

**Minutes of the First Meeting of the Executive Bureau of the Parliamentary  
Network for Women Parliamentarians in Africa and the Arab World**

**Thursday, May 2, 2024**

**Meeting Details,**

**Date & Time: Thursday, May 2, 2024, 10: 10 am.**

**Venue: Virtual, via Zoom**

**Participants**

1. Dr. Jihad Abdullah Al-Fadhil - Kingdom of Bahrain - Network Chairwoman
2. Senator Lindiwe Dlamini - Kingdom of Eswatini - Deputy Network Chairwoman
3. Mrs. Amal Mohammed Essalabi, Republic of Libya
4. Senator DIABY Makani - Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
5. Ms. Safaa Hassan Jassim - International Relations Advisor
6. Mr. Sadeq Jafar Al-Halwaji - Media and Communications Director

Mrs. Fatehah Khourtal, a Member of the House of Councilors from the Kingdom of Morocco, was absent from the meeting due to online communication difficulties.

**The meeting commenced at 10:10 am.**

**Meeting Commencement**

Dr. Jihad Al-Fadhil welcomed the members of the Executive Bureau of the Parliamentary Network, emphasizing the great importance of the network and the aspirations it seeks to realize in terms of supporting women and enhancing their status on both the African and Arab levels.

After ensuring that the meeting had achieved a quorum, Dr. Al-Fadhil opened the event by reading out the agenda items as follows:

1. Discussion of the network's identity, including mission, vision, objectives, and slogan.
2. Discussion and Evaluation of key issues impacting women in Arab and African countries.
3. Exploration of the most effective means and channels to support the network's marketing and strengthen parliamentary relations.
4. Any other business.

Before initiating the discussion on the agenda, Dr. Al-Fadhil informed members that the membership of Mrs. Khadijah, from the sisterly Kingdom of Morocco, didn't comply with the key conditions outlined in the Network's Rules of Procedure. These Rules require her to be a member of the House of Councilors or an equivalent council/senate, while Mrs. Khadija is a member of the House of Representatives.

Consequently, after coordinating with the Moroccan side, Mrs. Fatehah Khouertal, a Member of the House of Councilors from the Kingdom of Morocco, was nominated as her replacement .

### Agenda Items

#### **Item 1: Network Identity**

Dr. Jihad Al-Fadhil presented the proposed network slogan, vision, mission, and objectives, which had been previously shared electronically with members. After deliberation and opinion sharing on this item, members agreed on the following ;

- ❖ Choose the slogan that reflects the identity of African and Arab women, and change its colors.
- ❖ Incorporate the amendments made by members into the network's publication (the brochure), and acknowledge receipt of amendments from the President of the Senate of Eswatini.
- ❖ Unanimously approve the network's mission, vision, and objectives.

#### **Item 2: Discussion & Evaluation of Key Issues Impacting Women**

The participants engaged in discussions regarding the importance of evaluating the status of women both at the country level and regionally. Dr. Jihad Al-Fadhil suggested requesting the latest data and statistics from the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), as it possesses the most reliable and up-to-date information concerning women. Each member expressed willingness to provide us with available statistics on their country and region.

#### **Item 3: Network Marketing**

The network members emphasized the significance of expanding the network's relationships, as it enhances trust, credibility, and opens up new opportunities to achieve its objectives. They affirmed that they will utilize their personal relationships to promote the network.

Dr. Jihad Al-Fadhil also confirmed that she will start doing so as soon as possible during her participation in the assemblies of the upcoming 18th session of the Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly.

#### **Item 4: Any Other Business**

The members agreed to schedule a future meeting to extensively discuss the network's strategy and working mechanisms.

**THE END**

**Dr. Jihad Abdullah Al-Fadhil,**

**Deputy Speaker, Shoora Council, Kingdom of Bahrain,**

## **Network Chairwoman**