

Beirut, 30 November 2018

Press release

First meeting of Steering Committee of Lebanon National Gender Observatory

30 November 2018, Ministry of State for Women's Affairs, Lebanon

The National Gender Observatory in Lebanon is established in the frame of the 2 year multi-country project "Strengthening access to protection, participation and services for women refugees, IDPs and host communities" funded by the European Union Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, the EU Madad Fund. The first meeting of the Steering Committee of the Observatory took place on 30 November 2018 at the Office of Minister of State for Women Affairs and was chaired by H.E. Minister of State for Women Affairs Mr. Jean Oghassabian. Hosted by the Office of the Minister of State for Women Affairs, the Observatory is at the forefront of gendering policies and research in crisis response. It aims at enhancing the institutional capacities and cross-sector coordination to ensure that Lebanon response to the Syrian crisis is gender-sensitive.

H.E. Mr Jean Oghassabian opened the first meeting of the Steering Committee of the Observatory. He underlined that the Observatory is a partnership among key ministries and major actors involved in the response to the Syrian crisis. Mr Oghassabian further highlighted the objectives of the Observatory and stressed on the importance of cooperation and coordination between various ministries, public and private institutions in integrating gender approach.

Mr. Rein Nieland, Head of Section at the EU Delegation in Lebanon said that the establishment of the National Gender Observatory is possible thanks to the European Union MADAD regional trust fund. The Observatory is the "first output" of the EU Madad Fund Programme focused on gender that just started. "The comprehensive analysis of the status of women in Lebanon that will be generated by this Observatory will help on one hand in addressing gender discrimination and on the other also highlight the achievement of women over the years to come."

Boriana Jonsson, Executive Director of EuroMed Feminist Initiative emphasized the added value of the project's comprehensive action in addressing the needs of women, by linking emergency approach and sustainability, the immediate needs of the most vulnerable with policy making.

The meeting was attended by high level representatives of Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Interior (ISF and General Security), Ministry of Education and Higher Education, National Commission of Lebanese Women, Central Administration for Statistics, Hariri Foundation, Issam Fares Institute, as well as EuroMed Feminist Initiative and the project partners in Lebanon, Care International in Lebanon, Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering and Legal Action Worldwide. The participants discussed the mission, objectives and action plan of the Observatory as well as the roles and responsibilities of the Steering Committee and agreed for the upcoming meeting agenda.