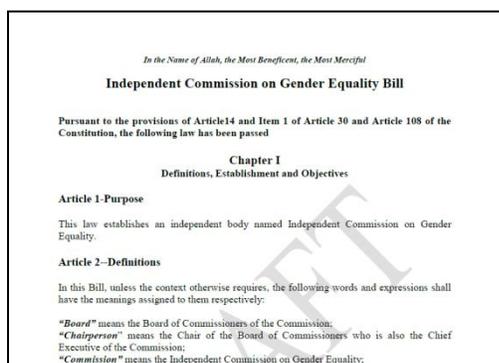


Women & Youth Knowledge Products – IPPI Project

List of all the innovative tools, videos, knowledge products, and other key documents related to youth and women produced at the country and regional levels within the framework of the Inclusive and Participative Political Institutions (IPPI) Project in the Arab States (2012-2013).

1. Iraq

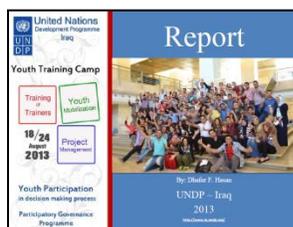
- **Draft Bill establishing the Independent High Commission on Gender Equality**



Bill drafted by the Women, Children and Family Committee, establishing the Independent High Commission on Gender Equality and providing safeguards for women's rights. The Bill regulates the purpose, objectives, establishment, functions and organization of the Commission, whose aim would be to: Ensure the protection and promotion of respect for gender equality in Iraq; Protect the rights and freedoms stipulated in the constitution, international laws, treaties and conventions ratified by Iraq; Strengthen, promote and develop gender equality principles and culture; Promote, monitor and report on the implementation of government priorities related to the advancement of gender equality.

The document is accessible [here](#).

- **Youth Participation in the decision-making process in Iraq – Report on the Youth Training Camp**



The Youth Training Camp took place from 18 to 24 August 2013 at the American University in Sulaymaniya (Iraq). Over 70 youth activists have participated in this seven days training event (51% women). The training contributed to provide the participants with information regarding diversity, how to address conflict, advocacy, youth mobilization, social media, project cycle and project management. To report is accessible [here](#).

2. Jordan

- **Political parties' gender strategy**



UNDP helped develop a Gender Strategy for political parties. The main aim of the strategy is to integrate gender into Political Parties' internal systems as well as their outreach mechanisms. The document is divided into two main sections: 1) Identifying gender gaps in the political parties, 2) Provision of generic strategies and actions to address identified gender gaps. The Strategy includes a legal framework review of political parties (including internal regulations of parties) and a mapping of women participation in political parties, to inform the legal reform process from a gender perspective, and resulted in the introduction of a list of interventions to ensure active women political participation in political parties. The strategy is accessible [here](#).

- **Political Development Strategy (Final Draft)**



The political development strategy is the first national strategy on political reform developed and approved by Parliament in March 2013. It includes legal reforms governing participation (Elections Law, Political Parties Law, Municipalities Law, and Press and Publications Law). UNDP helped undertake an inclusive nation-wide consultation process over a period of six months to ensure the strategy reflects national priorities, successfully engaging young people, civil society and local community groups, representatives of political parties. A Public opinion poll on awareness, perception and participation in political life was conducted with UNDP's support to inform the strategy formulation and other future reform processes.

The document is accessible [here](#).

- **Action plan for implementing the national strategy for political development**

The Action Plan offers implementation strategies for short and long term interventions. It is divided by sectors as they relate to the six pillars of the strategy: respect for human rights; citizenship and rule of law; political participation; legislative reform; youth and education; and free media. The Action Plan is accessible [here](#).

- **Matrix - electoral legal framework review and recommendations for reform**

The comprehensive matrix includes recommendations made by international and domestic observers as well as the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) for electoral legal reform on a topic-by-topic basis. The review covers the:

- ✓ IEC Law
- ✓ Electoral Law (System of representation; Voter registration; Nominations; Regulation of campaigns / campaign finance / media regulation; Polling; Counting / tabulation / announcement of results; Resolution of election-related disputes (complaints / challenges / disputes)
- ✓ Political Parties Law (Registration; Regulation)
- ✓ Other Relevant Laws (Municipal law; Criminal Code; and others)
- ✓ Constitution

The Matrix is accessible [here](#).

Instrument	Element	Recommendation	Source
Constitution	Article 6	• Harmonize with ICCPR Article 2, CEDAW, and National Agenda to prohibit all forms of discrimination against women	DRI Center for
	Article 27	• Amend ICCPR Article 25 - specifically guarantee the right and opportunity for all citizens, without distinction or unreasonable restrictions, to vote and be elected, equal and universal suffrage, and specific guarantees for the free expression of the will of voters	DRI
	Article 65	• Consider elections for Senate • Consider elections for Senate ◦ If not elected, the Senate should be made more representative (more women, representatives of ethnic or religious groups, etc.)	RI Center for
	Article 87	• Amend to clarify that candidates monitor the electoral process through agents that do so on their behalf • Mandate IEC to deal with all elections, not only those for the House of Representatives • Establish election tribunals for all elections to be held in the country in order to ensure impartiality • Incorporate principle of equality of representation	Kennedy EU RI DRI DRI
	Article 122	• Amend to give the IEC the power to interpret electoral laws that have not been	Kennedy

3. Lebanon

Three articles on parliamentary media, parliamentary diplomacy, and parliamentary consultations were submitted to the parliamentary administration. The first two articles were published in the Parliament's semester newsletter "Parliamentary Life", September's issue no: 88. The third article on parliamentary consultations was published in the issue No: 89. These articles are a valuable source of information for MPs seeking knowledge on parliamentary issues.

- **Article on parliamentary media** (accessible [here](#))



- **Article on parliamentary diplomacy** (accessible [here](#))



- **Article on parliamentary consultations** (accessible [here](#))



- **Animated on-line film on the legislative process in Lebanon**



The animated film is educational and informative, introducing the Lebanese legislative process to youth. It is accessible [here](#).

- **Gender legal review of Lebanese legislation**



The review sets forth a list of new laws to be drafted and current laws to be amended for the promotion of gender equality. The document is accessible [here](#).

- **National Youth Policy Implementation Strategy**



The Youth Policy Document Implementation Strategy with recommendations for the Youth and Sports Parliamentary Committee was drafted, by a commissioned consultant who led a consultative process with all stakeholders to develop the strategy. The strategy was submitted to the Youth and Sports Committee for review and adoption. In return, the Head disseminated it to committee members and relevant stakeholders who attended a committee meeting in the beginning of November 2013. The strategy is a roadmap introducing chronological priorities for the Committee’s follow up and use. The document is accessible [here](#).

- **Study on promoting women in party structures and elections** (*in the process of being finalized*).

A study, recommendations, and implementation strategy on the role of the Parliament and parliamentary committees in “Promoting women participation in party structures and elections” was drafted. During the assignment, the consultant held meetings with various independent women groups and women members of political parties. Two focus group meetings were also organized, the first with women rights’ organizations and the second with women representatives of political parties. Heads of relevant parliamentary committees attended both meetings. As a result of the meetings, the participants’ feedback and recommendations on the promotion of women participation in political parties and elections (three Parliamentary Committees Heads attended these meeting) were gathered, and are reflected in the final version of the study.

- **Study on youth participation in political parties and elections**



A study, recommendations, and implementation strategy on the role of the Parliament and parliamentary committees in promoting youth participation in party structures and elections was drafted, by commissioning a consultant. As part of the assignment, the consultant held several meetings, and one-on-one interviews with independent youth and youth factions of political parties. The Consultant also requested official statistics and information from political parties regarding their youth representation. Furthermore, a Youth and Sports Parliamentary Committee meeting was organized to receive MPs’ feedback on measures to strengthen youth participation in political parties and elections. Three focus group meetings to finalize the study on promoting youth participation in party structures and elections were

organized. The first was held with the participation of experts and stakeholders, the second was held with the UN Task Force for youth and the third with the Lebanese Youth Forum. The result of the meetings was to involve and receive feedback from all relevant parties with regard to youth political participation, to reach consensus on the recommendations of the study and create national ownership using a participatory approach. The study was accordingly finalized and published. This is the first initiative on Parliament's partnership with independent youth and youth factions of CSOs and political parties.

Recommendations from the Study include: Adopting a new electoral law on a non-confessional basis with proportional representation ensuring equal representation and democracy; lowering the voting age to 18, lowering the age of the right to candidacy to 21 and adopting the women quota; Allocating a budget for new political parties for which 50% of total members are youth; Establishing independent youth committees within political parties, responsible for translating the youth policy document to working programs and projects for the parties. The Study is accessible [here](#).

- **Study on youth employment opportunities**



The study and recommendations on the role of Parliament and parliamentary committees in promoting employment opportunities for youth in Lebanon was drafted, as one of the youth policy document recommendations. Three focus group meetings were organized to discuss and finalize the study. The first was held with the participation of experts and stakeholders, the second was held with the UN task force for youth and the third with the Lebanese Youth forum. The purpose of the meetings was to involve and receive feedback from all relevant parties with regard to youth employment opportunities, to reach consensus on the recommendations of the study and create national ownership using a participatory approach. The study was finalized, published and launched on the International day of Democracy. The first of its kind initiative in including youth in public policy making, the study sets priority recommendations, including: developing and updating the draft labor law which was drafted 13 years ago;

restructuring and reforming the National Employment Office (NEO - responsible for making public policies related to the job market and creating employment opportunities for youth); organizing the free professions sector; and supporting the Central Statistics Bureau to provide the NEO with statistics and studies on unemployment and the job market in Lebanon. The Study is accessible [here](#).

4. OPT

- **Guidance Manual on the Palestinian legislative Council (PLC) legislative processes**



The Guidance Manual on the PLC legislative processes was produced to help PLC staff and Members of Parliament understand the principles of legislative drafting, legislative review and legislative impact analysis according to the Palestinian Basic Law and PLC Standing Orders. The Report includes recommendations for processing the backlog of legislation pending since the suspension of parliamentary activities. It reviews the status and shortcoming of the legislative process in OPT, and scenarios that could help the PLC resume parliamentary operations at any given moment in the future, once the PLC is back in session. It includes a legislative drafting methodology developed with Palestinian academic resources, and an impact analysis and review of 15 selected presidential law decrees that would have to be

presented once parliament is in session again. The Manual is accessible [here](#).

- **Handbook on the Youth Palestinian Legislative Council (YPLC)**



The handbook provides guidance on the procedural roles and responsibilities of the YPLC members and what it means to perform the functions of a parliament member: reviewing acts, legislative procedures, writing bills, information management, lobbying, public speaking, organizing, and other roles of leadership and policy setting. The Handbook is accessible [here](#).

- **Reports of the youth and social contract conferences in the West Bank and Gaza**

Through two conferences held in Gaza and West Bank, young people gained a better understanding of the meaning of the social contract and the mechanisms for social accountability. They were trained on how to hold their elected officials as well as service delivery institutions accountable for their actions and/or inaction. The documents summarize the key recommendations of the Gaza and West Bank conferences on the role of youth in social accountability and strengthening the social contract in OPT.

- ✓ **Report and recommendations of the youth and social contract conference in the West Bank (Arabic) – accessible [here](#)**



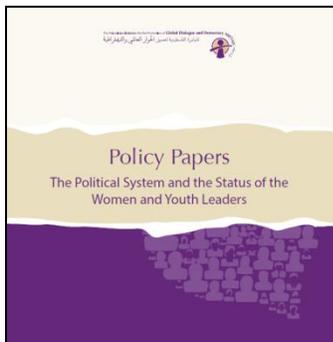
- ✓ **Recommendations of the social contract conference in the West Bank (English) – accessible [here](#)**



- ✓ Youth and the social contract - Gaza conference recommendations - accessible [here](#).



- **Policy papers: The Political System and the Status of the Women and Youth Leaders**



The policy papers include an overview of the status of Palestinian women and youth in political parties and specific recommendations to strengthen their leadership positions – mechanisms for action and influence. The document is accessible [here](#).

- **Video: UNDP/MIFTAH's work supporting young Palestinian political women leaders**



The video provides an overview of UNDP and the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH) support to 83 young women political activists to develop capacities to more actively and effectively engage in political dialogues and advocate on policy making levels, helping them to build their leadership capacities and create networks and dialogue channels with decisions makers within their political affiliations. The video is accessible [here](#).

5. Regional

- **The Evolving Relationship between Citizens and Parliaments in the Arab World’ (Morocco, 5-6 June 2013) - Regional Seminar Report**



The Report summarizes the key discussions of the regional launch of the Global Parliamentary Report¹ (June 2013) organized by the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), and UNDP (the first Global Parliamentary Report is a joint work of the IPU and UNDP, produced in 2012, focusing on the changing nature of parliamentary representation) highlighting recommendations and best practices identified for parliaments in the region for effective parliamentary representation. The Report is accessible [here](#).

- **‘Algiers Declaration on Arab Women’s Political Participation’ adopted at the International Conference on Effective and Sustainable Participation of Women Elected Assemblies held in Algiers, in December 2013**



Over 100 women parliamentarians in the Arab region (including MPs from Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, and OPT) attended the conference and identified enabling mechanisms and legal frameworks at the regional level to promote a meaningful and sustainable participation of women in decision-making processes at the national level. The “The Declaration enlists 14 points of action to increase and enhance women’s political participation across the Arab region, including constitutional and legal reforms to ensure equality of access for women, enacting temporary special measures to ensure higher representation in elected bodies, and public education awareness to change prevailing stereotype prejudicial towards women’s political participation. The Declaration points require that: all parliaments gradually enact parity for all political decision making bodies in all branches of power, at all levels; all political parties and all parliaments establish legally binding minimal quotas of 30 % for women, for all

party decision making bodies; permanent regional and national forums of women parliamentarians be established for exchange of experiences and best practices and strategic common work. The Declaration is accessible [here](#).

¹ http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/democratic-governance/parliamentary_development/the-global-parliamentary-report/