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EuroMed Feminist Initiative
المبادرة النسوية الأورومتوسطية
Initiative Féministe EuroMed

Press Release

4th February 2020

Civil Society Conference Held to Discuss Localization of Iraq 2nd NAP for UNSCR 1325

Alliance 1325, an Iraqi national initiative that advocates for women's rights and the implementation of Iraq's National Action Plan (NAP) for the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, held a two-day National Civil Society Conference on 3-4 February in the framework of the 'Madad for Women' project funded by the European Union through the EU's Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, the EU 'Madad Fund'. The conference was also supported by the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI).

Representatives of civil society organisations (CSOs) and community-based organisations (CBOs) at the conference reviewed and discussed the draft of Iraq's second NAP for UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security. Subsequently, they gave recommendations for the improvement and localization of the draft for the second NAP in order to effectively and concretely meet the needs and aspirations of women in Iraq.

The conference was attended by H.E. Mr. Rebar Ahmed, the Minister of Interior in the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG); H.E. Dr. Ibtisam Aziz, the Director General of Women Empowerment Department at the Council of Ministers, Baghdad; H.E. Bakshan Zangana, the Secretary General of the High Council of Women Affairs in KRG; Mr. Vincent-Guillaume Poupeau, Head of the Erbil Liaison Office at the EU Delegation to Iraq, and Mr. Mohamad Tahir Al-Timemi, the Director General of the NGOs Department, Baghdad. Representatives from Alliance 1325, Sawtuha Alliance, the Network for UNSCR 1325 and the Iraqi Women Network were also present.

During the first session participants reviewed the key recommendations of the [National Report](#) on Implementation of Iraq's first NAP for UNSCR 1325, such as organising inclusive consultations and engaging local stakeholders (CSOs, CBOs, self-governments, most vulnerable women, etc.). They also reviewed the high-level consultations about the localization of Iraq's second NAP 1325 held in [Erbil](#) & [Baghdad](#). In the second session, Ms. Liza Hido from the Alliance 1325 presented the pillars and logframe of the draft of Iraq's second NAP 1325. The subsequent parallel sessions reviewed the second NAP in view of the recommendations of the national consultations with an open discussion and reports.

During the second day, key recommendations from the working groups were presented and discussed, followed by conclusions and next steps. "The NAP 1325 is a tool to progress women's rights in general, and women, peace and security agenda in particular. The women's rights organisations were a driving force behind the development, implementation and monitoring of the first NAP," stated Ms Suzan Aref, Coordinator of Alliance 1325 and Executive Director of Women Empowerment Organisation. "These two days we gave our recommendations to the decision makers, building on the achievement and the lessons learned from the first NAP, and on our diverse experiences on the ground."

The final recommendations addressed the need to amend discriminative legislation and support women economic empowerment. They were handed to the Director General of Women Empowerment Department at the Council of Ministers, Baghdad, and the Secretary General of the High Council of Women Affairs in KRG for their consideration in the finalization of Iraq's second NAP for UNSCR 1325.

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