

Sultanate of Oman Report
Comprehensive National Review on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action+30*
2024 AD

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Introduction

1. The Government of the Sultanate of Oman believes that women are a key component of the strength of society and affirms its continuous efforts to support human rights issues in general, and women's rights in particular, based on the principles and provisions of Islamic Sharia, which require the preservation of women's rights and respect for their dignity. This is reflected in the regulatory and institutional frameworks that guarantee the protection of women's rights, foremost among which is the Basic Law of the State issued by Royal Decree No. 2021/6, which devoted a great deal of attention to women and affirmed the state's guarantee of achieving equality between women and men in all fields, and that governance in the country is based on justice and equality, and that all citizens are equal before the law and are equal in public rights and duties.

2. The achievements of Omani women and the rights they have gained within the framework of the policies established by the blessed Renaissance of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said – may God bless his soul – is evidence of the importance of the role they play. His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq – may God preserve and protect him – has also given clear attention to the participation of Omani women in national development and supporting their role and empowering them in various fields, as he designated the seventeenth of October of each year to celebrate Omani Women's Day. The celebration of Omani Women's Day for the year 2020 witnessed the presentation of the Royal Commendation Medal to a number of Omani female figures by Her Highness Ahad bint Abdullah Al Busaidi – wife of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq – and the honouring of 50 accomplished women in various fields.

3. Oman Vision 2040 aims to promote family welfare, and empowering women is one of its key goals. It includes plans and programmes that contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights, including women's rights. In this context, Omani women played a vital role in preparing and implementing the vision. Their participation ranged between 30 per cent to 35 per cent in more than 41,000 posts across its various stages. This reflects their strong commitment to achieving progress and development in the country. These stages included preparation and diagnosis, foresight and scenarios, orientations and targets, communication initiatives, and a tour of all governorates of the Sultanate of Oman, and finally, the National Conference.

4. Women also participated in preparing the tenth “Five-Year Plan” with an average of 30 per cent, and the percentage of women within the central working team concerned with preparing the plan reached 60 per cent, as they participated in workshops, technical and coordination meetings, and virtual meetings. They also participated in setting the plan’s priorities. Women's participation was focused on welfare and social protection (51 per cent), the governance of the state’s administrations and human resources (59 per cent), developing the youth sector (37 per cent) and environment and natural resources (36 per cent). The Sultanate of Oman is working to evaluate the tenth “Five-Year Plan” in all its stages in national institutions within the system of institutional performance excellence.

5. The Sultanate of Oman has also focused on activating the objectives and themes of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 and their targets, including SDG 5 concerned with “gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls,” and has included it in its five-year development plans. The Sultanate of Oman submitted its first voluntary report in 2019, and will submit its second voluntary report in 2024, which reflects the level of social welfare for people and their enjoyment of all their rights. The Sultanate of Oman ranked fourth in the Arab world in the Social Progress Index in 2023.

6. In light of national reports on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 10, 15, 20 and 25, the preparation of the national report for the thirty-year comprehensive review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action comes in implementation of international commitments, as the Sultanate of Oman is keen to review and evaluate the progress achieved in its twelve areas related to women, from 2019 to 2024.

7. In confirmation of national measures on best practices, in line with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in line with the principle of leaving no one behind, the Sultanate of Oman has implemented a number of initiatives that have contributed to enhancing the role of women in comprehensive development, as follows:

- (1) The TASMU initiative to develop the leadership competencies of Omani women in 2024 AD. The initiative targets women who hold a supervisory position in the government and private sectors and civil society institutions, in order to achieve target 5.c of SDG 5, which is to adopt sound policies and enforceable legislation and

strengthen existing policies and legislation of this kind to promote gender equality and empower all women and girls at all levels.

- (2) The Women's Leadership Empowerment Programme Package in 2023 aimed to build the capacities and skills of women in the electoral process and decision-making positions for all women candidates for electoral courses and women with a societal impact in order to provide them with skills to formulate the media campaign, mobilize support and deal with the media and social media in accordance with SDG target 5.5 on "Ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life."
- (3) Launching a number of electronic platforms, represented by the Rifi platform, with the aim of promoting, marketing and selling the products of rural women and women entrepreneurs in agricultural and fishery activities and related industries in 2022, and launching the Maksa platform with the aim of finding smart outlets to support the products of social security families, low-income and entrepreneurs in 2023, in line with SDG target 5.b on promoting the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.
- (4) Launching the Omani Women's Wiki initiative in 2021. This initiative aims to enrich the digital content of Omani women influential in the fields of culture, education, society, politics and innovation, by raising their digital representation through electronic publishing and documenting the biographies of a group of Omani women in Wikipedia, where 100 accomplished Omani women figures have been documented.
- (5) Launching the National Digital Competencies Initiative 'Makeen' in 2021. The initiative aims to qualify national competencies with modern digital skills that are most in demand in the market to open new job opportunities and provide the labour market with national competencies that are compatible with the rapid renewal in the business environment. The initiative targeted female graduates and job seekers, as well as male and female entrepreneurs, as it included a programme concerned with training women in the field of communications and information technology for job seekers who are graduates of communications and information technology. This initiative received a certificate of excellence under the category of Best Women's Empowerment Initiative

within the Digital Government Award for the Gulf Cooperation Council countries in 2023.

- (6) Implementing the Women Inmate Empowerment Programme since 2020 AD, which is a national programme that aims to identify and study all the needs of women inmates in correctional institutions (prisons). The Programme works to invest their potential within a package of cognitive and educational paths to develop the personality within these correctional institutions and then social reintegration into society after release. It is taking place within the framework of the aftercare system and preparing opportunities to build small or medium projects with the provision of marketing windows. All of that will achieve a degree of psychological, social and economic stability for women.