. It controls any type of energy intended to be imported to improve infrastructure networks such as water and energy. While an average Palestinian consumes around 70 litres per day and, in some areas such as Jenin, up to 20 litres a day (which is less than the global average set by the World Health Organization which is 120 litres per day), the average consumption of a settler in Israeli settlements in the West Bank is 369 litres per day. In addition, 49% only of Palestinians are connected to sewage system, most of them living in cities, while sewage networks cover only 7% in rural areas. Of the 156 Bedouin communities, 118 still live without electricity or water, as denied by the Israeli occupation. Israel also prevents us from importing from any country to compensate deficit in energy. Palestinians are treated by Israelis as consumers in favour of the Israeli economy, which increase energy costs to high levels. Official reports indicate that a Palestinian family spends 10% of its income on energy compared to 2% in neighbouring countries (such as Jordan and Lebanon). The most vulnerable segments that suffer by the Israeli policy are the disadvantaged households who need more protection and care.

The geographical division imposed on Palestinian people in the 1967 territories also affected the rights of refugees who were forced to leave during the calamity (*Nakba*) of 1948 and the setback (*Naksa*) in 1967. Statistical data show that Palestinian refugees in the State form 42% of the total population living in Palestine at the end of 2016. The number of refugees registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in Near East (UNRWA) was approximately 5.59 million as at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015. Around 29% of the Palestinian refugees live in 58 camps; in 10 camps in Jordan, 9 in Syria, 12 in Lebanon, 19 in the West Bank and 8 in Gaza Strip.

The reporting period this report (2014-2019) witnessed dramatic developments on the political and field fronts. In 2014, Israel launched a devastating war on Gaza Strip that lasted for 51 days, which outcome was 2,147 martyrs, of whom were 530 children and 302 women; while 13,217 Palestinians have become homeless.

In 2017, Israeli violations of human rights in Palestine have escalated including the right to life, retention of dead bodies of martyrs, field executions, arbitrary arrests, targeting of children and women, detention on basis of freedom of expression. In 2016 the number of attacks on journalists and media freedoms have increased by 51%, and the 300 Palestinians have been arrested, majority of them from Jerusalem on basis of their profession as journalists or media staff. Several Israeli racist bills that violate the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) have been imposed. These include “a bill to kill perpetrators of operations” which legitimize killing, and a “bill to deduct entitlements of prisoners and families of martyrs and wounded from the tax and dues collected by the occupying state and transferred in favour of State of Palestine”. The bills have been passed in their first instance reading. In addition, there are 3 laws and 18 bills that are related to settlement including: "Law of Adjustment of Settlement Construction Judea and Samaria" and the law "Extension of the validity of Emergency Regulations", in addition to a Bill on "Preserving Jerusalem as a Jewish and democratic capital."

The year 2018 also witnessed serious developments in terms of the USA decision to regard Jerusalem as the capital of the Occupation State, and the opening of the American Embassy in Jerusalem. The decision was also made to cancel the US consulate in Jerusalem as a special department for Palestinians attached to the Embassy. The US also cut its aid to the Palestinian hospitals operating in the city of Jerusalem. The Israeli escalation also was aimed at the UNRWA, with encouragement from the USA, to terminate its operations. This year has been characterized by systematic policies by the occupation power against our prisoners as an attack to their dignity, in addition to the growing number of attacks on the Al-Aqsa Mosque, infiltration of the Israeli occupation and confiscation of land in the West Bank, where the total lots confiscated by the occupation in West Bank and Jerusalem was 42%, in addition to demolition of houses and approval by the occupation of plans to build 5820 new settlement units in the city, in addition to the systematic arrests campaign in Governorate of Jerusalem. In an unprecedented escalation move, offensive in the second half of 2018 focused on the leadership of the Palestinian people, where the head of State, Mahmud Abbas (Abu Mazen) was directly targeted. This escalation was intensified by the growing pace of Israeli daily incursions to the Palestinian National Authority territories which was compounded with a policy of assassinating, arresting, torturing and abusing the resistance figures, and concentrate in the policy of house demolitions disregarding the International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law.

In 2019 force was used to target the male and female demonstrators in return marches in Gaza Strip where 4 women were killed, 755 women wounded and 291 disabled, except for hundreds of martyrs and wounded children and young males. On 29-1-2019, the Israeli Prime Minister announced end of Temporary International Presence in Hebron to increase the crimes of the occupation and its settlers. The termination of mission mandate gives the green light to the settlers to carry out their terrorist attacks against defenceless civilians.

In 2015 and 2019, Israel again retained Palestinian tax revenues, which account for 75% of total revenues. The resulting lack of liquidity has led to a slowdown in economic activities, which will affect the growth of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The ongoing Israeli violations and attacks constitute a real impediment to progress towards promoting gender equality. They not only impede progress, but prevent and destroy any progress for keeping the Palestinian people economically and politically under the occupation power.



Therefore, it is imperative that the efforts of the international community work together to end the occupation so that State of Palestine can achieve development, which will not be achieved by the continued existence of occupation in Palestine.

### **Contents of the Report:**

The report is composed of four main Sections. Section 1 discusses priorities and achievements, and Section 2 discusses the progress made through the 12 decisive areas of Beijing, through six Dimensions. The First Dimension, titled “Comprehensive Development, Common Prosperity and Appropriate Action”, discusses the Beijing areas of women and poverty, women and economy, women human rights and girl child. The Second Dimension titled “Poverty Eradication, Social Protection and Social Services, discusses the Beijing areas related to women and poverty, women education and training, women and health and women human rights and girl child. The Third Dimension, titled “Freedom from Violence, Stigmatization and Stereotypes”, discusses the Beijing areas of violence against women, women human rights, women and mass media, girl child. The Third Dimension, titled “Participation, Accountability and Institutions Observing Gender Equality, discusses the Beijing areas related to women in power and decision-making, institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, women human rights, women in media field, female child. The Fifth Dimension, titled "Peaceful Societies where Nobody is Marginalized", discusses the Beijing areas related to women and armed conflict, women human rights and female child). The Sixth Dimension, titled “Environment Preservation, Protection and Reform”, discusses Beijing areas related to women human rights, women and the environment and female child. Section 3 discusses national machineries for women concerned with gender equality. Section 4 discusses data and statistics and their relationship with the progress made towards the promotion of gender equality.

## **Section 1: Priorities, Achievements, Challenges and Obstacles**

This Section includes the achievements made at the national level in general and is related to both the lives of men and women, as well as the national priorities for the past five years, and the subsequent one, explaining all obstacles and challenges facing State of Palestine, including Israeli violations and attacks, and which hinder the advancement of women in Palestine.

### **1. Achievements:**

Palestine has made a set of achievements towards gender equality and the empowerment of all women, girls and vulnerable groups. The achievements realized by the State in this regard relate to laws, legislations, policies, adoption of various regulations and the signing of international treaties and conventions. The details are as follows:

#### **First: At level of laws and legislations related to the promotion of gender equality (issuance of 36 laws):**

State of Palestine endeavours to achieve equality through the Legislative Committee of the Council of Ministers (in absence of the Legislative Council). During the past five years, the Legislative Committee has completed several laws that protect the rights of women. These laws were promulgated by the Head of State on recommendations from Council of Ministers.

President Mahmud Abbas (Abu Mazen), on a recommendation from the Council of Ministers, promulgated 36 gender-related decrees during period 2014-2018. In 2014, 5 decrees were promulgated by law on penalties and corruption. The decrees, in accordance with Law No. (1) for the year 2014, amend the text of Article (98) of the Criminal Code No. (16) for the year 1960 and its amendments, to read as follows: "The perpetrator of the crime shall benefit from the excuse mitigating on the premise that the crime is carried out a revolution of anger caused by unjustifiable and serious work committed by the defendant. The perpetrator of the crime shall not benefit from this mitigating excuse if the act is committed against a female for reasons of honour." Article 99 of Criminal Code No. (16) for the year 1960 is amended with regard to criminal offences (Article 168) of 1960. In March 2018, Article 308 was cancelled on the suspension of prosecution and the execution of the sentence in case a marriage contract was concluded between the offender and the victim when committing a sexual offense listed in Articles 292-307 of the Criminal Code in force in the West Bank, as stipulated in Criminal Code No. (16) of 1960.

In addition, a court has been established to deal with corruption crimes in accordance with Decree Law No. (13) of 2014, which provides for the amendment of paragraph (1) of Article (16) of the amended anti-corruption law, as follows: "Of the President of the Commission shall form a court competent to hear cases of corruption crimes, wherever they occur, and shall be presided over by a judge of the rank of head of a court of first instance or a judge appointed by a decision of the Supreme Judicial Council or a presiding judge of the Court of Appeal." In 2015, five decisions were passed on gender-related laws concerning maintenance fund, and funds for orphans, drugs and psychotropic substances. Under Decree Law No. (7) 2015, an institution was established to manage and develop orphan funds.

In the 2016, 8 decrees were promulgated on laws relating to the protection of juveniles, the Municipal Development and Lending Fund (MDLF), local bodies and establishment of the

Palestinian National Institute of Public Health (PNIPH), and Palestinian Social Security Corporation (PSSC).

In 2017, 10 decrees were promulgated on laws relating to education, regulating the transfer and transplantation of human organs and early retirement of employees. In 2018, 10 decisions were promulgated on laws relating to agriculture, physical cultural heritage, public health and safety, general retirement and insurance.

The adoption of these laws has a crucial impact on empowering Palestinian women and the promoting gender equality. The elimination of discriminatory provisions in the Criminal Code will limit crimes of killing and rape of women and will contribute to the retribution of perpetrators; in addition to that it has a clear impact on enhancing participation and equality chances in all fields.

**Second: At level of the regulations on promotion of gender equality (promulgation of 12 regulations):**

Twelve gender-related regulations were approved by the Council of Ministers for the period 2014-2018. In 2014, a law has been passed exempting released prisoners from payment of fees of public schools, university education, and health insurance and training courses. In 2017, two regulations were issued; the first was for the National Child Council and the other for the financial system of the Palestinian Pension Authority. In 2018, 7 regulations were issued on the system of the Achievement and Excellence Fund for Education Support, the financial system for the steadfastness of Jerusalemites, the system of fees of the Cooperative Labour Authority and the system of financing and lending of the Palestinian Foundation Agricultural additional, the system of agricultural nurseries, and the system of agricultural fertilizers, and the system of heads and members of local bodies, and the system of leave without pay for the purposes of retirement. These regulations will affect the lives of both women and men in terms of clarifying the procedures in writing, which will be able to reduce the appearance of the glass ceiling, and will give women greater opportunity to learn about all procedures in the regulations, and will contribute to access to resources more.

**Third: At level of the Council of Ministers, decrees to promote gender equality (17 decrees):**

The Council of Ministers during 2015-2018 promulgated 17 decrees that are related to gender in economic and social spheres. In 2015, the Council also promulgated 4 decrees on ratification of the national framework to implement the UN Security Council Resolution 1325, establish a steering committee for women empowerment centres "*Tuawsul*" that operate in the governorates, and pay annual rental charges to many women institutions.

In 2016, the Council of Ministers promulgated 2 decrees on a financial grant to an institution working in field of women, and to develop work of the National Committee on Violence against Women to effectively implement the Anti-Violence Strategic Plan.

In the year 2017, the Council promulgated 4 decrees related to payment of the monthly rental charge for several women organizations that operate in Palestinian Territories. Another decree was promulgated by the Council to provide funds to institutions in change of people with disabilities. The third decree was promulgated approving for some institutions to obtain external funding and to establish a permanent committee to monitor anti-women violence cases.

In year 2018, the Council of Minister promulgated 9 decrees for allocation of financial aid to 21 women charity foundations and institutions in West Bank and Gaza Strip, and another decree to observe the 8<sup>th</sup> of March as an official holiday. Another decree was issued to allocate financial aid to a women institution, and another decree to allocate and land to establish Palestine Women Empowerment Centre (*Turath*). Another decree was issued on the right of the mother to apply for a passport, open bank accounts for her minor children, and the right of a mother to shift her son from a school to another. Another decree was issued to establish a technical committee to review legislations that regulate personal and civic status. Another decree was promulgated on a memorandum of understanding and cooperation with Turkey in field of women, and another decree to refer a bill on family protection against violence to the President for approval and issuance according to the rules. Another decree was issued to provide financial aid amounting to 150,000 Euro to women protection centres in Nablus and Jericho.

At level of ministers' decrees to promote gender equality, the Health Minister in 2017 promulgated a decree to exempt "battered" women from payment of fees for medical reports from Government hospitals. A decree was promulgated on 27 March 2017 by Head of the Land Authority to accept testimony of women by the Authority in land sale procedures and transactions.

#### **Fourth: At level of the Government committees established in response to gender issues (13 committees) in the period 2014-2018**

In all, 253 Government committees have been established during this period which was served by 60 secretarial staff (46.5% are women) from General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers for follow-up work. The gender-sensitive committees are 13 (5% of total committees), and 34 committees (13.5% of total committees) are headed by women. The gender-sensitive committees that were established are as follows:

1. Permanent Ministerial Social Committee
2. Technical Committee of the Permanent Ministerial Social Committee
3. Committee on Alignment of Legislations in Use in Palestine with International Treaties and Covenants.
4. Committee to study claims of persons with disabilities on their health rights
5. Committee of Beit Al-Raja Association for the Blind - Bethlehem
6. Legal Committee to prepare draft bill on the protection of the family from violence
7. Ministerial Committee to study the strategic plan to address poverty and unemployment in Palestine
8. Standing Committee for Monitoring and Follow-up of Violence against Women
9. Special Committee for the preparation of a national programme for autistic patients and students with special needs
10. Steering Committee of a Unified Portal for Social Assistance

11. National team to lead and coordinate national efforts to implement the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Plan
12. Steering Committee of Women Empowerment Centres "Tawasul"
13. National Committee on Population

**Fifth: Accession to international conventions, where Palestine, through Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has acceded to many conventions (19 conventions and protocols) related to gender and significantly promoting gender equality. The conventions are as follows:**

(1) Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Supplementary Protocol; (2) Convention on the Political Rights of Women; (3) the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; (4) the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; (5); Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; (6) Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC); (7) Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; (8) Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT); (9) United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, (10) International Convention for the Suppression of the White Slave Traffic; (11) the International Convention against the Traffic in Women and Children; (12) Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (CRC-OPAC); (13) Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; (14) Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery; (15) Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty; (16) Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture for 2002; (17) On 15 November 2018, President Mahmud Abbas signed instruments of accession to the CEDAW Optional Supplementary Protocol; (18) Convention on the Nationality of Married Women; (19) Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates shall continuously take appropriate measures to complete the procedures for accession to these Conventions.

**Sixth: Institutionalization of gender issues. One of the most prominent achievements in this regard:**

A methodology to promote implementation of a cross-sectoral strategy has been developed for gender equality and empowerment of women. Supported by the ESCWA, the methodology aims to study the economic cost of anti-women violence and to complete establishment and strengthening of gender units. The job description for the work of the units has been developed by the General Personnel Council (GPC). Three new units have established in the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Jerusalem Affairs and the Radio and Television Corporation. A technical team from Ministry of Women Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Council of Ministers has been established to manage the response of the State budget to gender issues.

The work of the Ministry of Women Affairs has also been reinforced by a follow-up and evaluation system to enhance accountability in implementation of the Cross-Sectoral Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (2017-2022), in addition to approval of Ministry of Women's Affairs to create dedicated gender groups in the forum of international assistance extended to the Palestinian people (known as "Iax"). Gender has also been integrated into national strategies through development of 12 action plans during the planning phase of the current strategy to support the development and implementation of gender-sensitive sectoral strategies and empowerment of women.

In 2017, Ministry of Women Affairs established a national observatory to monitor anti-women violence cases. The observatory consists of relevant Government and civil society institutions to institutionalize the economic cost of anti-women violence cases. The Ministry has also institutionalized and developed a National Referral System and a network by the name of "*Our Network for Promotion of Equality*". Furthermore, the Ministry has also institutionalized and improved the national referral system as well as the media network under theme "*Our network to enhance equality*". The Ministry also set up a national team to lead the national strategy to enhance gender equality (2017-2022), and national technical team to lead the fifth goal of the Sustainable Development Goals, with support of the UN Women and with joint leadership of the team. This comes in line with the National Structure to implement the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda which is composed of 12 national working groups to lead implementation and follow-up of various development goals including the working group for the fifth goal on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

## **2. Challenges:**

**As for the challenges and constraints faced by institutions working gender equality promotion, they can be detailed as follows:**

The decline in support for the Palestinian cause has slowed down implementation of the plan due to the difficult political circumstances that accompanied the declaration by the United States of Jerusalem as the capital of the occupation state, closure of the PLO Office in Washington and the accompanying difficult situations linked to this decision which have impact on the entire official business Work. Women are not equally represented as men, where men still dominate most of the decision making. Women representation in these posts is little as in the reconciliation committees or parties. The Israeli military occupation is behind depriving Palestinian women for enjoying their rights. The occupation power practices, such as checkpoints, curfews, closure of the crossings and the separation wall, have a negative impact on the rights and dignity of Palestinian women, especially for access to health care and maternity facilities. The occupation also prohibits women's freedom of movement and their right to education and employment. These challenges are as follows:

### **First: At the political level**

1. The Israeli occupation is a major player in impeding the progress of women status in all directions and by all means.

2. The inactivity of the Legislative Council for more than 11 years has directly affected adoption of laws that protect gender equality and women as well, in addition to lack of accountability on the side of the Palestinian Government.
3. Split is one of the main obstacles to harmonize legislations in West Bank and Gaza Strip.
4. Factions of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) have not undertaken adequate legal and procedural measures to change in favour of women political participation, especially their access to decision-making posts.

**Secondly: At the level of enactment and amendment of laws responsive to gender issues**

The legislation sources in place in West Bank and Gaza Strip are diverse. They range from Jordanian, Ottoman, English and Israeli military and Palestinian legislations where there is need for harmonization to suit specificity of the Palestinian society on the one hand and in line with national obligations of State of Palestine that should comply with its international obligations on the other hand, in addition to respond to the daily challenges of the Palestinian people. There is still a hurdle to adopt laws on equality, particularly the Criminal Code, where the 1960 Jordanian Criminal Code is still in force in the West Bank and contains considerable discrimination, as is the case with the Personal Status Law and non-adoption of law of protection of family against violence.

**Thirdly: At the cultural level, custom and traditions that limit the progress of bridging gender gaps**

1. Discriminatory culture that detracts from women rights and can negatively affect the participation of women in civil and political life.
2. Stereotypes about the role of women in society that promote use of violence against women.
3. Male-dominated discourse and the growing conservative discourse in the Palestinian society in general.
4. Prevailing tribal custom impedes official intervention in addressing women issues.
5. Lack by community of awareness of women issues in general and gender issues, in particular.

**Fourth: At the physical level and funding for implementation of gender equality interventions:**

The poor funding allocated to Palestine in addition to the persecution of Palestinian women's institutions by the Zionist Observatory, which is constantly pressing donors to withdraw their support for the Palestinian human rights issues, in general and rights of women, in particular.

**Fifth: At the media level, responding to issues of gender equality:**

1. Media policies are too weak to change the stereotypical image of women and create a counter public media supportive of women issues.
2. Although women hold significant posts in the field of media, as most of the graduates of media colleges are female (constitute 5.4% of graduates in field of social sciences and

journalism in the Palestinian higher education institutions for the academic year 2016/2017) who are active players in most of broadcasting and television stations, but the ratio of decision-making posts in media institutions is still low.

3. The Palestinian mass media have not yet attained the required balance in the participation of women in the various programmes, despite the growing number of women in radio, television programmes, in addition to printed and electronic media. Women involvement as analysts in the political and economic fields remains low.
4. In the absence of a regulating law of electronic media, it is difficult to control publishing of images that enhance the stereotypes of the Palestinian women.
5. The Palestinian mass media continues to be active locally rather than on international level, which necessitates regional and international media alliances to advocate Palestinian women issues and the continuous violations that they are subject to by the Israeli occupying power.

**Sixth: At the level of accession to international conventions and treaties related to issues of gender equality:**

1. The newness of State of Palestine's contractual obligations experience before human rights treaty bodies in terms of preparation and discussing of the reports with these bodies.
2. The challenge that faces our performance in relation to members of the Panel of Experts and the specialized international teams, and their dealing with the national mechanism only as a mechanism to prepare periodic reports to the contractual committees only, and not considering as a national mechanism to follow up implementation of human rights conventions in Palestine. The objective of this Mechanism is to promote the status of human rights in Palestine and to nationalize human rights concepts in all institutions in the State.
3. The frequent turnover of members of the Panel of Experts and specialized teams, which often hinders work progress.

**1. Five top priorities for the advancement of women and girls in Palestinian society for the past five years:**

State of Palestine has been keen on working on series of priorities over the past five years to promote gender equality through involving all parties of the feminist movement. Supported by Ministry of Women Affairs, and involving all official, national and international institutions, the Council of Ministers in 2014 endorsed national priorities to promote gender equality as one of components of the Palestinian Development Plan (2014-2016), where priorities are used through specific strategies to contribute to achieve the National Development Policies Agenda for State of Palestine by the end of 2016. The Agenda is a complementary to the 2011-2013 Cross-sectoral National Gender Equality Strategy. In 2016, the Ministry of Women worked closely and exclusively with all parties concerned and through broad participation of civil society organizations and Government institutions to develop the existing 2017-2022 strategy to promote gender equality, which was approved by the Council of Ministers by 2017.

State of Palestine is looking forward, through the National Priorities for Gender Equality, to achieve harmonious community vision to reach a "*Palestinian society where men, women, girls*



*and boys enjoy equal citizenship rights, equal opportunities in the public and private sectors".* This vision spawns series of measurable national priorities related to protection, empowerment and institutionalization. The priorities in general aim at reaching a common framework for all institutions concerned to promote gender equality, justice and women empowerment. The five national priorities are as follows:

**Priority 1: to increase women's participation in economic life through the following policies:**

1. Guarantee decent jobs for working women in the public, private and national sectors, in addition to international institutions operating in Palestine.
2. Endeavour to secure jobs for women.
3. Increase a competitive capacity for women and women associations at national, regional and global levels.

These policies focus on ensuring enforcement of the legislations that are related to labour and civil service in all labour sectors, particularly in the private sector, in addition to amending legislations to guarantee protection of rights of women workers in all fields and to keep women workers aware of their rights, as there are formal and information mechanisms. The formal mechanisms are the legal framework which includes the legislations such as: (1) the Basic Law, the Criminal Code, Labour, Civil Service, Investment, Land and Water Settlement, and relevant legislations; (2) the official executive framework which is the Ministry of Social Development which endeavours to integrate disadvantaged women in relief and development programmes of the Ministry.

The other trends related focus on increasing the participation of women in the labour market through vocational and scientific training and by creating a community culture supportive to the work of women and girls in various sectors and focus on agriculture, communications and communication technology, as well as providing financial and material resources to establish small enterprises that employ women in work environment that suits their social and economic status. This also includes review of the regulatory policies of the Palestinian economy and introduction of amendments in a manner that boosts the economic role of the Palestinian women as an active contributor to the national economy and the rights of women to underscore their economic role, improve their income, control resources and contribute to the economy of households. In addition, there are the proposed policy interventions about the promotion and protection of the role of women concentrate in the agricultural sector and the enhancement of women participation in the communication and information technology (ICT) sector.

**Second priority: Reduce violence against women in all forms through the following policies:**

1. Guarantee access of women to justice.
2. Develop social services for battered women as well as those more vulnerable to marginalization.
3. Expose Israeli violations that batter women (areas C, Jerusalem, residence, prisoners, and prisoners' families).
4. Promote anti-violence community culture.

Those policies focus on several themes related to monitoring the enforcement of courts' rulings and help women to access to the prosecution and judiciary through legal representation, in addition to raise awareness of rights to enable women to claim their rights in various areas. The policies also focus on local mechanisms in place to protect women against violence through official mechanisms of legal framework which includes legislations, the Basic Law, Criminal Code, the official executive framework of the Police, Public Prosecution, Judiciary, Ministry of Social Development, Independent Commission for Human Rights (Board of Grievances). The informal protection mechanisms are women's institutions, in addition to the system of relevant legislations.

It is also linked in three trends, including creation of national centres and regulations capable of protecting women exposed to certain forms of violence, improvement of the existing legislations and provision of special services that address the needs of older women and persons with disabilities.

It includes related work trends in strengthening national efforts to bring the issue of women in captivity and women freed from captivity before all relevant international fora, and to provide all forms of political, economic and moral support to those in captivity and their families, especially women. This policy focuses on supporting Palestinian women and women in areas of access to their full Palestinian citizenship through legal support and support for the protection of the rights of Jerusalemite women and in Areas C.

It works to create awareness among community to reduce and report violence by raising awareness of active institutions, citizens in general and women in particular.

**Priority 3: Increase women political participation in decision-making and decision-making positions through the following policies:**

1. Take necessary measures to increase the ratio of women in decision-making posts
2. Build leadership capacities of women in institutions.

Policies focused on supporting and assisting women to reach high posts and leading bodies through establishment of mechanisms that ensure promotion of women staff in ministries and to ascertain they are represented in all relevant committees and decisions in ministries, and are made aware of prevailing gender dimensions, as well as capacity building of women leaders in various development sectors in public and private sectors, trade unions and civil society. The status of women in decision making positions should be reviewed periodically in all institutions that have an impact on the society as well as community awareness.

**Priority 4: Access of women to all basic services without discrimination, through the following policies:**

**Improvement of basic services in marginalized areas in terms of quantity and quality, in line with gender needs**

This focuses on **providing continuous legal support services to women who were subject to discrimination** or any form of violence, and **social support services to women affected by the violence of the occupation**. The Ministry of Social Development provides continuous services

through women counsellors in social development directorates in various regions, as well as protection services, if necessary, in various protection centres. The Palestinian Ministry of Health also takes special measures to enable marginalized groups and areas have access to: (1) quality health services; (2) post-natal services; (3) dieting services for women; (4) sexual and reproductive health services, in addition to providing **health and psychological support services** to women who were subject to discrimination or to any form of violence through the cross-sectoral strategy which has provided separate interventions that enable all men and women to access health services, especially the post-natal period such as the adolescent health programme, by increasing the number of medical teams that provide post-natal services (awareness of importance of services, activation care and awareness of pre-pregnancy programme). (5) Increasing the number of midwives; (6) provision of medical treatment services (reproductive and sexual health) **free of charge through mobile clinics**, particularly in remote and isolated areas due to segregation or military roadblocks.

The progress made towards ensuring access for women who have been subjected to violence has been doubled. (1) In 2017, the Minister of Health issued a decree exempting all women who suffered any form of violence from fees Medical report and first aid in all hospitals and clinics; (2) provision of free primary health care to all women living in remote and marginalized areas; (3) provision of preventive and treatment services without the need for health insurance and provide safe delivery homes in areas with sudden barriers; (4) provision of psychological support services; Health workers deal with women victims of occupation violations and provide first aid; (5) Staff are also trained in mechanisms for dealing with women victims of discrimination and violence.

Within the framework of this policy, the development of infrastructure services in the areas of health, education, sports, culture, transportation, housing and water, especially in the marginalized areas, and other areas targeted by the occupation such as districts and some neighbourhoods of Jerusalem and areas close to the wall. The policy also includes community health education, capacity building for health professionals in the field of communication between men and women, boys and girls, development of health legislation to respond to women's health and gender issues, activating school guidance, supporting the education of people with disabilities, activating curricula and raising the awareness of women and community leaders to the importance of women's participation in sports. This policy focuses on providing financial resources to institutions working in the field of housing, especially the Palestinian Housing Council, to improve housing for poor families living in Area C, and to develop legislation that strengthens women's ownership of housing.

#### **Priority 5: Integrating and mainstreaming gender issues in ministries**

1. Mainstream gender issues into sectoral policies and programs of key official institutions
2. Enhance national mechanisms in change of women empowerment and gender equality promotion.
3. Develop accountability mechanisms in gender.

Policies focused on activating the role of knowledge management and databases in women empowerment and the achievement of justice and equality, as well as capacity building for all teams working in planning and policy-making in various sectors, whether at the official or popular

level. The policy also includes creation of monitoring and evaluation function to guide in taking right decisions related to the performance of the programme.

The policies also include capacity building and institutionalization of gender units in all ministries and official institutions. By the end of 2018, there will be 18 units, in addition to institutionalization and capacity building of *Twasul* centres in all governorates as official and popular frameworks, reaching 11 *Twasul* centres at the local level in empowering women and achieving gender equality. The policy also includes continued capacity building and empowering the Ministry of Women Affairs and improving communication between gender units and Ministry of Women Affairs.

The trend within the framework of these policies is to develop national frameworks with involvement of all stakeholders in gender equality issues by holding national dialogue sessions on gender equality issues, preparation of performance reports for official and non-official institutions on gender equality issues, and holding of accountability sessions on gender equality issues.

#### **4. The most important measures taken to prevent discrimination and promote the rights of women and girls with disabilities**

State of Palestine pays attention to end discrimination against marginalized groups, especially women and girls with disabilities, with the Thuraya Centre for the Care of Persons with Disabilities in Nablus Governorate being established.

##### **Ratio of individuals with disabilities of total population in 2017 (by region and sex)**

<b>Sex</b>	<b>Palestine</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza Strip</b>
Male	2.3	1.9	2.9
Female	1.9	1.6	2.3
Both sexes	2.1	1.8	2.6

*Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), General Census of Population, Residences and Facilities, 2017, Summary of final Consensus Results, Ramallah, Palestine*

By disability it is meant the individual with great difficulties and who cannot at all. Difficulties include seeing, hearing, moving, remembering, concentrating and communicating. The percentage of persons with disabilities is 2.1% of the total population in 2017, and this percentage rises in males compared with females to reach 2.3 compared to 1.9%, respectively. The percentage of people with disabilities in Gaza Strip increases in comparison to that of the West Bank for both sexes by 2017.

All necessary measures have been taken with a view to acceding to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and have begun preparations of the initial report on the Convention in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development for its direct competence in implementing the provisions of the Convention. A national team of all relevant national institutions has been formed to prepare the report, which will be handed over to the UN Commission during the first half of this year with a view to obtaining the recommendations of this Committee to promote the rights of women and girls with disabilities and eliminate all forms of discrimination against them.

#### **5. Impact of the Israeli occupation on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action:**

Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action requires political stability, full control by the state authorities at the border crossings and roads between different cities. The state's control over the introduction of technological resources to develop services is one of the most important requirements for improved health, education and infrastructure in general. The Israeli occupation is characterized by the separation of the territories, the judaization of the population, the complete blockade of Gaza Strip and full control of the entrances and exits of exports and roses. The most prominent Israeli measures on the ground are obstructing the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the following points:

1. Denial of access to services and the restriction of freedom of movement, and the existence of barriers deployed by the Israeli occupation on the roads, which lead, primarily and in conservative communities to identify and block the movement of women, especially students to move to and from their cities and villages towards schools, universities, colleges, institutes and workplaces.
2. Siege, collective punishment, house demolitions, forced displacement, arbitrary arrests of women, men and children and house demolitions. Repeated detentions of the occupation and the transformation of many women from housewives to shelters without being prepared for this in conservative societies continue to that the woman's place is her home. The arrests of women usually lead to the marginalization of society after their release in a traditional society continues to deal with issues of honour in a traditional way. The occupation is directly responsible for the loss of families' breadwinner father and children, whether by martyrdom or detention is boring and leaves women as the sole breadwinners of their families and are classified as the poorest of the poor because of inadequate employment opportunities and unequal wages.
3. Issues of residency and reunification for Jerusalemites and married women of Jerusalem identity holders, in addition to family reunification or marriage and divorce issues between Palestinians with Jerusalem identity cards or Palestinians of 48 or Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. This affects the freedom to choose a partner, as the geographical and political division affects the course of our daily lives and restricts the exercise of the human rights of all citizens.
4. Lack of control over economy and resources, poverty and deprivation of economic opportunities, where the occupation controls the clearing funds, which negatively affect the implementation of the development programmes of the Government as the deficit resulting from this control comes at the expense of development expenses and monitoring the remaining funds in favour of operating expenses. The occupation controls the crossings and borders and the isolation of Gaza Strip affects the Palestinians in general and women in particular where they pay the price of the siege and division more than others. The occupation is directly responsible for the poverty of women and the economic situation in the West Bank, Jerusalem and Gaza makes women the most affected group. The statistics of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics indicate that poverty is prevalent in the family headed by a woman or dependent on a single breadwinner because of the inability of women to work.
5. Exacerbation of societal challenges and internal crises, including division due to occupation practices, as the crisis of internal division and the freezing of the Legislative Council

prevented the issuance of new laws to address the imbalance and discrimination found in the applicable laws, especially personal status laws and the Criminal Code.

**6. The First five national priorities to accelerate advancement of women and girls over the next five years:**

Equality and non-discrimination under the law and access to justice are the most important priorities for the coming period, especially after the ratification of the CEDAW. Violence against women and girls, participation and political representation, women's entrepreneurship and women's enterprises, services and basic infrastructure are fundamental priorities. The State of Palestine seeks to achieve equality between men and women through several basic themes of justice, development and peace. It thus intersects with the international goal of gender equality and focuses mainly on national priorities over the next five years as follows:

**Priority 1: Reduce violence against women in all forms, through the following policies**

1. Hold Israeli occupation internationally and nationally accountable for violations against the Palestinian women and girls
2. Develop and amend local laws and regulations that limit violence, ensuring that women attain justice
3. Implement National Plan for Resolution 1325
4. Implement National Referral System and critical cases system
5. Improve specialized social, educational, health, policing and judicial services for battered women.
6. Provide economic and living conditions that are necessary to support the steadfastness of Palestinian women and girls under Israeli occupation.
7. Reinforce social responsibility for promotion of anti-violence community culture.
8. Develop anti-violence mechanisms of accountability and follow-up including oversight of the informal judiciary.

**To attain the following results:**

1. Justice institutions shall adopt new legislation, procedural aspects and new policies and improve infrastructure so as to enable women attain justice
2. Shari'a courts take new measures to enable women to obtain inheritance
3. School, family and young people should be involved in promoting the anti-violence community culture.
4. United Nations agencies should take decisions and stance on Israeli measures against men and women, especially in Jerusalem, and for women in captivity.

5. Women survivors of violence, workers and workers in the provision of services to battered women should be provided with protection and welfare.
6. Submit and follow up the communications and supplementary notes with the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, providing oral and written interventions and reporting on the crimes of the occupation against Palestinian women and girls within the framework of the organs of the United Nations--Secretariat, General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council--the framework of the United Nations human rights monitoring system, and the activation of national accountability and protection mechanisms against perpetrators.

**Priority 2: Increase women's participation in decision-making positions in Government and non-Governmental institutions most influential on the lives of men and women through the following policies:**

1. Develop institutional policies that enhance women's access to decision-making positions
2. Build leadership capacities of women in institutions.
3. Influence the will of policy-makers in institutions towards empowering women to hold leadership positions.
4. Develop mechanisms and programmes that enable women to engage in leading community, party and trade union institutions.

**To attain following results:**

1. Women working in the institutions are qualified in the administrative, technical and leadership aspects appropriate for leadership levels of the higher category.
2. Higher institutions adopt new policies and procedures that are enabling and motivating for women to hold senior posts or jobs in institutions.
3. Women and young women have the resolve and ability to engage effectively in leading community, trade unions, parties and student associations.

**Priority 3: Institutionalize equality and parity issues between the sexes and the empowerment of women in all official institutions through the following policies:**

1. Empower gender units in Government ministries and institutions to play their role.
2. Enhance role of formal and informal national mechanisms on women and gender issues.
3. Develop accountability mechanisms for gender equality issues (monitoring and evaluation, aid coordination mechanisms, gender responsive budgeting).
4. Carry out gender-based audits in official institutions.

5. Build capacity of Ministry of Women Affairs in line with the requirements to achieve the national cross-sectoral strategy to promote gender equality and justice and the empowerment of women (2017-2022).

**To attain the following results:**

1. Integrate gender issues in sectoral policies and programmes of ministries, security services and local bodies in line with international conventions.
2. Mobilize and formulate women and coordinate between women frameworks, events and women institutions at the national level.
3. All official, national and international institutions and programmes shall operate according to national priorities to promote gender equality, justice and the empowerment of women (2017-2022).

**Priority 4: Promote women's participation in the economic sector through the following policies:**

1. Mainstream appropriate work standards for women working in public, private, civil and international institutions operating in Palestine.
2. Adopt stimulating and protective legislation for small enterprises and working women.
3. Ensure that women receive minimum wages and organize women in official work
4. Ensure justice and equality in the labour rights of women within the legislative system in the civil and military service laws
5. Enable entrepreneur women and people with disabilities to access to finance and expertise.
6. Increase competitiveness of women's products and women's associations at national level, and regional and global markets.
7. Develop a gender-sensitive vocational and technical education and training system that is organized and effective in supporting the labour market with the needed skilled and semi-skilled labour of both men and women.

**To attain following results:**

1. Labour sector enterprises are committed to the relevant executive laws, regulations and decisions to achieve decent work for male and female employees.
2. Greater involvement of women in regular work and establishment of their own enterprises or self-employment
3. Improvement in the income of women working in small enterprises and cooperatives for women and agriculture.

**Priority 5: Improve the quality of life of disadvantaged and marginalized households through the following policies**



1. Develop interventions to reduce the decline in enrolment ratios and quality of education in the primary and pre-school levels and reduce the decline in the academic level and enrolment rates for males in secondary education.
2. Review educational curricula in all levels of general and higher education from gender perspective of gender
3. Provide adequate living and health services for the elderly male and female, and families that cooperate from extreme poverty.
4. Develop gender sensitive services and facilities.
5. Develop institutional measures to ensure access to water and energy at an appropriate quality and price
6. Develop infrastructure suitable for women working in security, ministries and Government institutions.
7. Special measures for women to quality health services, access to postnatal services, women's diet services and sexual and reproductive health services.
8. Activate participation of girls in youth institutions and cultural clubs in cities, villages and camps and developing services for creative and amateur in creative and sports fields.

**To attain following results:**

1. Enrolment rate of children in kindergartens and the enrolment rates of boys in the secondary education are increasing annually.
2. Curricula general administration implements what has been agreed upon with the representatives of the relevant ministries in culture and social development on adjusting the curricula to conform with the national policies and the priority to gender issues.
3. Empower disadvantaged and marginalized households and children at risk in all locations.
4. Persons with disabilities (boys and girls, men and women) have access to the programmes and interventions of all institutions that provide services and care to all categories.
5. Women in ministries and security institutions work in an appropriate work environment.
6. Women, men, boys and girls engaged in cultural, sports, community and volunteer activities are increasing.
7. Easy access to all health services by all, especially women to post-natal services.
8. Access by all residents to quality energy, water, housing and transportation services easily, qualitatively and adequately.

## Section 2: Progress made through the 12 critical areas of concern

This Section includes progress made across the Beijing 12 critical areas of concern. To facilitate analysis, the 12 critical areas of concern have been grouped into six comprehensive dimensions that highlight alignment of the Beijing Platform for Action with the 2030 Action Plan. This approach aims to facilitate review on implementation of both frameworks in a manner enhances each other to accelerate advancement of all women and girls.

### **First Dimension: Comprehensive Development, Common Prosperity and Appropriate Action**

This Dimension includes actions taken about paid work, labour, reconciliation between family and work, and financial austerity measures which intersect with the Beijing areas related to women and poverty, women and economy, human rights of women and girl children.

#### **1. Actions taken in the last five years on enhancement of gender equality related to the role of women in paid work and labour:**

The progress made on participation of women in the labour market is very slow, in addition to the huge gap between men and women in this sector, besides increasing rates of unemployment and wage gap.

#### **Percentage of women and men (15 years and above) participated in labour in Palestine (2014-2018)**

<b>Sex</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Men	71.5	71.7	71.3	71.6	71.5
Women	19.6	19.2	19.3	19.2	20.7

**Source:** Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), Labour Force Survey, Annual Reports 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, Ramallah, Palestine.

Despite the increased participation of women in the labour force in previous years, the percentage is still very low compared to men participation. In 2018, participation percentage of women in the labour was 21% of the total working-age women, compared to 10% in 2014. Men participation rate in 2018 was 72%. There is a significant gap in the daily wage rate for women and men. The daily average wage for women and men is 92 shekels and 129 respectively. Unemployment percentage among women in labour force in 2018 was 51% compared to 25% for men. Unemployment percentage among women in grade 13 or above is 54%.

Palestine has embarked on enhancement/enforcement of laws and related policies and practices in the workplaces that prohibit discrimination in the employment of women, especially those with disabilities. Policies have been adopted to employ at least 5% of persons with disabilities in each of Government institutions. In 2018, the percentage of women who hold a post of director general or higher was 11.6%, as well as legislations related to equality in pay. Measures have been taken to prevent sexual harassment, including that in workplace, and to support transition from informal to formal work, that include taking of necessary legal and political measures that help women in un-official employment including capacity building, awareness campaigns, and service improvement. The following are examples that illustrate these actions:

## **Enhancement of law enforcement and development of fair legislations and policies that respond to gender equality issues in workplaces that prevent discrimination against women:**

Partners of Governmental organizations, civil society, backed by international organizations, have finalized the first draft that aligns labour legislations from a gender perspective and consistent with the international conventions ratified by Palestine. The amendments included the following key issues:

1. Expand the scope of law enforcement in terms of covering all categories of male and female workers and eliminating exceptions.
2. Anti-women violence, especially sexual harassment in the workplace, where a database dedicated for sexual harassment has been created.
3. Equality and parity of opportunities which guarantee equal pay for equal work.
4. Maternity protection in a manner that comply with international convention in terms of maternity leave, childcare as well as flexible and partial work arrangements.
5. Deciding by courts on labour cases in an urgent manner, including setting a legal time limit for deciding on them, in addition to fixing attorney's fees to not exceed 10% of the amounts collected and adding the interest to the employer in case of ruling that payment of the amounts is on instalments.
6. Amend the labour legislations to include provisions on sexual harassment in workplace, where harassment becomes a legal violation that entails interference of labour inspectors and prosecution of the employer concerned, even if the worker abstains from filing a case with competent authorities. In addition, a database on sexual harassment is to be created.
7. Review and amend penalties provided for in the Labour Law so that they are deterrent and include all legal provisions related to duties of the employer, and give labour cases a status of urgency and a time limit that should not exceed one year.

Adoption of Rights Guarantee Act on movable funds, and launch of related electronic register, which allows small, medium and micro enterprises to obtain facilities guaranteed by these funds, thus increasing opportunities for financing that is necessary for their growth and development, which constitute a major source of economic activity. The Palestinian Agricultural Law has also been reviewed from a gender perspective, and recommendations have submitted to make it aligned with the international conventions and laws.

Granting incentives to those who invest in Palestine and register in the Investment Authority. These incentives include: (a) full exemption from income tax for five years; (b) exemption from income tax of 50% of the tax payable for 8 to 20 years; (c) customs exemption on fixed assets; (d) exemption on customs for furniture, tools, electrical appliances, hotels and hospitals; (e) exemption from customs for private vehicles and operating vehicles according to the regulation approved by the Authority.

Targeting women and girls in marginalized areas (Jerusalem, Gaza, Area C, and areas close to Wall) and freed women prisoners for training in project management. For example, 248 women

affected by Israeli occupation have been trained in project management, 6 associations located in area adjacent to the Wall have been supported, in addition to capacity building for young people and women, providing 30 projects for Jerusalemite families and supporting women with food processing and embroidery projects.

**Continuation of consultations mechanisms of application and implementation of the Social Security Law** - under chairmanship of labour minister and membership of Government institutions concerned and workers trade unions (in their capacity the Board of Directors of Social Security Agency was established by the law), President Mahmud Abbas promulgated a decree on Social Security law by the end of 2018, which was followed by an decree to suspend implementation due to heated popular protests against the content of the decree until the conclusion of consultations.

**To guarantee implementation of labour and economic legislations, especially the law of minimum wage (1,450 NIS)** - action has been taken to intensify the role of inspection to follow up implementation of the law, especially in sectors where there are increased number of women workers, and to double the number of inspectors who monitor implementation of labour legislations, in addition to secure necessary logistics requirements. The labour inspection review and assessment and complaint mechanism from a gender perspective has concluded to series of recommendations, the most important of which were: improving of inspections operations, performance of inspectors and the mechanism for receipt of workers' complaints related to violations in labour market. An executive action plan has been prepared based on the recommendations.

**For development of labour and economic policies and strategies** - two studies have completed on the status, circumstances and conditions of female workers in agriculture and small services sectors. Another policy paper has been prepared on the necessity to protect women's rights in the agriculture and small services sector, and to prepare policy paper to protect women's product in agriculture and traditional crafts, and to prepare policy tools for protection measures. At the end of 2018, a national strategy for enhancement of Palestinian women leadership was completed, where all relevant parties from the Governmental and private sectors took part. The strategy of the agricultural sector titled "*Steadfastness and Sustainable Development*" (2017-2022) has emphasized the need for women involvement, especially the entrepreneur, in all agricultural programmes, projects and activities, and to improve their capacities and to empower them particularly in small and medium agricultural enterprises. To this end, rural women-supportive plans have been adopted under the policy of providing financing programmes for women empowerment, non-land owners, entrepreneurs and new graduates under the policies of the Palestinian Agricultural Credit Institution.

**As for transition from formal to informal work** – work is underway on educating women in different places on importance of organizing their work and how to benefit from the services provided. As a result, 93 women were registered in the Ministry of Economy's Commercial Register in 2016, 6.9%, and the ratio rose in 2017 to 8%. The RCA analysis was carried out, targeting 5 cooperatives distributed in the north, centre and south (Anabta, Seir, Beit Sira, Barqa and Wadi Fukin).

**Importance of spreading awareness, education on labour and economic rights from a gender perspective:**

A manual on the rights of women workers in labour legislation has been issued with the aim of raising awareness among women workers about their rights in labour legislation, with between 10 to 15 thousand copies distributed in awareness campaigns. Separate posters have been issued with the material in the Manual to promote these rights and the use of large street advertising. Bazaars were organized to market the products of women's charities, women entrepreneurs and cooperatives.

Some 150 women's projects were received from different governorates of the country in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In the same context, a booklet was prepared on women's projects that participated in the competition, including information and data on the projects and their distribution. A report was also prepared on the status of women in the handicraft and traditional industries through field visits to women's productive projects in Bethlehem and Hebron governorates.

Capacity building of the Ministry of Agriculture staff from a gender perspective at the level of basic concepts, gender responsive planning, formulation of gender sensitive indicators. Empowering rural women, raising their capacities and skills in management and manufacturing in small and medium-sized agricultural enterprises, coordinating and networking with international and local institutions and organizations, and implementing a number of projects and activities such as FAO, Italian Cooperation, UN-WOMEN, and GIZ.

With the aim of contributing to the protection of human rights, freedom of association and peaceful assembly in Palestine, and strengthening the capacity of trade unions and grassroots institutions to defend the fundamental rights and freedoms of Palestinian workers and workers and to ensure compliance with international human rights and labour standards, a project aimed at strengthening the rights and freedoms of Palestinian workers was launched in partnership with Democracy and Workers' Rights Centre, Cospe Italian Foundation, and funded by Europe Union for two years. Targeting workers from various sectors, trade unions and grassroots institutions, the project included various activities, most prominent of which were: workshops, debate sessions, training, printing of awareness brooches and distributing them to targeted groups, as well as provide labour consultancy, monitor violations of labour rights, and offer grants to some operational projects. The project also supported media activities and lobbying activities, including the implementation of three demonstrations (annually) before the Council of Ministers to monitor the applications of the minimum wage and the lifting of three memos per year for the Prime Minister. Two television hearings were also held, one in the West Bank and the other in Gaza, in cooperation with Watan TV on violations against women workers, which included representatives of the Ministry of Labour, trade unions and the private sector, and aimed at raising women's awareness of the minimum wage law and pressuring the Ministry of Labour and the Government to activate monitoring of minimum wage applications.

A case study report under the title of "Women in beauty salons and barbershops/gender comparison" and another report on informal sector workers were issued. The work of this project has created a syndicate of women workers in the beauty sector in Ramallah and Gaza, and is the first such union in Palestine. In addition, work has been done to promote women's awareness of financial issues and pressure to adjust fiscal policies to be more equitable for women and marginalized groups. And work on the principle of tax justice, which seeks to distribute the tax

burden on the owners of high incomes in favour of low-income people, including women in particular.

In order to activate the follow-up and control of the labour rights of women working in kindergartens, nurseries and private schools and the application of the minimum wage, and accountability of the institutions responsible for this, a campaign entitled "to live in dignity" was implemented in partnership with the Coalition of Aman in 2015 through a research study on women working in kindergartens and the wage level in Bethlehem. It was launched on 23/3/2015 during a workshop with the participation of the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Education and Social Development, the employers and the kindergarten union, as well as a group of women working in kindergartens, with the aim of enhancing the role of these institutions to monitor the implementation of the minimum wage and to motivate the workers themselves to claim their rights, as well as the production of two talk shows and broadcast them on local and satellite stations in which the concerned institutions and women participated discuss the problems, solutions and responsibilities with all parties in order to shed light on the issues of workers and raise the awareness of the local community of them.

To develop the work of women's cooperatives, an information campaign was conducted, including accountability sessions on the law of cooperatives, the production of radio programmes in the programme against the silence of the women's affairs team and the preparation of the newspaper Sawat al-Nasaa. A coalition of cooperative societies working in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (numbering 34 cooperative societies) was formed, where the budget of the project in each year reached 50,000 Dollars.

In the framework of marketing and product development and promotion, farming cooperatives have acquired brands of their products, and that represents a qualitative leap in the work and production of these associations and the development of their projects. This will contribute to enhancing confidence between the producer and the consumer. The consumer requests the product in the name of the trademark and not the name of the producer or manufacturer.

The launch of the e-commerce project in partnership with the Dafi Organization and the Chamber of Commerce in Tulkarm, targeting 20 young men and women who have ideas of various electronic commercial projects from the areas of Kafriyat, Shoufa, Faroun, Bela, Kafr El Labad and Anabta. They received training in topics such as web design, marketing, customer interaction and financial management. Provide each trainee with a laptop with Internet subscription for 6 months.

## **2. Actions taken in the last five years to acknowledge, limit or re-distribute unpaid care and domestic work and to enhance reconciliation of family and work:**

Palestine has included unpaid care and domestic work in national statistics and accounting in a time-use survey, as well as expanding support for vulnerable older persons and others in need of intensive forms of care and attention to the provision or promotion of maternity / paternity / maternity leave. Examples to illustrate:

### **Inclusion of unpaid care and domestic work**

Palestine through, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, has produced 2 surveys on use of the first time in 1999 and the second in 2012. This indicator is one of the objectives of sustainable development indicators for the 5<sup>th</sup> indicator of empowering women and promoting gender equality. The percentage of time spent by women in Palestine in housework and child care is 18% in 2013-2013 compared to 0.03% for males, where the survey is conducted every ten years.

**Ratio of time that individuals spent in unpaid care and domestic work in Palestinian Territories**

Year	Female	Male
1999/2000	0.202	0.013
2012/2013	0.178	0.030

**For activation of a reproductive role for men,** a policy paper on parental leave was developed and presented to the gender units. Then draft has been developed for amendment of the Civil Service Law to incorporate this leave.

**For expanding support for elderly persons and vulnerable groups,** a social protection programme was put in place to support households headed by elderly women or persons with disabilities. The percentage of beneficiary households headed by an elderly woman was 44%. There were also heads of households who look after children under the age of 18. The number of households headed by women with disabilities and beneficiaries of cash transfer programme was 6,185. There are also 4176 households headed by an elderly woman with disabilities and beneficiaries of the cash transfer programme. Comprehensive shelter care was provided for 230 elderly people in Beit Al-Ajdad for Elderly Care and other elderly care institutions. Day care was provided for 800 elderly people at the day club.

**3. Austerity measures/adjustment of the public finance conditions taken by State of Palestine and its potential effects on gender equality:**

In 2015 and beginning of 2019, the State of Palestine adopted a contingency budget because Israel halted transfer of clearing funds. According to Law No. 3 of 2015 regarding the Contingency Budget for Fiscal Year 2015, no borrowing can be made from the Insurance Fund or the Palestinian Monetary Authority to finance implementation of the public budget. Also, no borrowing can be made for banking sector except to offset a financing deficit. All revenues, assistance, grants and other sources of finance shall be deposited in public treasury account. Payment of salaries to all employees by 60% at a minimum of NIS 2,000. No payment shall be made for overtime work. In case of necessity, any overtime worked shall be compensated by one day leave for every 6 hours overtime worked. Employees working in the health sector, crossings and Ministry of Social Development shelter centres shall be exempted from this rule.

As for the impact on the most vulnerable groups, President Mahmud Abbas issued a decision that all remunerations of families and martyrs should be paid firstly and fully, and any balance shall be paid to other groups. The priority therefore shall be given to the disadvantaged and vulnerable segments.

**Second Dimension: Poverty eradication, social protection and social services**

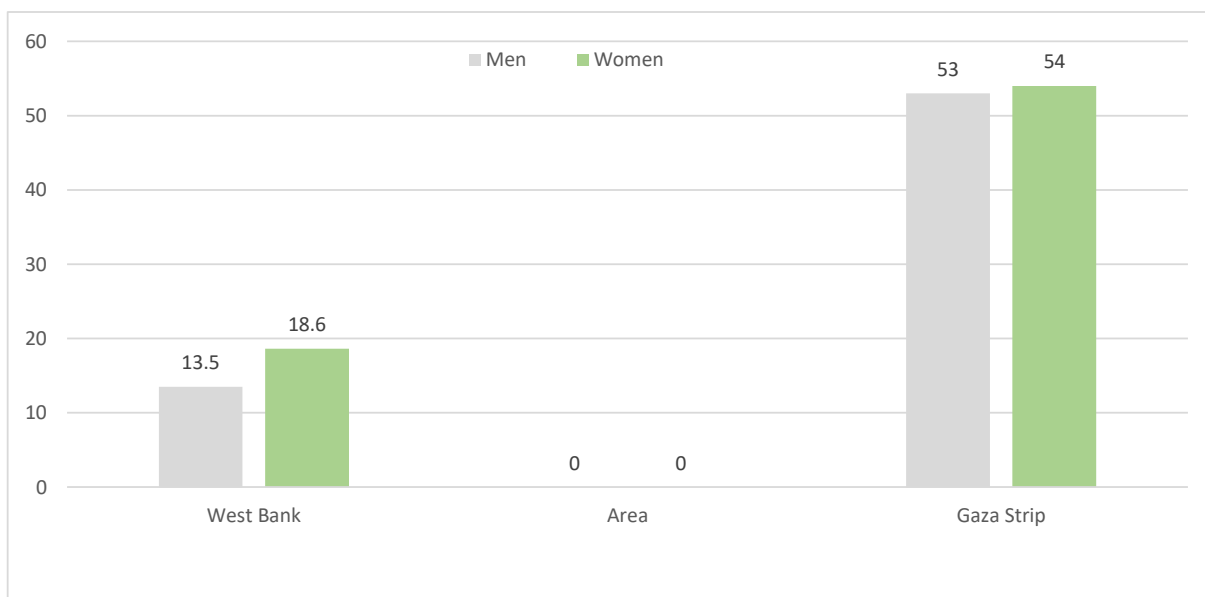
This dimension includes measures taken by State of Palestine to reduce poverty, improve social protection services, and expand health and education services, where this dimension intersects with the areas of concern of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action on women and poverty, women's education and training, women and health, women's human rights, female child.

**1. Actions taken in the past five years to reduce/eliminate poverty among women and girls:**

State of Palestine worked on promoting access of disadvantaged women to decent labour by developing active labour market policies (such as on-job-training, skills, employment subsidies, etc.), and introducing or enhancing social protection programmes for women and girls (such cash transfers for women with children). The following are examples:

**Strengthening social protection programmes for poor families in cash and in kind** by providing assistance annually to 115,000 households registered under the extreme poverty line. In 2018, cash assistance increased to 118,000 families. The Ministry also provided food assistance to 45,000 families, for a total amount of 2018 (\$2 million). The number of households benefiting from the cash transfer programme, which was headed by a woman, reached 45,742. Gaza Strip accounted for 57% of the total, while the West Bank was 43%. The beneficiaries of the insurance service amounted to about (40,000) cards / West Bank.

**Poverty percentage among individuals according to monthly consumption patterns in 2017 (by region, gender of head of household)**



The poverty rate among households headed by women in Gaza Strip was 54%, while in the West Bank 19% of the total female-headed households, according to the main results of living standards in Palestine (expenditure, consumption and poverty), 2017.

**Improving access of poor women to decent work:** Through the Improvement Programme of the Ministry of Agriculture, the aim of the project was to enhance the access of men and women



farmers and entrepreneurs to quality agricultural services that fit the needs of the agricultural sector. The programme targeted poor farmers and focused on women farmers, particularly householders, in all governorates of the West bank in 2014-2019 at the value of 4.2 million Dollars, in addition to signing agreements and memorandums of understanding with national banks and the Palestinian Employment Fund to provide loans and zero interest to women, and women with disabilities, to create their own projects (the Bank of Palestine and the National Bank of Israel as examples) to reduce unemployment and discrimination against them in the labour market.

Launching the Economic Empowerment Project by General Federation of Palestinian Women using small credits for productive and income-generating projects to alleviate suffering of refugees and to provide jobs to escape the poverty situation that women experience. Partnerships have been made with the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), International Labour Organization (ILO) and Palestine Investment Fund (PIF). Work began by \$10,000 until the current loan portfolio has reached \$ 745,000, while the economic cycle is \$4,500,000.

**Empowering women organizations in marginalized areas of West Bank to manage cafeterias in the surrounding schools** and to strengthen them with healthy food, as well as to promote the health and nutrition behaviour of school students and to provide a healthy and food-enhanced environment in the school cafeterias through the implementation of a project of women running health school cafeterias. Training women on the principles of healthy nutrition and methods of preparing healthy food, hygiene and occupational safety, to be able to prepare snacks for school students in healthy ways in addition to providing income and employment opportunities for women participating in the project through the centres and the Yat women's targeted, as has been the target of women's institutions and school canteens processing to become more convenient in terms of infrastructure and provide the necessary services. As well as enabling women's centres to manage the project technically and financially. Target areas: Halhoul, Beit Fajjar, Bidya, Tubas.

Establishing 16 cooperatives (on food production, handicrafts, embroidery, livestock breeding, etc.) during the years 2014-2019 which were sponsored by women institutions in training and rehabilitation (this does not mean the number of associations registered in this period was 16, but those sponsored by institutions). Promotion campaigns were launched for products of cooperative women in West Bank and Gaza.

**Strengthening role of women in promoting comprehensive and sustainable economic development in Palestine** through the implementation of the project "Strengthening Capacity to Create Economic Initiatives for Women in the West Bank". The project targets women in the West Bank in general, especially women exposed to violence, companies and decision makers, and the community in general through awareness campaigns. The project has been ongoing since 2018. Its activities include the launching of a women's competition to present ideas for pilot projects related to the technology sector, and the selection of 18 projects for their support and follow-up. The implementation of a series of training for women beneficiaries of the project related to practical skills and life skills, creating jobs for a group of women at companies or to work from home. Conduct a study on sexual violence in the workplace and design and implement an awareness and advocacy campaign on gender-based violence in the workplace. The project budget is Euro 110,000.

**Strengthening and rehabilitation of social care centres** where recovery house was established accommodating 30 aged, most of them with special social cases, some of whom pay nominal fees and provide them with health, nutrition, social and recreational care. They are supervised by a team of nurses, supervisors, physiotherapists and doctors of various physical and psychological disciplines. The establishment of the Physiotherapy Centre: equipped with the latest medical devices serves for elderly women and receives patients with low fees to help the poor and low-income people, and supervised by the centre specialist physiotherapy and rehabilitation.

**Strengthening the most marginalized groups as actors for change** in local development processes of an egalitarian, open and democratic society through the implementation of the 32-month project "Providing Income-generating Opportunities and Economic Empowerment of Women to Empower Democracy" by the European Union. The project targeted the most marginalized areas in the governorate Jericho and Al-Aghwar areas: Jiftlik, Fasayel, Zubeidat, Minaj Ouja, Marj Ghazal, Ain Duyuk, Ein El-Sultan Camp and Jericho City. This is done by strengthening the capacities of civil society to empower women socially and economically in the most marginalized areas of occupied Palestinian territory.

**To improve economic and social conditions of liberated women in captivity** through implementation of a project entitled "The Goals of Education", which aims in the third phase (2015-2016) and the fourth (2017-2018) to develop the technological capabilities and skills of liberated women prisoners and their sustainable employment through vocational training of 43 prisoners captive in photography, editing and directing and empowering them with a profession they can work through either in the field of media or in the field of wedding photography and public and private events in addition to the provision of 6 income-generating economic projects for 6 editors of them according to specific terms and mechanisms.

## **2. Actions taken in the past five years to improve access to social protection for women and girls:**

In this regard, Palestine worked on providing and strengthening unconditional cash transfers, as well as reform of social protection programmes that rely on contributions to enhance levels of women's access and utilization. In this regard, the following has been considered:

**Under actions taken to enhance social protection and reform of programmes**, children have been reunited, rehabilitated, educated and guided, and to ensure that nurseries operate within the law and proper procedures, as well as files of incubation, where 177 files were received for kindergartens with the aim of licensing and renewing the license, issuing a license and renewal License for nurseries 180, as well as the access of children of unknown descent to alternative care according to the law and law. A number of individuals are granted customs exemption. The total number of applications for customs exemption reached to the directorates of social development in the West Bank since 2010 until 2017 was about 7,000, with 4,387 applications, while the number of applications for personal customs exemption amounted to 2,578 applications on behalf. Some 384 applications for exemption from customs duties were approved, thus 73% of the total applications filed at the directorates of social development, with 58% of the beneficiaries of duty exemption on behalf being males and 42% of females.

## **3. Actions taken in the past five years to improve health results of women and girls:**

The health sector in Palestine witnessed remarkable developments. The statistical data indicate that the number of establishments connected with health activities in Palestine increased by 20% in the past five years to reach more than 6000 establishments, accompanied by an increase in the operating level in this sector by more than 40%. The number of establishments dealing with social work activities (the elderly and the handicapped) increased from 100 in 2012 to more than 150 in 2017. This was accompanied by an increase in the number of workers in these activities by 20%. Statistical data also indicate that the infant mortality rate in Palestine 27 births per thousand inhabitants (1990-1999) to reach 18 births per thousand births in the period (2009-2013) in light of the data of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. While the rate of 11 births per thousand births in 2017, according to data from the Ministry of Health.

Palestine worked on enhancing women's access to health services by expanding the scope comprehensive health coverage or public health services, as well as expanding specific health services for women and girls, including sexual and reproductive health services, mental health and maternity, and HIV services, in addition to public awareness campaigns/public health. Examples are as follows:

**At Level of expansion of scope of services:** Expansion of antenatal and prenatal services has been achieved. Over the past five years, Palestine has maintained high levels of coverage of antenatal and prenatal care services to reach 95.5% in 2014 through the services of primary health care centres and maternity centres scattered in all Palestinian governorates. In 2016, the rate of coverage of pregnant women in the centres of the Ministry of Health alone reached 45.2%, and the rate of visits to pregnant women reached 4.6 women. At the end of 2018, pregnant care services were provided in 402 mother and child clinics belonging to the Palestinian Ministry of Health.

As for maternity services, the percentage of deliveries done by qualified medical staff in Palestine was 99.9%, according to the Annual Health Report 2017, and 54.5% of these deliveries were in Ministry of Health hospitals, while the number of beds allocated to gynaecology and obstetrics in Ministry of Health hospitals increased from 395 in 2010 to 502 beds by the end of 2016. Over the past two years, 2 obstetrics gynaecology departments have been opened in the Jenin, Tulkarem Governmental hospitals, and Tubas Government hospital is operating now.

During the recent five years, health centres have been established to provide around the clock emergency and gynaecology services in these cities. The Jerusalem Centre for Emergency and Safe Delivery has been operated in Bir Nabala, Waheed AlAmleh Centre for Emergency and Delivery in Beit Ula, Reham Duabsha Centre in Al-Shuyukh in Hebron, and expansion of the Al-Zahiriya Emergency and Delivery Centre. In addition, work is underway to equip other emergency and delivery centres during 2019.

**At level of service provision,** specialized committees have been established to develop and monitor services. These committees include the National Committee for Reproductive and Sexual Health and its committees such as the National Committee for Maternal Deaths, the National Committee for Family Planning, the National Breastfeeding Committee and Maternal near miss (MNM) committees in the obstetrics and gynaecology departments of hospitals.

As for the pre-pregnancy services, folic acid is provided for pre-pregnancy women to prevent spinal deformities in newborns. The development of preventive maintenance policy for medical

devices in women and obstetrics departments and hospitals in general and activation of their use and training of medical and technical staff to ensure the safety as well as efforts to increase the coverage of postnatal services. The percentage of visits by mothers and nurses to maternity and childhood centres of the Ministry of Health to the doctor amounted to 25% and 76.7% respectively of the total live births. These services also include tonics exchange.

Because of the high rate of cancer, especially breast cancer among females in Palestine, early detection and diagnosis of breast cancer were supported in the centres of the Ministry of Health. Efforts and activities were intensified to raise awareness of the availability of early detection of breast cancer either by clinical examination or by mammogram. A woman in the 40-year-old group and above for the work of the mammogram in the centres of the Ministry of Health free and safe and recently have been provided digital mammogram devices to facilitate work and increase accuracy and ability to accomplish. In 2018, a breast cancer unit opened and operated in Beit Jala, providing a comprehensive integrated service for women as part of early detection and diagnosis of breast cancer, as well as surgical and therapeutic intervention in cases that are detected.

Work is under way for intensive early detection of cervical cancer cases using pap smear, which was provided free of charge to women. The samples were examined in Ministry of Health laboratories in Jenin, Ramallah, Al-Bireh and Hebron. In all, 484 samples were examined during 2017, where 7 were positive and were referred to hospitals to confirm diagnosis and treatment.

Preparing a national strategy for reproductive and sexual health in Palestine for the years 2022-2018 by involving all national Governmental and non-Governmental institutions. Sixty liaison officers (doctors, midwives and nurses) have been appointed in hospitals and primary health care centres until end of 2018 in the obstetrics and gynaecology departments and emergency departments who were trained to deal with cases of gender-based violence who seek help from Ministry of Health, in addition to recording, monitoring of these cases and apply necessary procedures and national referral system for battered women.

**For promotion of community awareness of public health**, a guide on preparing young couples for newlywed's male and female has been produced. The guide addresses reproductive and sexual health issues, where women and men are provided with counselling, nutritional support and community awareness.

#### **At the level of training of health service providers:**

- Training of competent staff on monitoring mortality of women of reproductive age in general and maternal mortality in particular
- Training of 292 medical cadres on Unified Obstetrics and Gynaecology Protocol implemented in 2017.
- Training of medical staff on a national family planning protocol according to the standards of the World Health Organization (WHO) and practicing it in the Ministry of Health.
- Training of 60 service providers of doctors, nurses, psychological and social counsellors on the Trainers Programme to combat anti-women violence. Training of service providers took place in their workplace in 2015.

- Training of service providers on Postnatal Protocol and its computing in the electronic system in primary health care centres.

The implementation of global training programmes in Advance Life Support in Obstetrics, which is aimed at obstetricians and midwives, and the dispatch of obstetricians and gynaecologist to make sub-specialties in Britain in order to improve quality of services provided, reduce foreign remittances, implement specialized training in surgery and operating theatres with the aim of reducing pollution and infection, and undertake special protocols for pregnancy diabetes and pregnant care.

#### **4. Actions taken in the last five years to improve outcomes and skills of women and girls' education:**

The number of establishments operating in the field of vocational training increased from 1186 establishments in 2012 to 1668 establishments during 2017, an increase of 41%, which indicates the role played by the Government in partnership with all sectors of Palestinian society in order to reduce the gap between the needs of the labour market and the outputs of education. More than 40% of graduates of vocational training are concentrated in productive income-generating sectors compared to 21% of academic graduates working in these sectors. Despite the high unemployment rates among young graduates, the number of vocational training graduates in the West Bank reached 28%, which is significantly lower than the academic specialization that roughly reaches 41%. The statistics indicate that vocational training graduates in the West Bank need 4 months to obtain maximum employment for 10 months for academic specialization. This demonstrating the need for such programmes in the Palestinian labour market.

Palestine has taken measures to increase access of girls to technical education and vocational training TVET and skills development programmes to pursue their studies, as well as to promote curricula to increase gender equality and eliminate bias at all levels of education, provide training on gender equality and human rights for teachers and other professionals in field of education, as well as promotion of safe, harassment free and inclusive educational environments for women and girls. Examples include:

**To ensure increase of women in vocational training and technical education programmes,** the Palestinian Centre for Entrepreneurship was established to form the national umbrella for all TVET institutions in Palestine, Governmental and private, with the aim of providing the necessary training for those who obtain funding for the establishment of pilot projects and the success and expansion of these projects.

**To provide vocational counselling services to male and female students,** especially from the ninth grade, to help them choose the appropriate orientation for their needs and the needs of the labour market, whether in the selection of academic or vocational education or enrolment in vocational training centres through the internationally approved tests (Holland test) and the number of female students beneficiaries (50% of female students are targeted), guidance in determining their future career choices, and vocational training centres receive group meetings of students in coordination with the schools. They have been able to choose the profession that suits them, and during these meetings they are encouraged to choose non-stereotyped occupations. The number of girls that are received annually is about 15,600.

**The approval by the Council of Ministers to integrate vocational and technical education in general education** to enhance alignment of education with labour market and meet career choices of students, in addition to expand vocational education tracks, increase in the number of schools and vocational disciplines that encourage females to enrol, and raise the awareness of the importance of professional and scientific disciplines by focusing on role of media in this field. The Ministry of Education has made compulsory and free education necessary to reduce the dropout and to promote enrolment and job creation.

**The signing of a memorandum of cooperation in the areas of employment and vocational training** between the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education on 23/11/2015. This memorandum aims at cooperation between the two parties in working to reduce unemployment rates among graduates of vocational training centres. Training in alternative professions for job seekers not fortunate in hiring in the education sector, as well as providing loans to small enterprises through the Employment and Social Protection Fund, and partnering with the private sector in this regard.

**In the framework of training, capacity-building and skills acquisition in new and emerging areas**, the Shabak Smart Learning project adopts all public schools to be used in education strategies and to empower students with life skills to connect them to the labour market. It encourages participation of girls in local and international competitions, integrating students into non-classroom activities and instructional activities that contribute to providing students with problem solving skills, As well as participation in local and international competitions that promote ICT and focus on digital in female schools. Furthermore, it promoted holding workshops and training courses on suicide attacks and how to deal with them, and raising awareness about citizenship and human rights and international conventions. Non-systematic activities to strengthen student leadership roles and the formation of student parliaments in public schools are also promoted.

To promote curricula to respond to gender issues, a comprehensive review of textbooks from a gender perspective is being undertaken to eliminate discriminatory stereotypes against women, if any, to include gender-specific sexual education materials in the curriculum, and to mainstream gender in the media education programme to ensure sensitive gender reporting contributes to reducing the stereotypical image of women. Gender education policies and strategies have also been revised.

To promote safe and non-harassing educational environments for girls, work to raise the level of mental health of students and provide quality counselling services to all students who have an educational mentor in their schools. Reducing gender-based school violence aimed at creating a safe learning environment, and analyzing gender-related violence in education and integrating it into plans. And conducting periodic awareness programmes aimed at the teacher, student and society to address school violence and the presence of mentors and the policy of reducing violence.

### **Third Dimension: Freedom from violence, stigmatization and stereotypes**

This section includes the measures taken by State of Palestine to address the phenomenon of violence in terms of the forms of violence it has focused on, the strategies for action, the policies

adopted, and the awareness and education programmes it has shown through the media. This dimension intersects Beijing's areas of concern for (violence against women, the human rights of women, women and the media, the girl child).

**1. Forms of violence against women and girls, to which State of Palestine has prioritized action:**

Data from the 2011 Violence Survey indicate that 37.0% of women who have been married have experienced violence by their husbands over the past 12 months; 29.9% in the West Bank and 51.0% in Gaza Strip. At least 58.6% of the women who had been victims of "self-violence" were women, 55.1% were subjected to economic violence, 54.8% to social violence, 23.5% to physical violence, and 11.8% to sexual violence.

**Ratio of women previously got married and were subject to violence by husband during the past 12 months (by region and form of violence)**

Region	Form of Violence					
	Subject to violence	Psychological violence	Sexual violence	Physical violence	Social violence	Economic violence
Palestinian Territories	37.0	58.6	23.5	11.8	54.8	55.1
West Bank	29.9	48.8	17.4	10.2	44.8	41.6
Gaza Strip	51.0	76.4	34.7	14.9	78.9	88.3

**Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), 2012, Violence Survey in Palestinian Society, 2011, Key Results, Ramallah, Palestine.**

Palestine has identified a set of form of violence as a priority that should be addressed. These forms include violence against women and girls, including sexual violence and marital rape, sexual harassment and violence in public places, in places of education and at work, as well as violence against women and girls using digital technology, (i.e. cyberbullying, online stalking), apart from interest in killing women, especially killing on the grounds of family honour, and working to combat early marriage, as examples:

**Addressing domestic violence, including sexual violence and marital rape**

We refer first to the laws of State of Palestine regarding the reporting of incidents of sexual violence considered that the reporting of crimes is not limited to the crime victim, but is the duty of all individuals to do in the interest of the group, for example: Anyone who has learned of a crime shall inform the Public Prosecution or one of the judicial officers thereof unless the law suspends the criminal proceedings resulting therefrom from a complaint, request or authorization (Article 24 of the Code of Criminal Procedure). All are informed by public servants or service personnel in the course of the performance of his work or because of the commission of a crime, to be reported by the competent authorities unless the law suspends the initiation of the criminal proceedings arising therefrom on a complaint, request or authorization. (Article 25 of the Code of Criminal Procedure). In the event of a complaint to enter a woman in violation of the health institution, she must take care of the complaint submitted to her and take appropriate measures (article 62 of the Public Health Act 2004). The right to make the decision that it deems appropriate for its life, to provide services to it without discrimination, to maintain all information related to it

and to deal with it in secret. The confidentiality of the information may not be breached unless the written consent of the woman (the national transfer system) is taken.

Some 736 women and 75 children are provided monthly protection in the centres of protection "Mehwer Centre, Safe House, Emergency Centre of Jericho" and provide the necessary shelter, health care, psychological and legal services.

Seventeen clinics have been set up to receive and deal with battered women from the beginning of 2016 until the end of 2018 (8 primary health care centres + 9 hospitals) to be rooms to receive and deal with battered women and was named by this name to avoid stigma. The rest of the hospitals and health directorates were furnished during the year 2019. In 2018, there were 1791 beneficiaries.

To prevent early and forced marriages, early marriage in State of Palestine dropped to 20% in 2018, down from 25% in 2014, where an integrated programme on combating early marriage was developed through the Centre for Women's Studies Early Palestinian girls' marriage in Jerusalem - 2017. Accordingly, a guide was developed to combat child marriage (to be used by counsellors and social counsellors in schools).

As for killing of women, the number of cases of femicides according to the media (not an official from the Public Prosecution Office), was 17 in 2016, 32 in 2017 and 30 in 2018. Some of the stories of the women who were killed were documented, and the issue of the killing of women was raised in the media.

## **2. The highest priority actions taken during the last five years to address violence against women and girls**

State of Palestine has worked on a range of measures to address the phenomenon of violence against women and has paid attention to the development and application of laws against violence against women, as well as the development, updating and expansion of national plans of action on ending violence against women and girls, as well as the introduction and strengthening of measures to increase women representation in courts (such as the establishment of specialized courts, judicial and police training, protection orders, redress and reparations, including cases of women's murder) and the development of services for women survivors of violence (such as safe houses, help lines, specialized health services, legal services, justices, and counselling). The State has also promoted strategies to prevent violence against women and girls and intersect with health, education, the media, community mobilization, working with men and boys, and impact monitoring and assessment, including evidence generation and data collection as a survey of domestic violence and the establishment of the National Observatory for the Prevention of Violence against Women, as well as the introduction and strengthening of measures to improve understanding of the causes and consequences of violence against women. Examples of such measures include:

### **At level of development and amendment of laws and legislations:**



National consultations on the law of family protection against violence are still under way to agree on the final versions of the law, despite the adoption of the law for the President's approval, the adoption of the Standard Procedures Manual for the National Transformation System for Wounded Women and the decision of the Minister of Health to exempt battered women from first medical and ambulance fees in 2017. The Minister of Health also issued a decision to exempt suicide cases from fees in 2017.

Issuing the Sharia Execution Law contributes to the speedy completion of sentences for the vulnerable women and children and issuing a circular stipulating the extradition of a wife who has left her husband's house as a result of any dispute over her official papers and clothes through an administrative decision issued by the judge. To revoke the personal right by revoking or restricting the work of Article 99 of the Jordanian Criminal Code of 1960 with regard to the dropping of personal rights in cases of the killing of women

### **Strengthening of services**

The Council of Ministers approved a women's protection centre in the city of Jenin, where a special plot was started to establish an emergency centre for the protection of women victims of violence in the governorate. It activated the various committees dealing with the axes of the national transfer system, Documentation and Monitoring, Committee on Policies and Procedures, Monitoring, Accountability and Evaluation Committee, Awareness and Information Committee, Capacity Development and Infrastructure Development Committee.

### **Improvement of mental health of women in Palestinian society**

This is to be launched during the implementation of the guidance programme, which aims to contribute to combating all forms of violence against women and girls. During the period 2014-2018, individual counselling was provided to a total of 2,682 men and women beneficiaries and psychological counselling for a total of 3303 men and women beneficiaries. Telephone counselling was provided to 1190 men and women beneficiaries, family counselling to 86 families, with 659 men and women beneficiaries transferred, and 562 men and women beneficiaries received.

### **Provision of telephonic first-aid counselling services**

Legal and health counselling for women, girls and children survivors of violence were carried out through the Women's Hearing Centre Free Child 121, the service was provided by telephone to 86495 cases during the years 2014-2019, with 60% of these cases being of physical, sexual and psychological nature.

**Provision of sexual and reproductive health services to 4112 women through the mobile health clinic to reach the marginalized areas, provide face-to-face psychological counselling and treatment for 486 women, train professionals and professionals from the Palestinian Family Protection Unit of Palestine Police, General Attorney Office, and social counsellors. In all, 400 men have been dealt with to change patriarchal perspective stopping of anti-women violence.**

### **Promotion of women access to justice**

Family Protection Office was established by the Public Prosecutor in February 2016 and supported by the Sawasiya programme. The aim of this measure is to develop the role of the Attorney General in protecting women and victims of violence, and to hold perpetrators accountable and achieve general deterrence by providing specialized services that respond to categories that enjoy less legal protection as children, women with disabilities and elderly. As for the scope of the procedure and targeted population, the Attorney is responsible for investigation, tracking down of defendants, pleading, argument and coordinating with the Penal Provision Unit to implement the sentences issued in the crimes of investigation, argument, pleading and follow-up enforcement of sentences in the following crimes: all crimes committed within the family of various members, including crimes committed against women, children, elderly and persons with disabilities; crimes committed against women and children who are victims of violence outside the family; crimes committed by women in cases of adultery, prostitution, incest, and spoiling of marriage bond and other crimes of a sexual nature; crimes of threatening and extortion against women through all means and of telecommunications and electronic media. The effects of taking action include increase in the number of cases reported by statistics received by the Attorney General, quality of the service provided to women and children with disabilities; clear networking mechanism between service providers and more effectiveness case conferences. The lessons learned are that upgrading quality of service provided requires primarily specialization, coordination and networking.

**Creation of specialized places of each Sharia court to watch and visit children in a suitable family atmosphere**, as well as identifying a mechanism for the so-called disassociation in the Sharia courts that guarantee access of women to their real rights as their inheritance from their heirs, as disassociation in the past was used to deny women their rights by giving small amount of money that is not equal to the real value of their rights. In addition, a memorandum of understanding has been signed between the Office of the Chief Justice and the Ministry of Social Development on the full implementation of the monitoring and hosting, seeing, receipt and delivery of children between childhood protection counsellors in Ministry of Social Development in situations that necessitate treatment and preventive intervention.

**Formation of a committee to shorten litigation period in Sharia courts**, which worked on recommendations related to maintenance and special measures in favour of women, thus shortening litigation period. Many of judicial principles were also issued in the Supreme Sharia Court to honour the rights of women through establishing judicial principles for seeing and custody such as: the right of a mother for custody of her children until they reach age of adulthood; simplification of litigation procedures in disputes and discords, considering the Family Guidance Report as a common occurrence of a conflict rather than presenting insurmountable evidence, which has been mitigated to women and has created many judicial principles for imposing maintenance that is consistent with economic condition of the society.

**Assignment of judges in all regular courts to deal with gender issues**, to prepare for adoption of the Family Protection Law and comprehensive review of the draft law, 31 judges, including 14 women judges, have been trained on all gender issues such as gender concept, social and psychological dimension of women victims of violence, Mezean Programme and others. Circulation of gender concept and related issues among all staff the Supreme Judicial Council through training and workshops. Preparing media and awareness forms on gender issues and

distributing them to court users. Analysis of statistical indicators on gender issues and women's access to justice, including numbers of staff and judges according to gender. Introducing amendments to the Meezan Programme in a manner that contributes to production of specialized statistics in the field of gender.

**Implementation of a programme to ease women access to justice and law in the West Bank,** in the years 2014-2019, which contributed to provide social and legal protection of women, where several legal services were provided to women, including:

**Legal Consultations:** During 2014-2019, 4291 office and field consultations were provided to a total of 3209 women on various legal issues related to personal status law (such as marriage, divorce, deferred dowry, maintenance, custody, separation, conflict, obedience, repudiation (khula), seeing, hosting, inheritance, dispute and discord, right to housing for women after divorce, etc), Criminal Code, civil and labour rights, violence, beating and abuse, and the implementation of judicial rulings.

**Arguments in Courts:** providing argument services in courts is important in view of few organs that provide this type of service. During the period 2014-2019, 1718 court cases were filed for a total of 1326 women and girls. Nearly 95% of the cases have been finalized and rulings were issued for women, provided that some cases were dropped at the request of the beneficiary of the legal service for several reasons, most notably pressure of the parents, reconciliation between the spouses and return to the marital home, agreement on divorce by mutual understanding between spouses, the unwillingness of the woman to complete the cases filed by her. More than 95% of women won their cases and got their rights, relieving them of pressure and fear of loss which enhance their economic status. The majority of cases related to personal status law: maintenance, deferred dowry, custody, obedience and the right to housing for women after divorce, viewing and hosting, separation and dispute, etc.

**Strengthening monitoring and impact assessment including evidence generation and data collection for specific group of women and girls,** the State of Palestine is producing the 2019 Household Violence Survey 2019 produced every five years by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. Women's Affairs has established a national observatory to monitor cases of violence against women through institutions that receive cases of violence whether related to complaints, service provision, or preventions.

### **3. Strategies used in the last five years to prevent violence against women and girls**

Palestine has worked on a range of strategies to prevent violence against women, including raising public awareness and changing attitudes and behaviours. It also worked on popular mobilization and mobilization strategies at the community level, a strategy to change the image of women and girls in the media, as well as working with men and boys.

#### **Change of public awareness, attitudes and behaviours:**

Implementing a home-to-house campaign targeting the most violent groups against women, with the participation of institutions within the communities and communication centres in the governorates, aimed at reducing violence against women through awareness and advocacy

activities. In addition to the implementation of the national campaign against violence against women every year.

**Contribution for creation of a safe working environment, laws and procedures for integrating women who survived violence in local community**, a project was launched in 2017 under the umbrella of "Maan Nengo", or "Together We Survive", a two-year project aimed at providing legal and social services to women survivors of violence through two psychosocial specialists (23 days for 116 service providers), media campaign for 16 on countering gender-based violence, development of integration plans for women in safe houses, developing code of honour founded on respecting rights of women and providing safe working environment for them, endorsement of code of ethics by owners or factors, establishments and shops and provide them with awareness-raising workshops (20 workshops for 152 participants) for owners of institutions, factories and shops in a bid to promote a safe working environment. Raising the awareness of the local community (30 workshops for 912 participants) on Law of Protection of Family Against Violence to promote integration with its support and demands.

**Activation of National Referral System**, through implementation of the project (high degree of gravity) and (on the promise to protect women), which worked on training on the system and the work of private protocols in the health sector, police and social guidance, and capacity building and empowerment of 51 tribesmen and reform in four governorates (Bethlehem-Hebron-Jericho-Tulkarem), and 8 television spots were produced to raise awareness of women's rights and the violence against women that were produced and disseminated: about how to deal with the killing of women and how possible for reasons to be invalid, distrust, beating of women be them wives, sisters, and others.

**Formation of youth groups to support women rights in West Bank, Gaza Strip and Jerusalem**, through the implementation of the project "Combating Violence against Women in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Jerusalem". The project aims to reduce forms of gender-based violence. The project targeted 20 locations in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Jerusalem. Project budget: Euro 42,755.

**Increasing of women awareness of effects of psychosocial violence and enhance role of women in addressing violence by participation in lobbying activities and influencing of policy makers**, as a precautionary measure 1449 workshops were launched, with 20390 participants, to increase women's awareness of addressing gender-based violence in all its forms of psychological, physical and sexual violence during 2014-2018. Forty-four training courses were conducted targeting 687 male and female humanities students. They were trained in anti-violence mechanisms as well as the development of their professional abilities, in addition to carrying out the campaign "No woman deserves to be attacked", the campaign "Towards protecting girls and women through social networks of sexual exploitation" campaign, "You do not possess me with tyranny and violence."

**Promotion of grassroots mobilization at community level**, to implement a project to empower women and protect them against gender-based violence, which aims to address the limited number of women's access to effective protection services in marginalized communities in East Jerusalem. The project has activated the Protection Network in East Jerusalem. Women who are exposed to

gender-based violence get the service they need by activating the referral system for women victims of violence with a reference manual that is easy to use for services available in Jerusalem.

**Mobilization of Palestinian public opinion to protect rights of women and combat all forms of violence, especially honour killings**, development and implementation of an initiative entitled No honour in the crime, 5000 information card that included statistics, laws and legislation on the killing of women. This initiative was launched through workshops. Women's courts began in early 2015 and continued for 2018, which aims to reduce gender-based violence.

**Formation of a Youth Coalition of 56 youths for implementation of youth awareness initiatives**, which aims at raising awareness about gender-based violence and by implementing workshops and lectures to promote awareness of women's rights. As a result, participants' attitudes towards women's issues were positively impacted and provided with the knowledge and skills needed to develop and launch youth initiatives, building the capacity of 16 media professionals to take a role in monitoring of cases that involve gender-related violence.

**Change of image of women in the mass media**, to establish a media network of media organizations in the West Bank to adopt women's issues in their media and news programmes.

**Working with primary and secondary education on sexual harassment**, about 800 schools have been reached where counsellors and mentors have been trained to implement the programme and to use the following materials: AAMAN Training Guide for Developing Life Skills and Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Samara Children's Story. A CD that includes these stories was produced and translated for children with hearing or vision impairment. We have been working with children and adolescents from all over the world and with people with different disabilities to implement the programme.

#### **4. Actions taken in the last five years to address portrayal of, discrimination and bias against women and girls in the mass media**

Palestine has introduced regulations and documents of honour for the media to promote gender equality, provide training for media professionals to promote the creation of media images of women and girls that are free of stereotypes, balanced and diverse, as well as to promote women's participation and leadership in the media. Examples include:

**Increasing mass media focus on issues of violence against women**, to increase the media focus on issues of violence against women and raise public awareness to reduce domestic and societal violence by raising many issues, notably honour killings, violations against women through social networks, sexual harassment and early marriage. The media also addressed decision makers and members of the Palestinian Legislative Council and called on them to take an active role in the legal direction of women's rights, particularly violence, and their responsibility to take an active role in approving the Family Protection Act. Some 400 media meetings on mental health and gender-based violence conducted.

**Monitoring the image of women in the Palestinian visual, audio and printed mass media**, through the implementation of GMMP at the national level. The Palestinian Media Monitoring Report 2015 was adopted in the 2015 Global Monitoring Report, with the participation of at least 114 countries. Such monitoring comes in light of the continued practices of marginalization and

clear absence of women's voices in the media and the consolidation of many stereotypes and traditional concepts,

**Monitoring image of women in news related to women, security, peace and violations against Palestinian women**, through the launch of the project (Women in the Palestinian Media) at the beginning of 2017, which lasted for one year and included the project building capacity of 15 male and female media students on gender issues, human rights and women and UN resolution 1325. In addition, the students were also trained in information monitoring mechanisms and methodologies, write a report on the results of the monitoring and the implementation of an awareness campaign aimed at promoting a fair and balanced image of women in the media, especially in the political sphere, and to introduce them as leaders and decision-makers and to end negative stereotypes.

**“Women Voice” Newspaper**, which is a monthly newspaper, published regularly, highlighting issues of discrimination against Palestinian women in all fields. It opens the door to young women's voices to express their views on these issues in an attempt to change the community culture in favour of equality and non-discrimination against women. A weekly radio programme entitled "Against Silence" is also being produced, focusing on discussing the facets of discrimination towards Palestinian women. The programme is weekly and is broadcast every Tuesday at 11:00 AM on Radio Raya FM.

**Establishment of a media coalition called "Media Platform for Gender Issues"**, which is composed of nine different media organizations. The platform works to produce gender-sensitive media programmes and also trains media personnel in these institutions to offer gender-sensitive media coverage.

### **Building capacity of media staff (both sex) to address image of women in Arab visual, audio and printed Media**

In 2015, 11 journalists and journalists from Nablus, Jenin, Tulkarem, Hebron, Bethlehem and Ramallah received a one-day training focusing on how to deal with the image of women in the visual, audio and written media. They were trained for 50 hours on blogs and social media with the support of the French Consulate in Jerusalem.

### **5. Actions taken over the past five years specifically designed to address violence against specific groups of women facing multiple forms of discrimination:**

State of Palestine has worked on a series of measures through which discrimination against women is ended for all groups. In this regard, the legal framework for the CEDAW report has been completed with the participation of the institutions that follow the implementation of CEDAW under the chairmanship of the Ministry of Women's Affairs. In addition, a committee on gender-equitable legislation was formed under the chairmanship of the Ministry of Justice, where a memorandum of understanding was signed with regard to the Gender Legislation Sector Committee between Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Council of Ministers, chaired by the Ministry of Justice/Gender Unit. Where: Training of the Commission on the Sector of Fair Gender Legislation was held in relation to the revision and drafting of legislation from a gender perspective, where the laws, heads and gender units of the various official institutions were targeted. During the year 2018. Training of Trainers (TOT) was held for members of the Drafting

Committee of the Committee on the Sector of Fair Gender Legislations during the year 2018. The preparation of an annex to the revision and drafting of legislation from a gender perspective.

**Formation of a national committee to align legislations in Palestine with international conventions and treaties**, opening of a specialized clinic equipped with forensic medicine in Jenin and Tulkarm governorates, and the appointment of a female legitimate doctor who is the only doctor carrying this specialty and was sent to the University of Jordan on the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) project.

Issuing a legal memorandum on the right of the mother to issue passports, open bank accounts for her children and transfer children from one school to another, and approval by the Council of Ministers.

**Awareness raising among women about rights of women and increasing sensitivity of decision-makers to women issues**, during 2014-2018 through the implementation of a total of 1900 awareness activities (including workshops, open meetings, panel discussions and public meetings) on human, civil, legal and economic issues. There were 18832 participants of women and youth, decision-makers, community leaders, politicians and various professional sectors. These workshops and meetings contributed to raising women's awareness of their rights and raising their capacity to defend these rights.

**Implementation of 5 hearings on violations against Palestinian women from political, social or legal dimension**

A total of 270 of grassroots women participated, including abused women, women's rights organizations, decision-makers and political and social leaders, in which women spoke about their suffering. The recommendations of the meeting included: strengthening the rule of law, lobbying for laws that protect women and abolish discrimination against them (including penal and family laws and the law on family protection against violence), encouraging women to break silence by giving testimony and submitting complaints to specialists, and the repetition of this type of session because it contributes to breaking the silence of battered women.

**Amendment of some discriminatory rights against women**

The Women's Coalition for Justice and Equality (ERADA), the first campaign we have adopted, is the right of a woman to obtain a passport for her minor children, her right to transfer them from school to school, and her right to open bank account for them. The main activities of the campaign were: awareness meetings on these rights, the production and broadcast of video clips for meetings with decision makers on campaign topics, an electronic petition, an individual petition signed by about 6,000 people, and an institutional petition signed by 70 women and rights organizations from the West Bank and Gaza. The result of the campaign was that the prime minister adopted these demands and issued circulars in this regard to the relevant parties.

And the second campaign, entitled "Campaign We are Citizens 2", which was launched in September 2018. It aimed to amend two articles of the Personal Status Law: raising the age of marriage to 18 years, abolishing oral divorce and replacing it with judicial divorce through registration in court. A memorandum was signed containing these amendments from the coalition

of the will and women's and human rights organizations, including the Assembly, and submitted to the Prime Minister.

#### **Fourth Dimension: Participation, Accountability and Gender-Sensitive Institutions**

This dimension includes the actions taken by State of Palestine in public life and decision-making, its image in the media and gender responsive budget. This dimension is related to Beijing's areas of concern for women in power and decision-making, institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, women's human rights, women in the media field, the girl child)

#### **Key Indicators in this Sector**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Variable</b>
Individual holding posts of director general and above in civil sector in Palestine	2018	88.4	11.6	100	Ratio
Women and men in the Legislative Council in Palestine	2017	88.7	11.3	100	Ratio
Women and men in local bodies in West Bank	2017/2018	78.8	21.2	100	Ratio
Women and men ambassadors in State of Palestine	2016	94.2	5.8	100	Ratio
Women and men practicing law profession	2017	76.6	23.4	100	Ratio
Women and men in Judiciary in Palestine	2017	81.7	18.3	100	Ratio

#### **1. Actions and measures taken in the past five years to promote women participation in public life and decision-making:**

State of Palestine has worked on a series of measures during the past five years to enhance the participation of women in decision-making positions. The PLO Central Committee recommended the participation of women in leadership positions by 30%, capacity building and skills development and encouraging the participation of young women, through awareness and guidance programmes, extension and leadership training, decision-making, public speaking, self-affirmation and political campaigns, as well as the collection and analysis of data on women's political participation, including in appointments and elective positions. For further details, see the following examples:

**Awareness on women rights document issued in 2012, UN Resolution 1325, Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Palestinian Political System and the Palestinian Electoral Law**, by implementing the project "Promoting Women's Political Participation in Leadership Sites" within the "Women's Leap Forward" regional programme which is funded by the European Union and the United Nations Women's Fund. The project targeted the branches and organizations of the General Federation of Palestinian Women, the political parties of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Popular Unions (General Federation of Palestinian Workers, the General Federation of Palestinian Teachers) of the Union; where the total number of



beneficiaries in the "Women's Leap Forward" reached 406 beneficiaries in the West Bank and Gaza (222 young / her lobbying groups 35 participants from gender units, 3 feminist and human rights organization, 120 sister actresses branches of the Union).

**Formation of pressure groups within political parties in December 2013**, of male and female youth by 99 from West Bank and 123 from Gaza Strip. In all, 26 awareness-raising workshops were held, with titles, elections, human rights, political pluralism, the Palestinian political system, the document on women's rights, international human rights instruments, the role of media in promoting women's political participation and the study of internal constitutions and regulations of political parties. This is in addition to 50 awareness-raising workshops under the title: Rome Agreement, Security Council Resolution 1325, International Humanitarian Law, open meetings with leaders of political parties of both sexes on the role of parties, especially young leaders in times of crisis, and open discussion with community leaders on youth migration. A training workshop was also held for 25 coordinators on "monitoring and documentation" for 4 days. A training workshop was held for 35 participants on "Advocacy and Media" for youth lobby groups, federations and trade unions. Furthermore, they were trained on how to analyze the internal rules and regulations of political parties from a gender perspective.

**Establishment of Gender Forum within local Government**, which is a coalition of 12 feminist and human rights organizations. It serves as a coordinating body for the control of the local Government. It aims to influence decision-makers towards adopting policies that guarantee the most effective participation of women in the local councils. The Forum is active in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and conducts ongoing accountability campaigns and media campaigns to raise awareness of women in local councils. The budget allocated for this year is \$360,000.

**Empowerment of marginalized women to participate and develop their Leadership life in economic, social and community life of Jerusalem**, by implementing the Women Empowerment Project in the Marginal Areas of Jerusalem. The objectives of the Project shall be as follows: (a) empowering 120 women to acquire the skills, confidence and means to become leaders in their local communities; (b) strengthen the capacity of 12 community-based organizations, including women's associations, to strengthen this women's leadership. One of the most important outputs of the project is to make long-term changes using several proven and innovative activities to promote women's empowerment. On basis of the United Nations Guidelines on the Empowerment of Women, women's empowerment is rooted in: (i) women's sense of self-worth; (ii) their right to choose and determine options; (iii) the right to opportunities and resources; The right to have the right to control their lives within and outside the home; and (v) their ability to influence the direction of social change to create a fairer social and economic order.

**Implementation of a campaign to increase women participation by 30% in decision-making** through full equality under the theme of the campaign: "Women's participation in decision-making. Ensure the achievement of victory." The objectives of the campaign: 1. Contribute to pressure on parties and decision makers to increase women's representation in decision-making 30% on the road to full equality; 2. To contribute to raising women's awareness and capacity building, especially young women. 3. Contributing to raising the awareness of the local community on the importance of women's political participation in decision-making bodies through media activities. The Scope of procedure was West Bank and Gaza. Target group: right holders (women,

young people of both sexes)/policy-makers (decision-makers, political parties, legislators, etc.) / media professionals.

**Formation of shadow councils for monitoring the work of local councils from a gender perspective**, the idea of forming shadow councils was characterized as a pioneering idea. During the period 2014-2019, 92 shadow councils were formed in all governorates in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The councils aim to monitor the work of local councils from a gender perspective, and to raise the capacities of women and young women and encouraging them to participate in elections, whether as voters or candidates. It also aims to involve women in their local communities. Quality activities of shadow councils include training on shadow opportunities where 62 members of the shadow councils accompanied heads and members of local councils, decision makers and influential figures to equip them with leadership skills. These opportunities have contributed to enhance their skills and encourage them to run for elections. Boards of the shadow councils undertook community initiatives, notably contributing to formulation of the women's anti-corruption strategy, in cooperation with the Anti-Corruption Commission.

**Building of young male and female leaders especially students**, a new generation programme is implemented to be decision-makers in their communities. This is through a two-year intensive training programme to build their abilities in different content and skills. With dozens of student applicants, 25 young men and women are selected to join the programme. They are trained on the mechanisms of team building, communication with the public, leadership, project and time management, job application skills, curriculum vitae, political parties, secularism and nationalism, and the unions and federations so that these young people can come out with strong knowledge and skills for their interventions in their communities through community initiatives that must be implemented at the end of each programme. Through the programme, young women can participate in international programmes, training, conferences and international and regional training workshops, the third of which has a budget of \$64,000.

## **2. Actions taken in the past five years to increase women empowerment to express and participate in decision-making in mass media, including information and communication technology (ICT):**

Palestinian institutions have worked on a range of measures to enable women to access decision-making in the media, such as the establishment of the media network, as well as cooperation with employers in the field of media and ICT to improve internal policies and recruitment practices on a voluntary basis. These are examples of the measures:

Achieving a women's media strategy for the years 2015-2017 that aims at enhancing the participation of women in political and social life. Three TV episodes were also produced and broadcast on the TV channel together under the titles: "Obstacles facing women in the electoral process, the role of political parties in promoting women's participation in local elections and women's participation in local government". Some 110 leather posters and 30 billboards and brochures were produced in the West Bank and Gaza Strip urging women to participate in the local elections. SPOTS 2 was prepared to urge women to stand and motivate them to cast their vote and take an advanced position in the list and broadcast their vote through Palestine TV, local television and social networking sites. Many television and radio interviews were held at different events.

“I am a woman and I want to be a politician” is a project funded by the Spanish CFD Foundation. It lasted for 3 years (2016-2018) and targeted 40 students from the universities of Bethlehem, Palestine, the Hebron University, the Polytechnic and 20 women from political parties and factions and officials in these parties. The project entails building the capacities of 20 women from political parties and frameworks and increases their representation in them and in decision-making positions through training

Empowerment of members of local councils on issues of gender equality, through the implementation of the "Participation" project in 2014-2016, which targeted members of the local councils in the various governorates in the West Bank grassroots committees and foundations in Gaza, and the media platform for gender issues. The media campaign included television and radio programmes, written reports, infographics and drawing murals. The cost of the project is close to 110,000 Dollars.

In order to promote women's leadership skills in political participation, women were supported for active participation in political parties. Selected media were involved in the promotion of women's political participation and the central role of women in reconciliation and peace-building. Political awareness, confidence and skills of young men and women were raised in 20 locations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, through the implementation of the project "My right in the future", during the years 2015-2017. With a budget of 400,000 Euros, The project was implemented in 20 sites in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in partnership with the twelve political parties.

In the framework of strengthening the role of women in promoting comprehensive and sustainable economic development in Palestine, the project "Strengthening capacities for creating economic initiatives for women in the West Bank" was implemented. The project targets women in the West Bank in general, especially women exposed to violence, companies and decision makers, and the community in general through awareness campaigns. The project has been ongoing since 2018. Its activities include the launching of a women's competition to present ideas for pilot projects related to the technology sector, and the selection of 18 projects for their support and follow-up. The implementation of a series of training for women beneficiaries of the project related to practical skills and life skills. Providing job offers for women at companies or from home. Conduct a study on sexual violence in the workplace and design and implement an awareness and advocacy campaign on gender-based violence in the workplace. The project budget is 110,000 Euros.

### **3. National budget and its role in gender equality promotion and women Empowerment:**

In order to answer the estimated percentage of the budget invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, it is important to note that there are several factors that intersect in this matter. These factors include the budget of the Ministry of Women's Affairs, which is one of the lowest with a rate of 0.000125 of the total budget, amounting to only about 2 million Dollars. In addition, there are gender units in the ministries and communication centres in the governorates, which are allocated funds from Government budget, but there are no accurate figures on the estimate of that budget, except that there are some development projects that are monitored from Government budget and national support, and these projects by very few and does not constitute 1% of the development projects funded. There are developmental projects of the Government budget and international support and although there is no estimated study of these projects, it can be estimated by 50%. There are also developmental projects funded directly from

donor countries without going through financial procedures of Government, but they partner with the Government in policy and technical matters. Their budget is estimated at 50%. For example, there is the Canadian project funded for five years on the elimination of violence against women with a budget of 15 million Dollars, along with other projects in economic and heritage empowerment.

The Ministry of Women's Affairs, in cooperation with the United Nations Women's Fund, has also studied the State budget. The study has produced a set of recommendations for the budget response to gender issues:

1. A comprehensive review of the programme, i.e. a review of the sector through information on programme implementation, evaluation of the sector strategy budget with the national development plan, and a need to identify their balances with the national cross-sectoral gender strategy and to identify outputs to be managed under projects. There also a need to identify projects that targeted gender equality and/or gender equality and women's empowerment assessment, re-prioritization of programme expenditure, review of programme assignments and budget review (this phase can benefit from CEDAW monitoring standards) (Annex 1) and the principles of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Annex 3), as well as the Guidelines for Indicator 8 of the Global Monitoring Framework for Effective Development Cooperation.
2. Review the institutional and administrative arrangements for the integration of gender equality and the empowerment of women: In this context, the role of the head of the budget planning and management team should be reviewed and clarified as the decision maker and the responsibility rests with both programme managers and the programme management team. The composition of the contingents in the expenditure planning phase, and in view of the methodological guidelines of the manual and the instructions for generalizing the budget call, should be redefined. In this case, it will be necessary to learn to use the principle of maximum available resources and to analyze the impact of gender equality in bridging the funding gap and the allocation of negotiations.
3. The development of the programme tree using gender-responsive and human rights-based programme principles can be improved and enhanced at all steps of gender-sensitive causal analysis, role analysis and implications of capacity gaps that need to be addressed. There is a need to review the definition of the project and the project cycle management system to integrate the principles of gender responsive budget programmes, and the harmonization of "extra-budgetary projects" with FMS (use of the gender equality sign in those projects and the target budget tracking system for gender equality) Nesin, and allocations of sectoral gender-responsive.

#### **4. National Strategy for Gender Equality**

State of Palestine prepared a national strategy with the participation of all actors working on the issue of equality titled: "Gender Equality and Justice Enhancement and Women Empowerment" whose objectives and policies have linked to sustainable development objectives and goals, covering a period of six years (2017-2022). Its cost cannot be estimated due to involvement of

multiple competent actors including Governmental institutions and civil society organizations. Its policy relates to:

**Special policies in 1<sup>st</sup> Sectoral Strategic Objective:**

- Reduce the rate of violence in all form against Palestinian women by 10%.
- Hold the Israeli occupation accountable internationally and nationally for its crimes against Palestinian women and girls.
- Develop and amend local laws and regulations that limit violence, ensuring that women have access to justice.
- Implement the National Plan for UN Resolution 1325.
- Implement the national transfer system and hazardous cases system.
- Develop social, educational, health policies and judicial services specialized in battered women.
- Improve economic and living conditions necessary to support the steadfastness of Palestinian women and girls under Israeli occupation.
- Promote social responsibility in the promotion of anti-violence community culture.
- Develop mechanisms for accountability and follow-up in the fight against violence, including oversight of informal judiciary.
- Implement recommendations of the Committee on Critical Situations.

**Special policies in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sectoral Strategic Objective:**

- Increase women's participation in decision-making positions in Governmental and non-Governmental institutions that have at least 10% impact on the lives of men and women.
- Develop institutional policies that promote women's access to decision-making positions.
- Build leadership capacities of women in institutions.
- Influence the will of policy-makers in institutions to empower women to hold leading positions.
- Develop mechanisms and programmes to enable women engage in leading community, party and trade union institutions.

**Special policies in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sectoral Strategic Objective**

- Institutionalization of gender equality and justice issues and women empowerment in all formal institutions.
- Enable gender units in ministries and Government institutions play their role.

- Strengthen role of formal and informal national mechanisms on women issues.
- Develop accountability mechanisms for gender equality issues (monitoring and evaluation, aid coordination mechanisms, gender responsive budgeting).
- Implement gender audits in formal institutions.
- Build capacity of Ministry of Women's Affairs in line with the requirements to achieve the cross-sectoral national strategy to promote gender equality, justice and women empowerment 2017-2022.

#### **Special policies in the 4<sup>th</sup> Sectoral Strategic Objective**

- Enhance women participation in economic sector
- Mainstream appropriate work standards for women working in the public, private, civil and international institutions that operate in Palestine.
- Adopt motivational and protective legislation for small enterprises and working women.
- Ensure women receive minimum wages and organize women in official work
- Ensure justice and equality in the labour rights of women within the legislative system in the civil and military service laws
- Enable entrepreneur women and persons with disabilities to access necessary finance and expertise.
- Increase competitive capacity of women's products and women associations at national level and in global markets.
- Develop an organized and effective gender-sensitive vocational and technical education and training system to provide labour market with its needs of skilled and semi-skilled labour of men and women.

#### **Special policies in the 5<sup>th</sup> Sectoral Strategic Objective**

Improvement of quality of life of disadvantaged and marginalized households

Develop interventions to reduce the decline in enrolment rates, quality of education at the primary and pre-school education, and reduce the decline in the academic quality and Enrolment rates for males in secondary education.

Review educational curricula for general and higher education from a gender perspective.

Provide adequate living and health services for the elderly, elderly and families that suffer from extreme poverty.

Develop gender sensitive services and facilities.

Establish institutional measures to ensure access to water and energy at appropriate

quality and price

Develop infrastructure suitable for women working in security, ministries and Government institutions.

Take special measures for women to quality health services, access to postnatal services, women's diet services and sexual and reproductive health services.

Activate the participation of girls in youth and cultural institutions and clubs in cities, villages and camps, and to develop services for creative and amateur in creative and sports fields.

## **5. Timetable for implementation of recommendations of CEDAW Committee according to general themes:**

State of Palestine prepared through the National Team a working plan for the implementation of the recommendations of the CEDAW Committee. Main points of the recommendations and the duration for the work are as follows:

- Promote gender equality in Sustainable Development Goals over the next four years.
- Define discrimination and legislative framework during 2019-2020.
- Legal status of the Convention during 2019-2020.
- Harmonize legislations and eliminate discriminatory laws 2019-2022.
- Access to justice during 2019
- Promote women security and peace during 2019
- Strengthen national mechanisms for advancement of women during 2019.
- Take special provisional measures during 2019-2022
- Address harmful images, stereotypes and practices during 2019-2022.
- Special recommendations on gender-based violence against women during 2019-2022.
- Recommend on women trafficking and exploitation through prostitution during 2019-2022
- Participate in political and public life during 2019-2022.
- Recommend on education during the period 2019-2022.
- Recommend on employment/employment during 2019-2020
- Recommend on health during 2019-2022.
- Economic empowerment and rural women during 2019-2022

- Disadvantaged women groups during 2019-2022
- Marriage and family relations during 2019-2020
- Amendment to Article 20 of the Convention during 2019

#### **6. National institution for human rights in State of Palestine:**

It is named “Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR)”. In the framework of its mandate on respect and promotion of the rights of various categories in the Palestinian society, the ICHR is working on a number of themes in the context of its work on women's rights on an ongoing and periodic basis:

##### **At national level:**

- Review legislations and laws in line with the rights of women provided for in CEDAW, and other conventions that protect and promote women rights, such as review of bill on protection of anti-family violence and the Pension Act.
- Follow-up Governmental measures and arrangements to ensure access for women to their rights, such as the review of health insurance system, procedures for women access to justice.
- Monitor practices of law enforcement officials such as the supervision of safety and protection homes for women and rehabilitation and rehabilitation centres.
- Hold discussion sessions and submit legal and policy briefs to decision-makers to urge them to comply with human rights standards for women.
- Strengthen competent institutions with women's issues through networking and coordination on issues
- Provide consultation and opinion to formal and informal institutions through participation in committees and coalitions on women's issues to increase and activate the role of the community judicial authority such as Coalition 1325 and the Committee on the Survey of Domestic Violence 2018-2019.

##### **At international level**

- Provide shadow reports to the relevant contractual committees such as submitting a shadow report to the CEDAW Committee on the first Government report.
- Participate in national, regional and international coalitions and committees to promote attention to women's issues and rights.
- Provide information and written and oral input on violations of the Israeli occupation of women, before the Human Rights Council and other non-contracting mechanisms.

#### **Fifth Dimension: Peaceful societies where nobody is marginalized**



This dimension specifically includes measures taken by Palestine to address the Israeli violations and aggressions under the occupation, continuous siege of the Palestinian Territories, and continued campaigns of arrest, murder, destruction and Judaization. This dimension intersects with Beijing's areas of concern on women and armed conflict, women's human rights and girl child.

General status: continuous Israeli violations and aggressions, more than 550 Israeli military checkpoints, more than 5,800 prisoners (including 54 women and 250 children) in 2019, judaization of Jerusalem, the siege of Gaza, attacks by settlers, burning of crops and uprooting of trees.

### **1. Actions taken in the last five years to counter Israeli attacks and violations in accordance with UN Resolution 1325:**

State of Palestine has undertaken a series of measures to address Israeli violations against the Palestinian people, in general and Palestinian women, in particular. A national action plan for women, peace and security was adopted and implemented in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1325. Commitments related to women, peace, and security has been integrated in frameworks of policies, planning and monitoring at national level and inter-ministerial levels. Examples of such actions include:

#### **On approval of a national plan for women, safety and security and integrating it in policies and planning framework**

Council of Ministers approved the National Strategic Framework for Resolution 1325. The Ministry of Women's Affairs in August 2016, through the National Committee for the Implementation of Resolution 1325, launched the National Implementation Plan for Implementation of Resolution 1325. To integrate the commitments of women, peace and security into policy and planning frameworks, the Council of Ministers issued clear instructions to all Government institutions to integrate the activities of the Executive Plan of Resolution 1325 into the programmes of the relevant ministries.

**Formation and development of security Consultative Committee on Gender Issues**, which is involved in all security services to raise the capacity of staff in these organs to deal with gender issues in accordance with human rights, and to build effective regulations that take into account the needs of women in crises, disasters and conflicts.

State of Palestine, through diplomatic missions and cadres, participates in international meetings on global peace, and takes part in collective negotiations. The official stance of State of Palestine with regard to ending the occupation is very clear, through its emphasis on a two-state solution that can only be achieved through fair negotiations.

**State of Palestine chairs Group 77 and China in 2019**, and the national team that follows up the work of the Group consists of more than 50% of women. The State seeks to lead the Group in a manner that supports implementation of development activities and programmes to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The State of Palestine will act as chair of the Group on issues related to administration and reform of the United Nations, budget, accountability and transparency, including balanced geographical representation of staff working in the United Nations. This would provide opportunities for staff coming from developing countries equally with

those from developed countries, to work in the United Nations system, particularly in high-level positions. This would develop the capacity of cadres from developing countries to work in various fields of international organizations, which will equip them with various experiences, and comprehensive knowledge of work of the United Nations and other international organizations.

### **Women awareness promotion in Resolution 1325**

A lobbying and advocacy campaign was implemented to promote implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 in Palestine through a televised campaign broadcast in early 2018. A dialogue session was held with police officers to discuss the role of police in protecting battered women on the one hand, and the enforcement of labour laws on privacy of women working in the police force. The awareness campaign of the Security Council resolution was also initiated by arranging radio interviews that began in early 2018 and ended in March 2018. Some 75 women have been made aware about the decision, mine fields and the waste of military operations in areas of Jericho and the Jordan Valley.

Supported by the Euro-Mediterranean Women Foundation, two-day national dialogue meetings were held in Ramallah to examine the outcome of the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Meeting held in Cairo in 2017. A total of 81 people of men and women participated including civil society representatives, decision makers, Ministry of Development, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Women Affairs, in addition to representatives from the UN Women, Legislative Council, secretaries-general, political offices and the central committees of political parties in Palestine. During the two-day of the dialogue, the participants conducted in-depth analysis of the reality of women's rights in occupied Palestine, and the consequences of the continuous occupation and settlement on the daily life of Palestinian women in view of the continued lack of international will to implement resolutions of international legitimacy related to the Arab-Israeli conflict and rights of the Palestinian people. The meetings also deeply considered the issue of harmonizing national legislation with the conventions namely CEDAW. The meetings also reviewed the issue of quota which was approved by the National Council in 2015 to be at least 30% and the mechanisms to convert it into legislation. The meetings also elaborated on the role played by the political forces to raise awareness of the society about women's rights and equality. Furthermore, the meetings thoroughly discussed the huge gap between political discourse in favour of equality and women's rights, and the reality in terms of participation in development and in decision-making positions and bodies.

### **Implementation of the "Women, Occupation and Losing" Programme**

This programme targets women who have been traumatized by losing shock due to Israeli occupation policies (loss of a loved one as a result of death or detention, loss of home, loss of livelihood, loss of security and safety) where work is going on in 5 governorates (Jerusalem, Nablus, Hebron, Salfit, Jenin) and assists them to overcome the losing trauma and lead their normal life. At the same time, the Centre organized meetings for representatives losing women with diplomatic bodies and the European Union to discuss the repressive measures they are subjected to by the Israeli occupation authorities.

### **Reinforcing political participation of women in reconciliation and peace processes**

In 2015, a conference titled “Women's Call: One Country, One People, One Flag” was launched in which more than 900 women activists and leaders from various national action groups took part to discuss women's issues and their exclusion from participating in national reconciliation efforts.

### **Raising of awareness of decisions concerning women, peace, security and human rights for human rights workers and activists**

Capacity of service providers has been built on how to deal with cases of affected women. For example, 200 service providers (75 in Ministry of Interior, 100 in Ministry of Health and 25 in Ministry of Social Development) were trained out of 375 planned during the implementation years of the plan. Fifty employees of the security establishment were trained on the concept of the decision and the mechanism of integration in the plans, programmes and budgets for implementation purposes. Another 50 people were trained on the mechanism of documenting violations of the occupation such as abuse of women and children. Twenty five employees of social service providers were trained on dealing with women victims of occupation violence.

### **Launching of an Initiative within a Democratic Feminist Movement**

This was joined by various parties of the Palestinian feminist movement with the aim of pressuring the political parties to increase the representation of women in reconciliation delegations in Cairo on 21-11/22-11-2017. This initiative resulted in an increase in the representation of women from one woman in the previous dialogues to four women, and a position paper was formulated proposing a compromise and principles to end the division and build national unity on behalf of the General Union of Palestinian Women and Women's Centres and Institutions based on the principles adopted in the democratic feminist movement.

Participate in the end of 2017 to monitor the elections by holding individual meetings with representatives of Fatah and Hamas in Gaza in order to conduct municipal and local elections in Gaza and the West Bank to strengthen the social fabric and confront division through deepening democracy. A collective meeting was held with representatives of civil society and representatives of political parties in Gaza Strip. Also held were three broad dialogue meetings by the Assembly on the importance of local elections to stop the division within the mobilization and pressure activities carried out with the parliamentary blocs and political parties and all parties associated with the file of division.

## **2. Actions taken in the past five years to strengthen judicial and non-judicial accountability for violations of International Humanitarian Law and violations of human rights of women and girls by the Israeli occupation and its settlers:**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates play a pivotal role in international accountability and violations of international law, particularly about the accountability of the Israeli occupation for violations of the rights of Palestinian women and girls. The Ministry provides monthly reports to the International Criminal Court, including information on crimes committed by the Israeli occupation forces and settlers against Palestinians.

Participation in the sessions of the Conference of the States Parties to the International Criminal Court, the most recent being the session held from 5 to 12 December 2018, and a submission to the International Criminal Court on 28 November 2018 on the demolition of houses in occupied

Jerusalem, particularly in the town of Salwan, and attempts to forcibly displace its inhabitants. A referral to the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court was submitted on Tuesday, 22 May 2018, on the continuing crimes committed by Israel, the occupying power, and evidence of war crimes, crimes against humanity and other crimes falling within the jurisdiction of the Court With a view to opening an immediate investigation into the crimes committed by Israel and continuing its crimes against the Palestinian people.

A communication was submitted to the International Criminal Court (ICC) on 16 January 2018 against crimes committed by the Israeli occupying forces in the territory of State of Palestine. The communication is particularly concerned with cases of violations of the rights of children. The case of arbitrary arrest and detention of 16-year-old Nabi Saleh, who was arrested on 19 December 2017, in clear violation of international human rights law, in particular the Conventions on the Rights of the Child, the Convention against Torture, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in addition to violations of international humanitarian law and the Geneva Convention Seven, international criminal law, also live up to the level of crimes falling within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court.

### **Formation of a working group on crimes within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC)**

A decision to form the working group was issued by a Presidential Decree on 30 December 2017 under the chairmanship of the Public Prosecution and the membership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants. The working group was entrusted with the duty of raising issues that document the crimes of Israeli occupation against Palestinian women and girls to be on the agendas of UN organs: General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council and the International Court of Justice.

On 28 September 2018, State of Palestine filed a motion to sue the United States of America before the International Court of Justice to adjudicate the dispute arising from the transfer of the US Embassy to Jerusalem and to take the necessary steps to follow up the case.

Action has been taken to file a complaint with the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination on 24 April 2018 concerning the violation by Israel, the occupying power, of the Convention and its practice of a set of racist policies and practices in Palestine. The complaint calls for coordination with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian Territories since 1967, and to provide him with information and reports on the crimes of Israeli colonial occupation and its systemically and widely-practiced violations of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law as documented in its acts against Palestinians, women and men, in the occupied land of Palestine, and whom are protected under international humanitarian law as people under occupation.

Informing State of Palestine missions of the status of Palestinian women under Israeli occupation by preparing points and factsheets on the daily violations of Palestinian women and girls by Israeli occupation and settlers and disseminating them to all ambassadors of the State of Palestine abroad in order to raise the issue of Palestinian women and violations against them by Israeli occupation during their meetings in the countries accredited to them and while addressing them to assume their responsibilities towards the Palestinian people, especially Palestinian women.

A specialized committee has been formed and composed of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Commission of Detainees' Affairs; Palestinian Society Prisoner's Club; Prisoners and Liberties Committee, the Palestinian Prisoner Society; Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association "Addameer"; Defence of Children International (DCA) and the Centre for the Defence of Civil Liberties and Civil Rights "Hurriyat". This committee shall prepare complaints regarding the conditions of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in the Israeli jails and the conditions of torture and ill-treatment they receive, and submitted them to the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. A number of individual complaints have been prepared concerning Palestinian women prisoners in Israeli occupation prisons and the torture and ill-treatment of dual discrimination based on sex and nationality.

The Ministry of Information has issued numerous reports on violations of the occupation against Palestinian journalists. In October 2018, the Ministry of Information monitored 60 violations by Israeli occupation forces against 45 of them: 40 men journalists and 5 women journalists. The Israeli occupation authorities pursued Palestinian male and female journalists by targeting them with live ammunition, rubber bullets and gas bombs.

In 2014, a report was issued on Israeli violations against women and children in Gaza Strip, and it included 75 testimonies of women and children who have been subjected to violations amounting to war crimes. The report included all the rights of women and children contained in international humanitarian law and issued a fact sheet and recommendations based on this law. It is worth noting that the Assembly had sent testimony to the Commission on the Truth set up by the Human Rights Council on 23-7-2014.

Launching a study entitled "Violations of the rights of women and children by the Israeli occupation forces during the aggression against Gaza Strip" and included live testimonies of the victims of the aggression and the war on Gaza. A book on the status of Palestinian refugee women was also issued in accordance with international humanitarian law, international human rights law and international criminal law.

The preparation of a shadow report on the report of the occupying state on two issues: the right to family unification and the formation of a family and Israel's violation of this right which is guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and CEDAW. The report enlists the situation of Palestinian women in Israeli jails in contravention of international humanitarian law and general recommendation No. 30 in CEDAW. The report was distributed to official and civic bodies within the framework of advocacy and pressure on confronting the policy of judaizing Jerusalem and violating the rights of Palestinian women prisoners.

**As part of assistance to women affected by the Wall**, 362 food parcels were distributed to women affected by the war and live in dire economic conditions during the war in Gaza to support the women of the affected sector. The campaign covered poor and needy people in all governorates of Gaza Strip from north to south.

**Monitoring image of women in peace and security news** - the purpose of the monitoring is to gather and present data at a meeting in Oslo to discuss UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on participation of women in peace processes and assess progress made at global, regional and national fronts. The results were incorporated in the 2015 Annual Report of the Secretary General

to the Security Council. Palestine is among 15 states that suffer from wars and armed conflicts selected for this research. These states are: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guatemala, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Nepal, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Togo and Uganda. The survey covered 876 peace and security stories published in 83 major newspapers in 15 countries over three days in April 2015. The research results were presented on 7 October 2015 at a conference held in Oslo on resolution 1325.

**To monitor the image of women in the news on women, security, peace and violations against Palestinian women** – a project titled "Women in the Palestinian Media" was launched at the beginning of 2017 and lasted for one year. The project aims to build capacity of 15 media male and female students on issues of gender, human rights, women and the UN Resolution 1325, in addition to training them on media monitoring mechanisms and methodologies, writing of reports on results monitoring and conducting awareness campaign to promote a fair and balanced image of women in the media, especially in the political sphere. The project also aimed to introduce women as leaders and decision-makers, and to discontinue providing stereotypes about them. Fourteen women from Bethlehem and Hebron have been trained for 5 days on providing psychological aid for women and children in emergency and crisis situations.

### **3. Actions taken in the last five years for elimination of discrimination against rights of female children and their Abuse:**

State of Palestine has undertaken several measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against the rights of female children, including measures to combat negative social norms and practices, increase awareness of the needs and potential of female children, facilitate girls' access to quality education, skills development and training, and to address negatives in health results that are attributed to malnutrition, early pregnancy (such as anaemia), exposure to HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. These measures also included the implementation of policies and programmes to reduce underage marriage, early marriage and forced marriage, policies and programmes to eliminate violence against girls, including physical and sexual violence and harmful practices, and to implement policies and programmes to eliminate child labour, excessive levels of unpaid care and domestic work by female children, as well as promoting girls' awareness of and participation in social, economic and political life. The details are given in the following examples:

As for examples of these measures, they have been detailed in the previous themes, especially for early marriage violence, however it should be noted that several procedures have been implemented for the child as follows:

- Establish the National Council for Children with the participation of the Office of the Chief Justice and Ministry of Social Development. A strategy and plan for the protection of the Palestinian family, especially women and children, was developed through the Council and its participants from Government ministries.
- All necessary procedures have been met for accession to the Convention on the Rights of the Child including arrangement to prepare the initial report of the Convention in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development (for its direct competence in implementing the provisions of the Convention). A national team has been set-up and composed of all national

institutions concerned with preparation of the report. The initial report on the Convention was delivered to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in September 2018. Work is underway to follow-up implementation of the provisions of the Convention with the aim of promoting the status of the rights of children in Palestine, as well as preparation for discussion of the report with the Committee and get its recommendations which will contribute to the promotion of the rights of Palestinian male and female children, and to follow up on the implementation of the provisions of the Protocol on child trafficking, child prostitution and child pornography. A national team has been set up to follow up implementation of provisions of the Protocol and to prepare a report to the UN competent Committee to benefit from its expertise and remarks on the elimination of such practices against children.

- Project of sport for Palestinian Girls - the project aims to support female children psychologically by providing them with opportunity to practice sports for purpose of psychological discharge and recreation, especially in view of discrimination, violence and violation of their rights in Gaza Strip through occupation practices and muscular culture. The project targeted United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and school girls and their mothers (240 girls at age of 12 to 15 years) in Gaza Strip, where sports equipment (including bicycles, balls of various sports supplies and first aid kits for each site) have been purchased. Three workshops were organized on early marriage, reproductive health and nutrition, in addition to open days in each school for students and their mothers, as well as the implementation of a tournament in which participating schools compete.

## **Sixth Dimension: Preservation, Protection and Reform of Environment**

This dimension includes actions taken by State of Palestine on environmental policies, disaster reduction and climate risks and its relationship with promotion of gender equality. This dimension intersects with Beijing's areas of concern for “women's human rights, women and the environment and the girl child”.

### **1. Actions taken in the last five years for integrating gender in environmental policies:**

State of Palestine has worked on series of actions in area of gender mainstreaming in environmental policies by supporting women's participation and leadership in management and governance of the environment and natural resources, promoting evidence and raising awareness about environmental and health risks related to gender, increasing women's access to land, water and energy and other natural resources and controlling them. Details are presented in the following examples:

**To support women participation and leadership in environment sector**, State of Palestine and by a presidential decree in 2014, a woman was appointed as head of the Environmental Quality Authority. At the end of 2018 she was promoted to the post of Minister in Environmental Quality Authority.

**To raise awareness about environmental and health risks related to gender**, work continued in involvement of the community and raising levels of awareness to the importance of environment in many ways and using various means such as social media, television and radio, in addition to field visits to women associations and girls' schools. The number of clubs created in schools is in

the region of 300 clubs; girls' schools record more than 500 clubs. About 30 women's associations benefitted from environmental awareness programmes implemented by the Environmental Quality Authority.

**To support women's increased access to land, water, energy and natural resources and control,** the Land and Water Settlement Commission, issued by Decree Law No. 7 of 2016 on 22/3/2016, has been mandated to register, document and resolve all matters and disputes relating to any right of disposal, possession or benefit and any other registration rights to land and water in all Palestinian Territories that are covered by settlement and considered as a national priority. On 19 February 2019, a memorandum of understanding was signed by the Land and Water Settlement Commission, and Ministry of Women's Affairs to hold workshops, meetings and seminars to sensitize Palestinian women and girls on land and water settlement processes to realize their rights and duties including organizing of media campaign to familiarize women and girls with processes of land and water registration and settlement undertaken by the Commission.

Implementing agricultural development programme which aims at sustainable management of agricultural natural resources that are resilient to climate change, and to enhance productivity, competitiveness of agriculture in local and international markets, and its contribution to gross domestic product food security through implemented projects such as the Resilient Land and Resources Management Project (RELAP) which is a project for agricultural land reclamation and resource management. The Project aims to achieve food, nutrition, economic and social security for men and women through income-generating small projects. The categories targeted are male and female farmers in all governorates of West Bank. There is a percentage of the targeted category of women in particular. The project duration is 7 years which began in 2018, and the budget is \$24 million.

## **2. Actions taken in the last five years for integrating gender in policies and programmes for disaster risk reduction, climate resistance and mitigation:**

Palestine has worked on a range measures to eliminate disasters' risks by enhancing women's access during disasters to services such as relief funds, disaster insurance and compensation, in addition to introduction, promotion and implementation of gender-sensitive laws and policies related to disaster risk reduction, climate resistance and mitigation of its effects. Examples of such actions are as follows:

**To promote women's access to disasters such as relief, insurance and disaster compensation,** farmers (men and women) affected by natural disasters have been compensated through the Agricultural Risk and Insurance Fund (PADRRIF) established in 2015, to minimize the impact of material and financial losses they suffered as a result of climate change and its impact on their agricultural holdings (plant and animal). Farmers also have been supported by establishing their presence on their agricultural lands. All farmers affected by natural disasters have been targeted all over the agricultural lands in Palestine (in the West Bank and Gaza Strip). The total budget allocated by the Fund since it began business for risk prevention and agricultural insurance, 2015 to date, is 4.700 million Dollars.

**To enhance policies and laws responding to gender equality and related to disasters, climate, and their impacts,** all necessary actions have been taken for accession to the following



environmental conventions: (1) Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants; (2) Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Chemicals and Pesticides International trade; (3) the Paris Convention on Climate Change; and (4) the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

Prepare a national plan for resilience to climate change and submit it to the Executive Secretariat of the Paris Convention on Climate Change, guided by the guidelines of the Committee of Experts for the Least Developed Countries. Palestine was the sixth country in the world to present this plan with a view to creating an atmosphere conducive to the implementation of ambitious climate plans.

Preparation of a report on the status of environment in Palestine, supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), where the report is expected to be released in middle of 2019. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants, through diplomatic cadres, will represent State of Palestine and will actively participate in the negotiating rounds on environmental challenges facing the world, in particular climate change, biodiversity loss and environmentally sound management of toxic wastes.

Impact on structural blueprints of urban complexes from a gender perspective, where the impact of women on structural blueprints were highlighted through participation in the International Conference in Ecuador (UN HABITAT), and completion of the Gender Guide on Urban Planning addressed to members of local bodies.

### **Section 3: National Institutions and Procedures**

This section discusses the work of the relevant official national mechanism in the State, in addition to other working mechanisms and their role in promoting gender equality:

#### **1. Current national mechanism in the State and formal representation in international fora for gender equality and women empowerment:**

The Ministry of Women Affairs is the official national mechanism that deals with issues of gender equality. It is one of the components of the Palestinian Government. It has all the powers vested in it under the law as a Government ministry. It is headed by a leading figure in the post of minister. It attends all official Government meetings. Its main mission is to develop the Government commitment towards gender equality issues, and to enhance networking with women and international organizations.

#### **2. Relationship of national mechanism with the National Team on Sustainable Development Agenda:**

Based on a decision of the Council of Ministers to spear efforts to implement the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals regarding establishment of a national team composed of relevant Governmental institutions, civil society and private sector institutions, and under the leadership of Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Women Affairs is a member of that committee at the national level. The Ministry leads efforts to achieve Goal 5 on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. In this regard, it set up a specialized technical committee of Government and civil society institutions.

#### **3. Existing official mechanisms for various parties concerned with implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Sustainable Development Plan**

There are official Government entities that work and follow-up implementation and monitoring of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Sustainable Development Plan. These entities are Ministry of Women's Affairs, gender units existing in all Government institutions, as well as *Twasul* centres operating in governorates on women empowerment, in addition to the support by the Council of Ministers and Office of His Excellency, President Mahmud Abbas, for all efforts to empower Palestinian women.

On the other hand, there is the General Union of Palestinian Women, which is the patron of women institutions at home and abroad, and leads empowering women process in coalitions and shadow councils for women's institutions and working women circles in Palestinian federations.

There are women civil society institutions or institutions that are keen in promoting gender relationships and work on lobbying and advocacy for women causes on Government policies, in addition to education, awareness, and capacity building in all areas.

International organizations are among those who extend support and great technical cooperation on the issue of gender equality. Here, it worth mentioning the UN Women, being the UN official arm for assisting State of Palestine to achieve its goals of gender equality, as well as the United

Nations Population Fund (UNPF) which is working on gender-sensitive issues such as violence against women and reproductive health.

In addition, there are international agencies and countries whose support was of great significance in implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Beijing Platform for Action. Ranking high on the list of these countries are Italy, Canada, Spain and Norway through their representatives based in Palestine.

The following entities formally took place in the national coordinating mechanisms established to contribute to implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Sustainable Development Plan:

<b>Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action</b>	<b>Sustainable Development Action Plan 2030</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Civil society organizations ( <i>yes</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Women's rights organizations ( <i>yes</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Academia and research institutions ( <i>yes</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Religious organizations <input type="checkbox"/> Parliaments/parliamentary committees <input type="checkbox"/> Private sector <input type="checkbox"/> United Nations system ( <i>yes</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Other actors, please specify International agencies and representations	<input type="checkbox"/> Civil society organizations ( <i>yes</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Women's rights organizations ( <i>yes</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Academia and research institutions ( <i>yes</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Religious organizations <input type="checkbox"/> Parliaments/Parliamentary Committees ( <i>yes</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Private sector ( <i>yes</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> United Nations system ( <i>yes</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Other actors, please specify International agencies and representations

#### **4. Mechanisms to ensure women and girls’ participation from marginalized groups and to highlight their concerns in these processes**

To achieve justice and equality for Palestinian women and girls, the Ministry of Women's Affairs has endeavoured to develop a set of goals that aim to institutionalize gender issues and promote the rights of Palestinian women wherever they exist, and within various ministries and institutions concerned in key sectors, particularly the marginalized groups.

The aim of these goals is to influence the empowerment of women, especially those marginalized behind the Israeli wall or those with low income, and those with disabilities, and bridge gender gaps, and lead to activate national unity and coordinate efforts among all institutions, participation and dialogue to agree on medium-term and long-term action priorities with all partners.

Since its inception, the Ministry of Women's Affairs has adopted a participatory approach to develop national policies and strategic plans to reduce gender gaps and achieve greater rights for Palestinian women with different sectors of Government institutions, and civil society organizations, in a distinguished experiment across the Arab region.

This orientation by the Ministry of Women's Affairs has closely linked with the fact that gender issues are cross-sectoral rights issues and reflect rights related to half of the Palestinian society and not a specific framework for the work of a ministry or another body.

Therefore, to achieve the desired change in the status of women and girls, it was necessary to forge broad partnerships and direct action to institutionalize and mainstream responsibility for work in all gender-related issues to ensure that every woman and girl enjoy fair rights and to integrate them in a genuine and effective Palestinian development process. Approximately 700 people specialized in identifying priority issues to promote gender equality have participated.

#### **5. Contribution of parties concerned to preparation of the national report**

All the bodies concerned provided their official and documented reports according to the themes' established methodology. Twenty Government institutions and more than 15 women central institutions have participated.

#### **6. Gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls as a key priority in the National Plan/Strategy for implementation of Sustainable Development Goals:**

Gender equality is a goal that is of national priority in the national policy agenda and in the work of the Palestinian Government. Since the national planning methodology is based on integrating Sustainable Development Goals into national priorities, the existing plan is a single six-year national plan (2017-2022) that incorporates the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Upon completion of the national plans, the national plan and Sustainable Development Goals were aligned. The outcome what that the goals of the fifth target are national priorities, and there are work outcome, policies and interventions to achieve them.

## Section 4: Data and Statistics

This section discusses available data and statistics and their role in promoting gender equality through producing and using gender-sensitive statistics. In this context, State of Palestine was successful in using more gender-sensitive data in policy formulation, programme and project implementation, and to conduct new surveys to produce basic national information in specialized themes (such as use of time and gender-based violence, property ownership, poverty and disability) and participation in capacity-building to promote the use of gender statistics (for example, training courses, seminars on statistical estimation). To elaborate this:

### 1. Key 3 areas to enhance gender equality:

#### Area 1: Implementation of surveys and data collection events:

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics undertook implementation of census and surveys during the past five years including the following:

No	Name of Survey or Census	Year	Observation
1	General census of population, residences and facilities	2017	
2	Survey of family expenditure and consumption	2017	
3	Survey of manpower	2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018	
4	Survey of use of time	2012/2013	
5	Survey of violence in Palestinian society	2019	On-going
6	Multi-indicator health survey	2019/2020	On-going

#### Area 2: Publication, awareness raising, gender statistics. The key outputs during the last 5 years are:

No	Output	Year
1	Drama titled “Motion in Place” which reflects gender gaps in labour sector	2018
2	A You Tube on Status of Palestinian Women	2018
3	Press Communiqué on the occasion of 8 <sup>th</sup> March	2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019
4	Report on Women and Men in Palestine, Trends and Statistics	2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018
5	Poster, pamphlets on time survey data 2012/2013	2017
6	Student ticket: Figures and Statistics towards better future – in Arabic	2017

#### Area 3: Coordination and enhancement of institutional structure through:

- Develop models for number of administrative records to obtain data from Governmental and non-Governmental institutions.

- Upgrade competence of the staff in gender units in field of training in statistics and gender or sustainable development related indicators and their link with the national development agenda.

## 2. First 3 priorities to enhance gender national statistics for the next 5 years:

Priorities are:

1. Derive more indicators that measure the extent of implementing gender equality conventions, foremost of which is the CEDAW.
2. Focus on providing sustainable development data on gender indicators and gender equality.
3. Expand building of national and regional partnerships and enhance statistical capacities of staff in the statistical units to provide relevant indicator data.

## 3. Specific indicators to monitor progress made in the SDGs:

The development of the national policy agenda was based on the priorities that place the Palestinian citizen at the centre of the planning process, anchored to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition to sectoral strategic plans, there was a strategic cross-sectoral national gender strategy that took into consideration the interventions and policies that guarantee improvement of women's participation and progress toward gender equality. Forty-four sustainable development indicators have been identified within the priorities of the national policy agenda. Work is under way with all partners to finalize the identification of endemic indicators.

## 4. Indicators of Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals in the context of other related to gender in other SDGs.

The assessment of indicators has done based on availability in a data matrix that was developed by the Bureau. There are 7 indicators out of 14 indicators within the fifth target that has available data. Work is under way to develop data collection form to cover the remaining indicators that are not available.

## 5. Divisions that are routinely provided by key surveys:

Age, gender, education, marital status and geographical location are routinely and permanently available through major surveys.

## Annex 1

### Key Indicators on Status of Palestinian Women

Indicators	Male	Female	Total	Measurement Unit	Year
<b>Total population of Palestinians</b>	<b>2,433,196</b>	<b>2,348,052</b>	<b>4,781,248</b>	<b>individual</b>	<b>2017</b>
West Bank	1,470,293	1,411,664	2,881,957	individual	2017
Gaza Strip	962,903	936,388	1,899,291	individual	2017

<b>Sex Ratio (a male for every 100 females) in Palestine</b>	-	-	<b>103.6</b>	<b>ratio</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Life expectancy on birth in Palestine</b>	<b>72.7</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>73.8</b>	<b>year</b>	<b>2017</b>
West Bank	73.0	75.3	74.1	year	2017
Gaza Strip	72.3	74.5	73.1	year	2017
<b>Relative Distribution of Families in Palestine according to family head</b>	<b>90.0</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>ratio</b>	<b>2017</b>
West Bank	89.6	10.4	100	ratio	2017
Gaza Strip	90.6	9.4	100	ratio	2017
<b>Literacy rate among population (15 years and above) in Palestine</b>	<b>98.3</b>	<b>95.0</b>	<b>97.0</b>	<b>rate</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Dropout rate in elementary school in Palestine</b>	<b>0.89</b>	<b>0.53</b>	<b>0.71</b>	<b>rate</b>	<b>2016/2017</b>
<b>Dropout rate in secondary school Palestine</b>	<b>2.48</b>	<b>2.41</b>	<b>2.44</b>	<b>rate</b>	<b>2016/2017</b>
<b>Teachers in Government schools in Palestine</b>	<b>16,333</b>	<b>22,693</b>	<b>39,026</b>	<b>teacher</b>	<b>2017/2018</b>
<b>Male and female doctors in Palestine</b>	<b>83.0</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>ratio</b>	<b>2017</b>
West Bank	79.2	20.8	100	ratio	2017
Gaza Strip	86.7	13.3	100	ratio	2017
<b>Male and female pharmacists in Palestine</b>	<b>39.8</b>	<b>60.2</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>ratio</b>	<b>2017</b>
West Bank	39.1	60.9	100	ratio	2017
Gaza Strip	40.8	59.2	100	ratio	2017
<b>Ratio of handicapped in Palestine</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>ratio</b>	<b>2017</b>
West Bank	1.9	1.6	1.8	ratio	2017
Gaza Strip	2.9	2.3	2.6	ratio	2017

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Measurement Unit</b>	<b>Year</b>
<b>Ratio of individuals in manpower (15 years and above) in Palestine</b>	<b>71.6</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>45.7</b>	<b>ratio</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Rate of unemployment (15 years and above) in Palestine</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>48.2</b>	<b>28.4</b>	<b>rate</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Ratio of women (20-24 years) who gave birth before reaching 18 years in Palestine</b>	-	<b>22.0</b>	-	<b>ratio</b>	<b>2017</b>
West Bank	-	19.6	-	ratio	2017

Gaza Strip		25.1	-	ratio	2017
<b>Ratio of poverty among individuals according to monthly consumption patterns in Palestine</b>	<b>28.8</b>	<b>29.7</b>	<b>29.2</b>	<b>ratio</b>	<b>2017</b>
West Bank Gaza Strip	13.3 52.3	14.4 53.8	13.9 53.0	ratio ratio	2017 2017
<b>Women and men in local bodies in West Bank</b>	<b>78.8</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>ratio</b>	<b>2017/2018</b>
<b>Women and men in judiciary in Palestine</b>	<b>81.7</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>ratio</b>	<b>2017</b>
West Bank Gaza Strip	180 89.7	19.9 10.3	100 100	ratio ratio	2017 2017