

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This report on the follow-up of the resolutions adopted at Beijing (1996) was jointly prepared by the Interministerial Coordination Committee, representing women's affairs departments in ministries and State institutions, and the General Federation of Palestine Women, representing

non-governmental women's organizations and women's associations both inside and outside the occupied territories.

The Committee would like to thank the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) for delegating the consultant, Dr. H. H. H. H., to provide advice and assistance in the preparation of the

and to express its appreciation for the ongoing support of the United Nations

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

for the various States relations

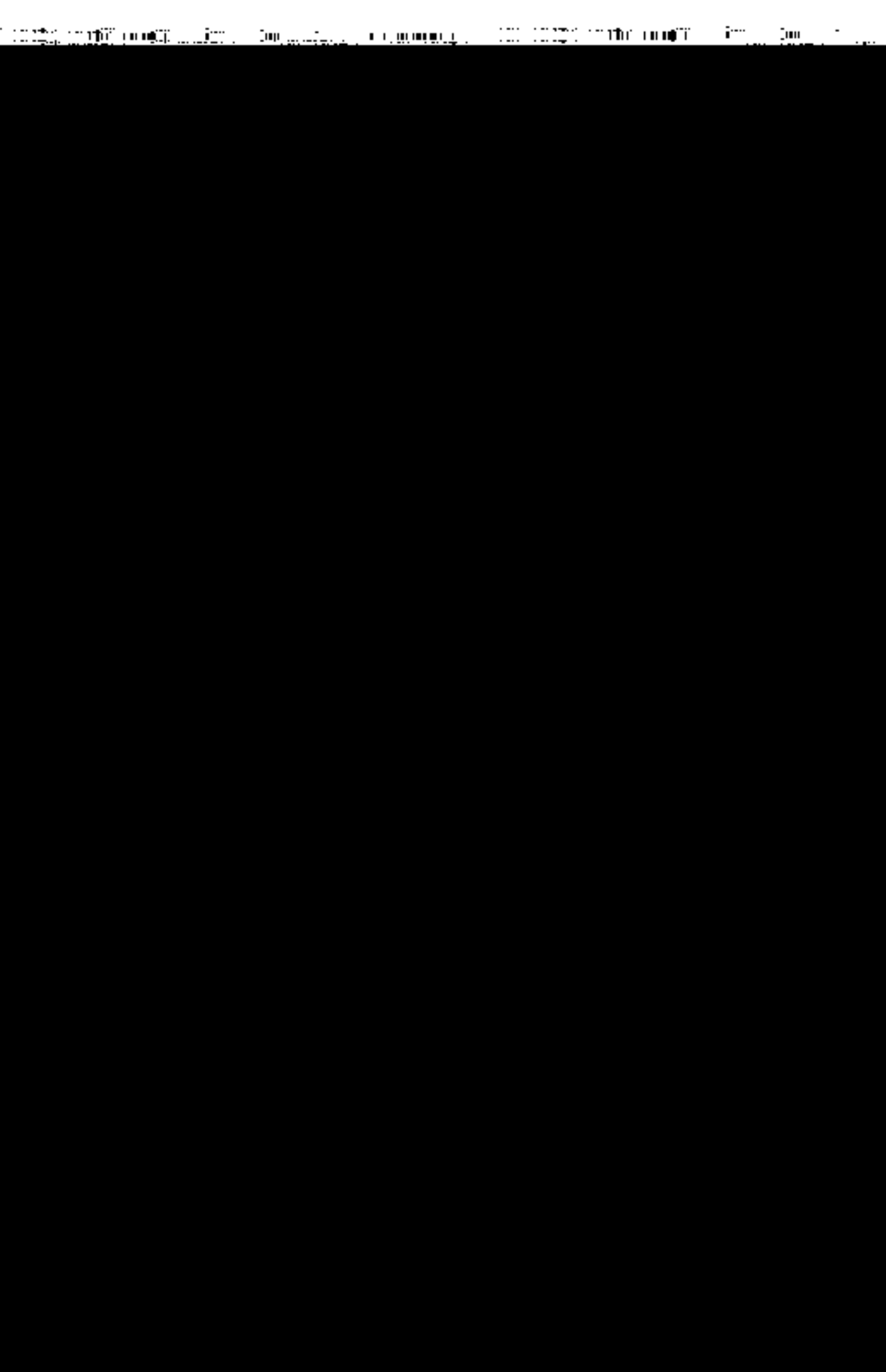
and to express its appreciation for the ongoing support of the United Nations

The Committee would also

and to express its appreciation for the ongoing support of the United Nations

preparation and implementation of

and to express its appreciation for the ongoing support of the United Nations



and terrorism, never once faltered. Arab and international support were gained with the recognition of the legitimate and just rights of the Palestinian people in United Nations resolutions and the recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization as its legitimate representative. The grass-roots struggle in the occupied territories also acquired widespread Arab and international support, as did the people's intifada.

of the Palestinian people

ted struggles and valiant intifada of the leadership of the Palestine Liberation

om to attain its just rights. Coupled with that it was incapable of eliminating the

People and its national movement, the

om of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict that

organizing and the achievement of a just and region with Arab and international support.

the session of the Palestine National Council

estine Liberation Organization declared the recognizing Security Council Resolutions 242

the General Assembly Resolution 181 of 1947, the State of Palestine in accordance with the

the Palestine Liberation Organization, a way

and peace conference under the sponsorship and the Soviet Union on the basis of Security

and 338 (1973) and the principle of land for

the Palestinian desire to establish a just, for the world spotlight, this

the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on principles

withdrew its forces from the towns and West Bank, which Palestinian forces

on 1 May 1994. However, 72 per cent of the

ment of the lands of the Gaza Strip, as well as

airspace and water resources, remained under

elections were held in the West Bank and Gaza

the Palestinian National Authority was elected, a

ouncil consisting of 88 members.

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Since its establishment, the Palestinian National Authority has strived to achieve national reconstruction through its institutions and ministries. Significant accomplishments have been made in the various economic, social,

political and legislative fields. These accomplishments have been achieved with great determination and have earned the respect and admiration of the international community.

With the approach of the 4 May (anniversary) date, the Palestinian people will mark the freedom of Palestine and threaten the peace process. The people will refuse to acquire a permanent status of settlement. A permanent status is not an option.

Through its activities, the Palestinian National Authority has supported the peace process and the community's concern for the positive role of women in the implementation of the peace process. In order to achieve these goals, the women's movement should be strengthened and its role should be recognized.

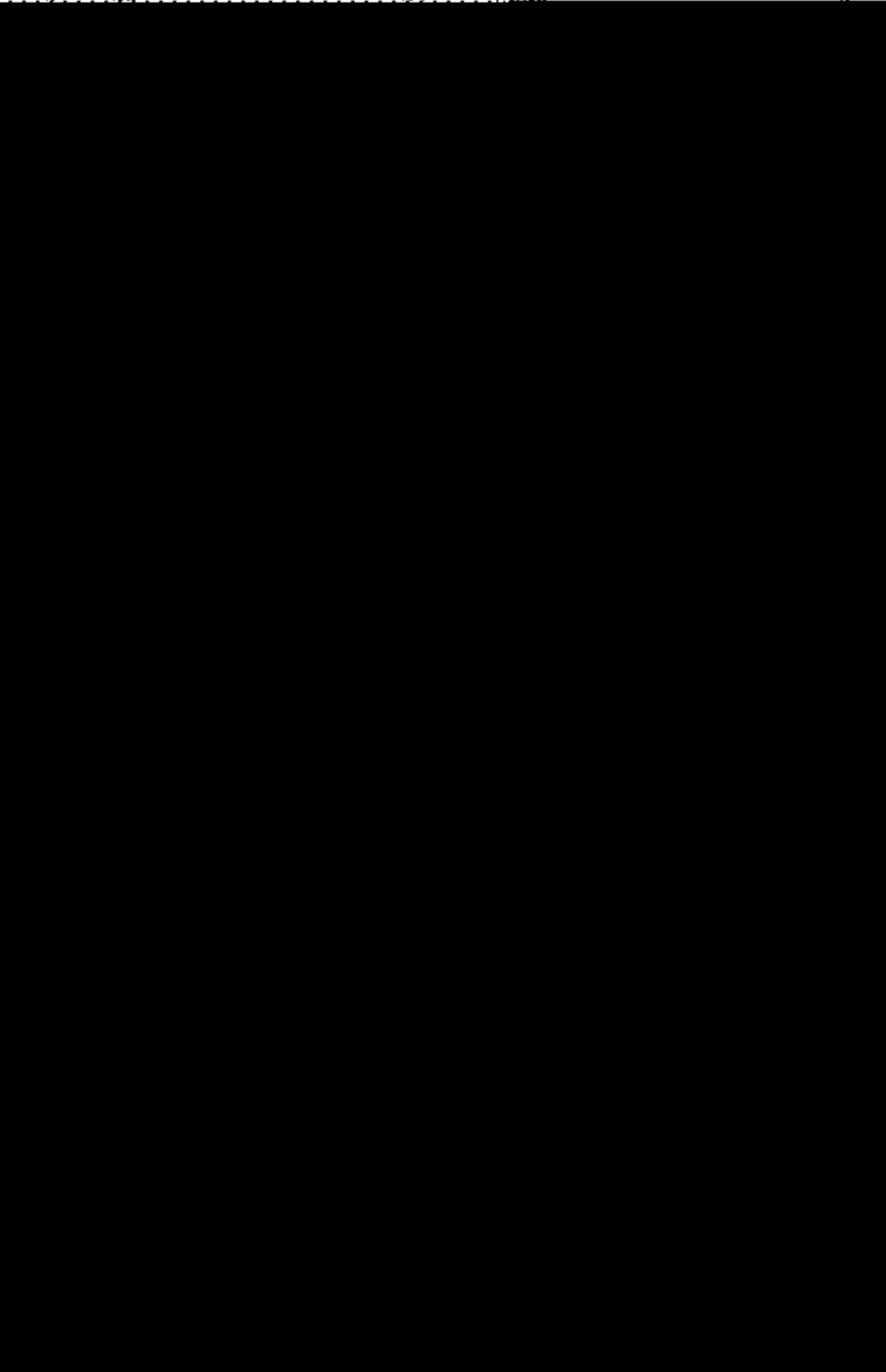
The international community should support the Palestinian National Authority in its efforts to achieve national reconstruction and the implementation of the peace process. The United States and other countries should provide the necessary support and resources to the Palestinian National Authority to achieve its goals. The international community should also support the Palestinian people in their struggle for freedom and self-determination.

PART ONE

The objective of the process made towards the rights of women and men and the advancement of the status of women and men.

Preface

The objective of the advancement of women and the status of women is of paramount importance to the world community. The world's population is growing rapidly and the role of women in development and in raising the status of women is becoming increasingly important.



on which emphasis
are women and
violence against
en in power and
nt of women, human
ment and the girl

The Beijing Platform for Action
should be placed in the form of 12
poverty, education and training of
women, women and armed conflict,
decision-making, institutional mecha
rights of women, women and the media,
child

On this basis, Palestine participated in the Beijing Conference as the
form of a high-level delegation, headed by the Minister of Social Affairs,
and concerning state and non-state organizations, with the aim of presenting the
the last decade for the advancement of Palestine

The particularities of Palestinian women
in their national cause, which constitutes the
of their movement. The Israeli occupation of
problem which distinguished that cause is that
refugees living in intolerable social, health s
injured and displaced the occupied territories. This problem has further
complicated by the Israeli occupation of 1967 and the Israeli policy
obliterate the Palestinian national identity, by the systematic
demolition of houses and everything Palestinian in land and towns, as well
city of Jerusalem, the capital of the State of Palestine.

Following the adoption of the Platform for Action resulting from
Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in September 1985,
the light of regional, Arab and national Palestinian circumstances and
the preparatory stages of the Conference and the outcome of the Arab
ministerial conference held in Amman in September 1986, work was carried
by official and grass-roots
Palestinian women taking into
needs of Palestinian women.

Based on the priorities of Palestinian women and the areas of concern contained in the Beijing Platform for Action, the General Union of Palestine Women has similarly pursued action in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and

personnel and non-governmental

outside the women's centre

II	I	II	II	I	I	I	II	II	I	■	I	II	■	■	I	I
Ministerial Coordination Committee and																
are channelled towards unifying national																
en's conditions in accordance with the																

The job of the General Union is to change attitudes towards women's rights available re

the national strategy for Palestinian women at a conference, held in June 1997, which brought together women's figures at Government and non-governmental level by representatives of the Executive Authority and the Legislative Council, as well as civil organisations. This strategy formed a basis for plans of action implemented by

As a result of this work, women was brought together with governmental and non-governmental organisations, the Committee, as well as by a number of substantial

With a view to social, economic and political security and their participation in development, Palestinian women exercise their right to engage in political activity. Several women have been elected to the Legislative Council and now constitute 7.5 per cent of its members. An even greater number has been elected to the National Council and now constitutes

9.4 per cent of its members. Given that a woman minister since the Beijing Conference, there were two women ministers in the resignation of the Minister of Higher Education, although the latter will be replaced by another woman in the future. Unprecedented in the Arab region, a woman also nominated candidate for the presidency of the Palestinian National

Palestinian women joined in diplomacy and international discussions and represented Palestine at the Oslo and Madrid conferences on the

Palestinian question and human rights. At grass-roots level, non-governmental organizations and women's associations have also joined in

discussions, which address the suffering of the Palestinian women working for a just and honourable peace. In the departments of the Palestinian

Authority, women have been appointed to leading positions at various levels to enable them to share in the various levels of decision-making in the

Traditional role of women

The official and public sector in the region has been characterized by the conspicuous absence of special initiatives to address the needs of women. Research, publications and programmes

health, starting around the national strategy drawn up in 1995, women's and children's health with a view to a comprehensive educational activities and programmes are influential in the region and child immunization has risen to 95 per cent. It is one of the first nominated countries in the region to introduce polio vaccines; such programmes have also drawn attention to the importance of early screening for breast cancer.

education and training of women is a major priority and focus of the Government of the Palestinian National Authority. The Government has taken steps to this sector by the state, including special centres and facilities

drop-out rate during the basic stage. A prominent achievement within the sector, and one which benefits women, has been the elaboration of a draft law to raise the compulsory education age to the basic stage in a bid to reduce the female illiteracy and drop-out rates: 23 per cent of women are illiterate and the rate is particularly high among rural women, who frequently enter into marriage at an early age.

A national strategy for vocational and technical education and training has been drawn up with the aim of preparing women for the employment market and training them to participate effectively in the sustainable development process. With the introduction of computer studies into education programmes, women have been able to gear themselves more towards meeting modern-day requirements and facing the challenges of globalization. Academic institutions also show a marked interest in the advancement of women and a women's studies programme in which both sexes are clearly conceptualized has been created at university level in which conventional intellectual tasks, such as in discussion, write papers and studies and translate them into action.

In the field of economy and the alleviation of poverty and unemployment, a key project aimed at helping impoverished women to improve their economic situation is run by the Ministry of Social Affairs, which provides a number of voluntary services for women, including the implementation of self-run projects. It also stands as guarantor for loans from local institutions in an effort to ensure that women, like men, have access to the loans previously denied to them, thus becoming more self-sufficient and more capable of supporting their families.

It is imperative for women to participate in the economic process by ensuring the elimination of unemployment among women and creating job opportunities for them.

Women have also benefited positively from agricultural loans, given the attention offering such loans has extended its service to 15,000 women. The experiment is still continuing with success, enabling women to be engaged in establishing productive projects of their own. One non-governmental institution has also increased the size of loans available to women between 3,000 and 15,000 dinars, thus indicating that there is growing confidence in women and their equal ability with men to cope with the various aspects of life and make a contribution to development.

Non-governmental institutions also make an unstinting contribution to the economic process, the Lebanon branch of the General Union of Palestine Women has created job opportunities and enhanced the quality of life in

Women and armed conflict is an area of concern to which the Palestine Liberation Organisation attaches great importance. Since the beginning of this century, the Palestinian people has been fighting against the imperialism which caused it to seek refuge in 1947 and to migrate in 1967. Since that date, Palestinian women both inside and outside the homeland have

been suffering from poor physical and mental health and exposed poor

Through their engagement in various kinds of military, political and diplomatic efforts, women have played an active part in resisting the occupation, raising their children as Palestinians and building a better future for them in an independent State.

Palestinian children have played a distinctive historical role in the use of stones to fight against the occupier during the years of the Palestinian intifada, which drew widespread international support on behalf of the children and their mothers who were martyred while defending the homeland. In 1987, 129 women were arrested and others were subjected

to beatings, ill-treatment and imprisonment. Seven women have been held in detention since 1985 and women today continue alongside men to demand their release from prison by mounting loud worldwide protests against the Israeli authorities. Palestinian women are also still conspicuously involved in persistent action against the occupation, the building of settlements, the seizure of land and the demolition of houses.

sexes. The Palestine Liberation Organisation having signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ministries and non-governmental organisations are under obligation to safeguard the physical, mental and moral health of the girl child. A number of social programmes are run for persons and persons with special needs, health, educational and cultural programmes for the girl child, on the basis of the order to ensure the development of a healthy and progressive Palestinian society.

These points of analysis illustrate the widespread response to the Platform for Action and women's issues, as well as the positive impact of the economic development plans and programmes on the expansionist policy of occupation, the severance of the West Bank, the imposed policy of closing the West Bank and the measures to Judaize Jerusalem and isolate it from the rest of the State.

development process and preventing the Palestinian National Authority from imposing its sovereignty over the land and people.

The outlook for the future is that Palestinian men and women hope to

live together in an independent Palestinian State and are aspiring to usher in the third millennium on a positive note. Traditions notwithstanding, the gender concept is now accepted in Palestinian society and the stereotypical image of women has begun to change. More education and employment are being sought. Women are expected to work and participate in the economic and social life of the country. As the use of modern technologies will grow, thus strengthening the economy, women will be able to contribute to the fundamental process of development.

As the tools of information, modern technology, the media and the internet have developed, Palestinian women have managed to gain and will be in a position to use them positively in the first half of the next millennium, provided that the financial and training resources are available to make an impact on women and men alike by eliminating traditional means of production, stereotypes and customs. As the economy will have a permanent linkage with the outside world, it will be necessary to safeguard the Palestinian inherited historical customs

in various fields and the media. By greater participation in the development process, women will seek to maintain a balance between the interests of women and will support the development of women and will support the development of women that is vital to the development of the society and its security.

Palestinian women will continue to play a role where their image will improve the development process, a constant and ongoing commitment to their participation and equal shared management of the affairs of the country.

It is the conviction of the author that the development of women is a key to the development of the country and its economic, social and cultural life.

PART TWO

II. FINANCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. Financial arrangements

This area of concern constitutes a permanent obstacle to the implementation of women's projects and programmes in the various sectors, as the financial resources available to promote the advancement of women still only constitute under 0.5 per cent, and at best only 1.2 per cent, of the funds provided by donor States for all women's activities.

In 1998, the sum of \$3,571,000 was not very much different from the sum of \$3,438,000 provided in 1995. In 1996, it stood at the even lower figure of \$2,967,000 and at \$2,979,000 in 1997.

However, in view of the Government departments are not very much interested in women's health and the availability of health services in the society, for both women and men, the 5 per cent budget of the Ministry of Health, which administers the

and budget of the Ministry of Health, which administers the

conspicuously low the Ministry of Social Affairs has introduced the

institutions in order to ensure that they receive funding for the establishment of small self-help projects

In addition, coupled with the fact that the loans are only small, the

Further the integration of women into the economic development

of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and global influences on

The Palestinian National Authority has complied with implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action concerning action for women, which is a

fundamental part of the process to that end. It approved the respective approaches in a bid to accelerate the institutional advancement of women. Women's affairs departments were established in 13 ministries and offices to form part of their institutional and organizational structure. The Ministry of Social Affairs, which is headed by a woman minister, has a general women's affairs department has been established comprising offices to deal with education and awareness-raising, women's training and empowerment, as well as an employment office. Departments also been established in the Ministries of Planning and International Cooperation, Health, Agriculture and Youth and Sports, together with a women's committee in the Ministry of Education. The Central Bureau of Statistics works in cooperation with these institutions and created a female statistics programme in order to record, monitor, analyse

ished and developed as
ation of the
ates their work with
ination Committee,
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esponsible for the
nd programmes relating to
bjective male and
n gender planning skills;

Although these departments
institutions, they operate within
Ministry, which follows up their
the other ministries through the
which includes a director-general
women's portfolio. One of the
planning, implementation and
the advancement of women and
female workers in the field has

RESPECTIVE MINISTRIES OF THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL AUTHORITY
through the General Union of Palestinian Women
initiatives and notable personalities

Following the 1996 Beijing Conference, the
devising the national strategy, which contains
regional and international policies and commitment
advancement of Palestinian women.

The strategy also specifies the goals and
implement. The above State and non-governmental
the new concept of sustainable development with
women and the development of human resources in

1 See annex II for further information
status of Palestinian women

economic, political and cultural development and their equality with men, this signifies the clear commitment to the concept of gender equality.

and on Palestinian priorities. They also planned projects for both long- and short-term goals. Unfortunately, however, they are limited by a fixed budget. On the contrary, in most cases budgets are not fixed, which has implications for the implementation of the strategic plan. They also implemented 17 branches of the General Palestine Women have been formed throughout the entire homeland with a view to the advancement of women.

These institutions are governed by laws and regulations. They also have the authority to issue regulations. They are also responsible for the implementation of resolutions and decisions of these institutions. The fact that they have taken steps for action is a clear indication of their commitment to the implementation of the Beijing Platform.

The awareness of the concept of gender equality in institutions train women in important administrative skills (the use of computers, journalism for the press and media) and political participation.

Efforts to follow up international

The aforementioned interministerial Coordination Committee is responsible for the follow-up of international conferences and coordinate their own efforts with those of other organizations. Together with the latter, for example, the Ministry of Social Affairs covers attention to human rights and questions of discrimination, as well as to the domestic follow-up of resolutions adopted in that connection at international and regional conferences. A committee member is elected to represent the Government in the General Assembly of the United Nations. The General Assembly annually adopts a resolution on women in New York, which is implemented in cooperation with other organizations.

regulations are also of resolutions and decisions of these institutions the fact that for action.

Begin and the administrative fields, such as computers, public relations.

(b) - Arrangements

confirms the implementation of the recommendations. The General Assembly of the United Nations annually adopts a resolution on women in New York, which is implemented in cooperation with other organizations.

internet

In fact, various parties consult the State institutions and non-governmental organizations concerned with women with a view to cooperating in

of the...
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1995, the World
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the role of...
essential to establish a committee...
recommendations adopted by the conference...
the World Summit for Social Development...
Summit for Children and the United Nations

and organization

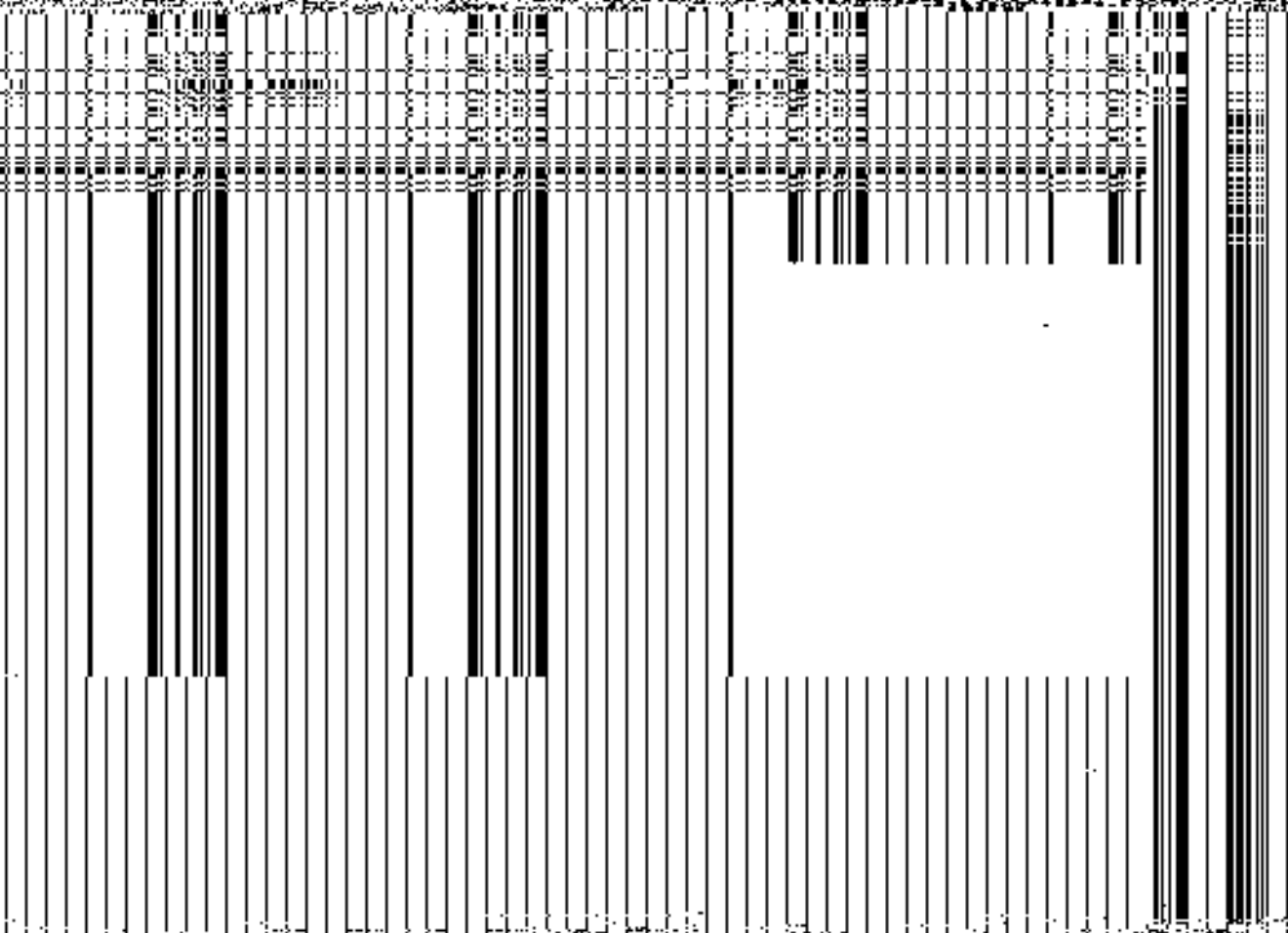
(c) Role of non-governmental organizations
of follow-up activities

...non-governmental organizations play a prominent role in the...
...ment of women by helping to draw up strategies, plans and objectives!

...equality.

A non-governmental organization, for instance, namely the General Union...
...helped to compile the national report of Palestinian...
...Beijing Platform for Action. Through the many...
...it has in a number of geographical regions, the Union...
...programmes and projects on the basis of social, educational...

...action against the occupation. It also attaches importance to the...
...economic projects that help to improve the quality of life...



PART THREE

III. PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN IMPLEMENTING THE CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN IDENTIFIED IN THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION

Critical area of concern	Examples of ensuing policies and projects for implementation of the critical areas of concern/Beijing Platform for Action	Examples of obstacles and useful lessons learnt	Other initiatives to be undertaken	Recommendations
1. Women and country:	<p>A key project that has helped impoverished women in the initiative of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health Insurance is the "Small Loans" project for women borrowing from local institutions and thus enable such women to become self-reliant in establishing their own projects.</p> <p>The Ministry of Social Affairs established an anti-poverty office to ensure the welfare of impoverished women by providing necessary assistance and health insurance.</p>	<p>The provision of the concept of sustainable development in practice, which it is important to spread more widely.</p> <p><u>Obstacle</u> Lack of funds to allow the greatest possible number of impoverished women to benefit.</p>	<p>Contract</p> <p>Encourage loan</p> <p>Encourage loan</p> <p>Increase the size of small loans to enable women to participate in productive economic development.</p>	<p>Encourage loan</p> <p>Provide guidance to avoid failure.</p>
	<p>Since 1994, the number of women benefiting from loans has risen to 96 per cent in the case of agricultural projects. The success of this experiment has encouraged such women to pursue their productive projects, even after the loan institution has ceased follow-up of their activity. A non-governmental loan organization has also increased the size of its loans to between</p>	<p>The women's success is also regarded as a success for the loan institution, thus promoting greater support.</p>		<p>Provide guidance to avoid failure.</p>
	<p>The failure of the government to provide agricultural loans and the lack of a market for women's products encourage marketing and</p>			<p>encourage marketing and</p>

Women's produce were mounted.

Agriculture.

rural women.

In 1968, the Ministry of Social Affairs increased its capacity to create special projects for the development of

The scarcity of financial resources does not further

Need to encourage non-governmental

... of the Ministry of Planning, the office responsible for planning and developing the participation of women carried out ... on 1968 ... the opportunity ... to obtain loans.

The office responsible for planning and developing the participation of women ... planning, followed by the ... the on planned expenditures and budget ...

... the age of compulsory education to the end ... The initiative to ... keeping girls up ...

... This will help ... Causes of ... behaviour to ...

... of compulsory ... 18 weeks ...

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A national strategy for vocational and technical education and training has been drawn up and Government-run academic colleges have been turned into technical colleges teaching practical subjects with a view to producing the labour force and the specialized vocational skills needed on the job market.

Lesson

Need to devise educational curricula that coincide with women's educational and practical needs in order to increase the number of those with an academic

problems.

Need to increase the number of technical schools after studying job market requirements and making plans accordingly.

Need to conduct studies and

outline non-traditional projects for

Mr. No one, the Ministry of National Education, regarding the organization

Printed and the organization of the areas of technical education
Elimination of all forms of discrimination
The Ministry of Social Affairs

The Ministry of Social Affairs

The so-called 'hotline' was opened after the Beijing Conference to protect the family from violence against any of its members, including women.

Indirect lessons that more cases of violence should be uncovered in order to help resolve the cause.

Need to find innovative means of raising awareness against family violence.

Governmental and non-governmental organizations took part in a conference entitled "No violence against women".

Traditions are the main obstacle in connection with the practice of violence.

The office responsible for planning and developing the participation of women conducted a study on violence against women in which the media and organizations working in that field took part.

4. Women	The Ministry of Health formulated a national strategy for women's health and	Lesson. Increase national strategy for women's health and the continuous development of planning and programming. WMOGA helped to review the Ministry of Health's five-year plan.	Need for interest in maternal and child health is noticeably growing. Despite undoubtedly positive achievements, however, the lack of financial resources impedes further development
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A women's health database has been established that includes the development of data and information connection with the status of women's health.

Importance of

The Palestinian National Authority

drafted a general health act that is to be presented and discussed with a view to its entry into force.

Lack of intervention and activities on women.

attention to increasing women's awareness of their own health and that of their family. building on achievements to ensure that the entire household benefits.

The inoculation of children against infectious diseases has risen to 95 per cent. Moreover, despite difficult circumstances, Palestine was one of the first nominated States in the region to declare itself free of poliomyelitis.

Increased financial resources to be earmarked for women's health programmes.

The fertility rate among women fell from 6.7 per 1,000 in 1995 to 6.1 per 1,000

1995-2000
Stable rate

Need to produce constant

remote areas. communities in the homeland and elsewhere.

Two nursing institutes have been turned into colleges, one offers a bachelor's

Obstacle

Need to send

cardiology, brain surgery, pediatrics

Insufficient

specialist

In cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Information assigned 25 journalists in women's health programs and directed 43 radio programs on the subject as well as 70 television programmes on family planning.

seminars in

the fields

of

which are

being held

to Jordan and Egypt

for treatment of

West of 115, 119, 200

to the Ministry of

Health, representing

an amount of 5 per cent of

its budget.

Women and In cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Information assigned 25 journalists in women's health programs and directed 43 radio programs on the subject as well as 70 television programmes on family planning.

Lessons

Purpose

Need to reach

The media has the

cultural

rural women

the widest possible

reach

particularly

number of women and

those who are

illiterate, and

can therefore help

to change

the status

positively,

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Women and In cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Information assigned 25 journalists in women's health programs and directed 43 radio programs on the subject as well as 70 television programmes on family planning.

Women have been active in the print and audio-visual media and have taken part in preparing listening and reading material.

Obstacle

Despite such

resources for

running media

efforts, funding

the position

competence

and training

of women is

to provide

an obstacle

in the media

interaction and

in this field.

and for

work in

in this field.

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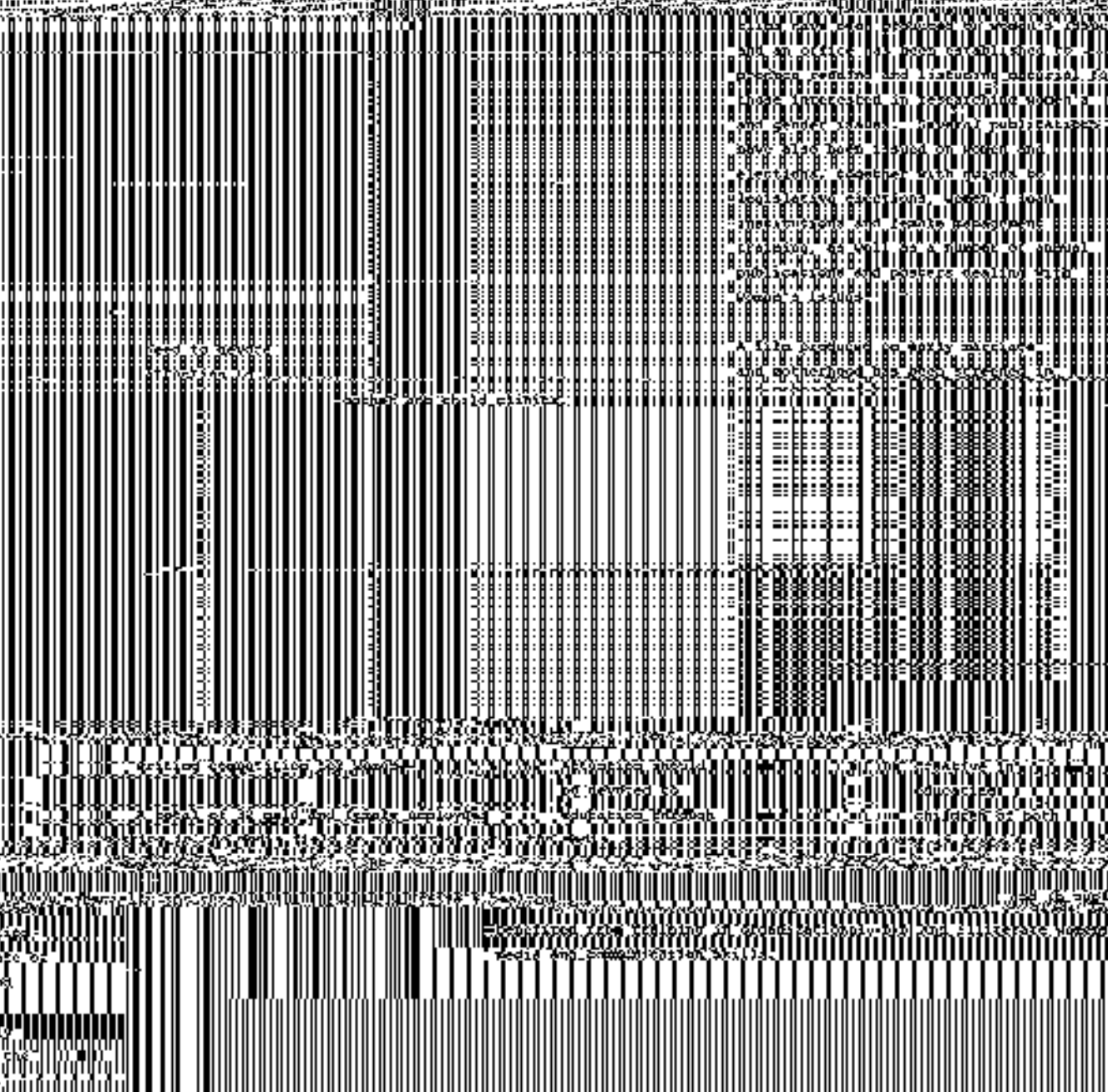
and for

work in

in this field.

and for

A bi-monthly magazine and three documentary legends



positions.

In a move unprecedented in the region, a woman put herself forward as a candidate for the presidential elections in 1996.

Participation in decision-making is growing, as is the commitment to women's issues and the role of women in the integral development process.

Provide incentives for historians to document the struggle and pioneering activities of women.

In 1996, five of 28 women candidates were elected to the Legislative Council to constitute 5.7 per cent of the total membership.

There are 56 women members of the National Council, constituting 8.7 per cent of the total membership, and three of the 100 members of the General Council are women. Although the percentages are small, they represent positive successes that demonstrate the commitment of women's participation in executive, legislative and judicial decision-making, which has

Without Yacobi's territories, any attempt to accelerate women's participation will

Need to encourage women to elect in forthcoming elections so that women come to hold positions of leadership

gender problematic
ready to political
social and economic
instability.

political and
judicial
authority.

Need to support

and women

participate in

with men

The office responsible for planning and monitoring the participation of women conducted research on women in decision-making.

of the Government
only one
Minister
participate
with men

women officers.

image of women
stands as an
obstacle in many
fields, including
the police and
leadership
positions.

Lesson
Respect is due
to the Palestinian
people and their
fighting spirit,
which provide a

international
support for the
implementation of
United Nations
resolutions in
order to secure
the legitimate
national rights
the Palestinian
people concerning
its rights of
return and self-
determination and
the right to

of the World and

with Jerusal

for history.

the capital

The Palestinian Liberator

Books should be published

Disabled girl

and implementation which are essential a human being

of the population

Government and non-governmental bodies should approve

Full attention to be paid in childhood

emphasis should be placed on

the girl child to respect herself and her rights as a female.

Need to devote attention to women's creative writing for young

Insufficient funds to enable children's projects to be more

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The Ministry of
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The Ministry of Education is implementing a programme for persons of both sexes with special needs or disabilities.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports is implementing a programme for boys and girls interested in youth leadership, communication skills and citizenship.

Lesson
Early attention should be devoted to girl children so that they grow into women who are healthy and well-integrated, both socially and mentally.

The Ministry of Health is implementing services to protect children against disease.

Non-governmental bodies have implemented

Charity

Need for

as well as youth leadership programmes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

the girl child in society and unequal practices between the two sexes.

8. Women and
armed
conflict

At every political stage, women took part in military action to resist imperialism and occupation with a view to the achievement of a just peace.

Lesson
The women's fighting spirit helped to change the negative stereotype of women, both locally and worldwide.

The national spirit of these women should be nurtured so that they continue to fight against an intervention in order to protect the future of Palestine State and capital, Jerusalem.

Palestinian women imparted a positive picture of their fighting spirit worldwide and also participated in the Palestinian intifada by taking up arms against the occupation.

Women were martyred and injured in battle,

Lesson

constituting 9 per cent of those injured in 1957.

The women of Palestine affirmed that the struggle is not confined to men alone, but that every citizen has the right to a homeland.

Women lend support to the Palestinian struggle, in which connection they expose themselves to detentions, challenge the Israeli occupation, defend land and oppose the building of settlements and

Women help to support their families, with

breadwinners where the husband has been martyred in defence of the homeland.

places impoverished women at a further disadvantage.

implementing social projects aimed at women who are in poverty due to their husband's martyrdom.

ANNEXES

NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE

World Conference on
Women for Action and
Plan placed on the need
to be needed to achieve
status of

In the light of the recommendations
of the 1984 Beijing Conference
and the other documents issued by the
Conference, specific formal mechanisms
to achieve the goal of equality between men and
women should be taken into account

By means of the plans
and Government institutions and the establishment of women's

Palestinian National Authority has made a substantial contribution to
improving the status of women.

Non-governmental women's organizations and centres have also played an
effective and worthwhile part in implementing both the programmes of action
and promoting their role.

In conjunction with non-governmental organizations, the Government
prepared the national strategy announced in June 1997. This strategy is
based on national programmes and legislative acts relating to Palestinian
women on the one hand and on international conventions and treaties, in
particular the Declaration and Platform for Action of the Fourth World
Conference for Women, on the other.

This part of the report will cover the achievements made at the
national level towards accomplishing the objective of equality between women
and men in Palestine. The main obstacles encountered in the effort
to implement the Platform for Action.

FOR WOMEN

1-

general objectives and

The national strategy

These are:

measures decided to

achieving the legitimate national rights of

to ensure
the Palestinian
determination

their homeland, achieve self-

dependent Palestinian State with

RESULTS of the general survey

1948, conducted by the
local authority, there is
local estimates and

circumstances are clearly

indicated by the significant evidence provided in the facts and figures.

Following the survey
of population, sex and status
Central Bureau of Statistics
no longer any difference of
indicators concerning the 1948

This part of the general survey, the statistical indicators of the status
of Palestinian women within society:

popularity

The statistical results in table 1 indicate that the total population
in the occupied territories stands at 2,895,683, consisting of 1,470,506
males and 1,425,177 females (including inhabitants of the Jerusalem area).

distribution of the population by age, sex and

Table
area clearly

aged under 15 amounts to 47 per cent of the

age group, which amounts

to 3.5 per cent of the total population and

sex, to the total

to 3.5 per cent of the total population and

population and

by age, sex and area (of the Jerusalem area).

The distribution of the

the lives of the

of whom are under the

These percentages will
Palestinian people, by
age of 19

data on the marital status of the Palestinian population indicate that

22.1 per cent are married, 38.8 per cent have never been married,

per cent have entered into the first contract of marriage, 0.07 per

cent are divorced and 1 per cent are widows.

Government level for advancement of the

help to improve and expand the
services.

National level of advancement of the

based on the following: the UNISFCCO (C.O.)

of the to certain people, for example
of certain nationalities, etc.

processes and procedures in
processes and procedures in

the documents concerning the rights of women, such as
the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination
and Apartheid against Racial Segregation, and the Convention on
the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and
the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in 1948, and the
Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted in 1989.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted in 1989,
is the only international instrument that deals with the
elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, and
the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in 1948, and the
Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted in 1989.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted in 1989,
is the only international instrument that deals with the
elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, and
the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in 1948, and the
Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted in 1989.

* The overall fertility rate is 5.6 per 1,000 in the West Bank, 6.7 per 1,000 in the Gaza Strip and 4.3 per 1,000 in the Palestinian territories as a whole.

age population amounts to 41.4 per cent of the overall population, including 26.5 per cent of the total population in the West Bank, with the exception of the Jerusalem area, and 65 per cent of the

The statistical results also indicate that almost three-quarters of Palestinian families (73.7 per cent) are nuclear families and that 33 per cent are extended families. Single person families amount to 3.3 per cent and composite families are virtually non-existent (0.9 per cent).

Education

Statistical results shown in table 2 concerning inhabitants aged 5 and over who are enrolled in education indicate that:

Total number of those enrolled in education amounted to 341,537 persons, 53.5 per cent of whom are males and 47.4 per cent females. The number of those enrolled in education in the West Bank amounted to 298,846 males (52.1 per cent) as compared with 237,554 females (47.8 per cent). In the Gaza Strip, 346,665 persons are enrolled in education. Of these, 53.1 per cent are males and 46.8 per cent are females. About 37.7 per cent of the inhabitants in the West Bank are enrolled in education as opposed to 61.2 per cent who are not. In the Gaza Strip, 43.1 per cent are enrolled in education as opposed to 56.9 per cent who are not.

... of the population ... that the number of illiterates ... cent of 19,001 individuals. Of these, 11,000 are males and 8,001 are females.

West Bank, whereas in the Gaza Strip, the total number of illiterate persons amounts to 15.8 per cent of whom 5.8 per cent are males and 10.0 per cent are females.

... having completed the elementary stage amount to 16.0 per cent of whom 47 per cent are males and 53 per cent are females.

* The number of those having completed the preparatory stage is 22.8 per cent, of whom 52 per cent are males and 48 per cent females.

* The number of those completing 15 or more years in education is 13.3

per cent, of whom 50 per cent are males and 50 per cent females. The educational gap between males and females increases at the stage

both of which are due to the stability created under the Palestinian National Authority and the fact that hundreds of families have returned to enrol their children to be educated in the schools of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. (In other words, the population has increased.)

* In 1997, the number of cultural centres officially registered by the

Ministry of Higher Education also increased to 128. These centres have a total of 11,417 students, 56 per cent of whom are males and 44 per cent females. Geographically speaking, the distribution of students is 69 per cent in the West Bank and 31 per cent in the Gaza Strip.

There are 28,693 teachers employed in education, of whom 53 per cent

are employed by the Government, 19 per cent by private institutions, 18 per cent by the Palestinian Authority, 10 per cent by the Ministry of Education, 10 per cent by administrative technicians and employees, 2,73 principals and employees, administrative staff, 61 per cent of whom are females.

In 1997, the total number of students in universities

was 1,598, 61 per cent males and 39 per cent females.

Employed in the Humanities, Education, Science and Technology, 1 per cent of the total number of males and females.

There are now 1,982 individuals employed in the Ministry of Education, 53 per cent of whom are males and 47 per cent females.

There is an obvious discrepancy between the number of males employed in university lecturing and the number of females employed in university lecturing.

There is a significant discrepancy in connection with the number of males and females employed in university lecturing, of whom there are 292, 74 per cent of whom are males.

That Palestine is a major workforce, namely the number of males and females employed in the economy, amounted to a total of 1,686,183, of whom 50 per cent are males and 50 per cent are females.

The number of economically active males and females employed, amounted to 501,022, of whom 50 per cent are males and 50 per cent are females.

Of the total human workforce, of whom there are 1,686,183, 29 per cent are employed in the economy, namely 501,022, of whom 50 per cent are males and 50 per cent are females.

- * The number of women in employment stands at 51,509, representing 10.4 per cent of the total number in employment of 494,367.
- * The economically inactive population, namely students, those engaged in full-time domestic activities, incapacitated persons and those who have no desire to work, amounts to 1,085,318 individuals, representing (illegible) per cent of the total workforce.
- * Women's employment is confined to a limited number of economic activities compared to those in which males are engaged. The services sector employs the highest numbers of women, accounting for (illegible) per cent of employed women in the West Bank and 66.2 per cent in the Gaza Strip.
- * In the West Bank, the agricultural sector accounts for 32.8 per cent of females (40 per cent of the total numbers of workers) as compared with 11.3 per cent of males. In the Gaza Strip, 6.6 per cent of males and 2.1 per cent of women are employed in agriculture (16 per cent of the total number of workers).
- * The proportion of women workers in the industrial sector is limited, with the greatest number employed in manufacturing to the tune of 73 per cent. In the clothing industry, however, where women are formally employed in seasonal agriculture, constitutes 3 per cent of its total workers.

In the informal sector, women constitute 62.3 per cent of the total workers in the Gaza Strip and 55.5 per cent of the total workers in the West Bank. Examples of the activities involved are buying and selling, particularly in the Gaza Strip, household production, clothes sewing, hairdressing and subcontracted piecework for the clothing industry.

The overall extent of poverty among the households of the West Bank and Gaza Strip amounts to 23 per cent, constituting 38 per cent of the total households in the West Bank and 16 per cent of the total households in the Gaza Strip. The extent of poverty among female-headed households amounts to approximately 30 per cent and among male-headed households to approximately 22 per cent.

In Palestinian society, female-headed households constitute about 7 per cent of the total number of households. Most of the women in question are widows, which is true in the case of 74 per cent of the total number of female-headed households. The number of women receiving

assistance is 62.2 per cent of the total number of households receiving assistance in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Health

* The statistical indicators show that the health service in Palestine is accessible to the tune of 53 per cent in some accidental communities

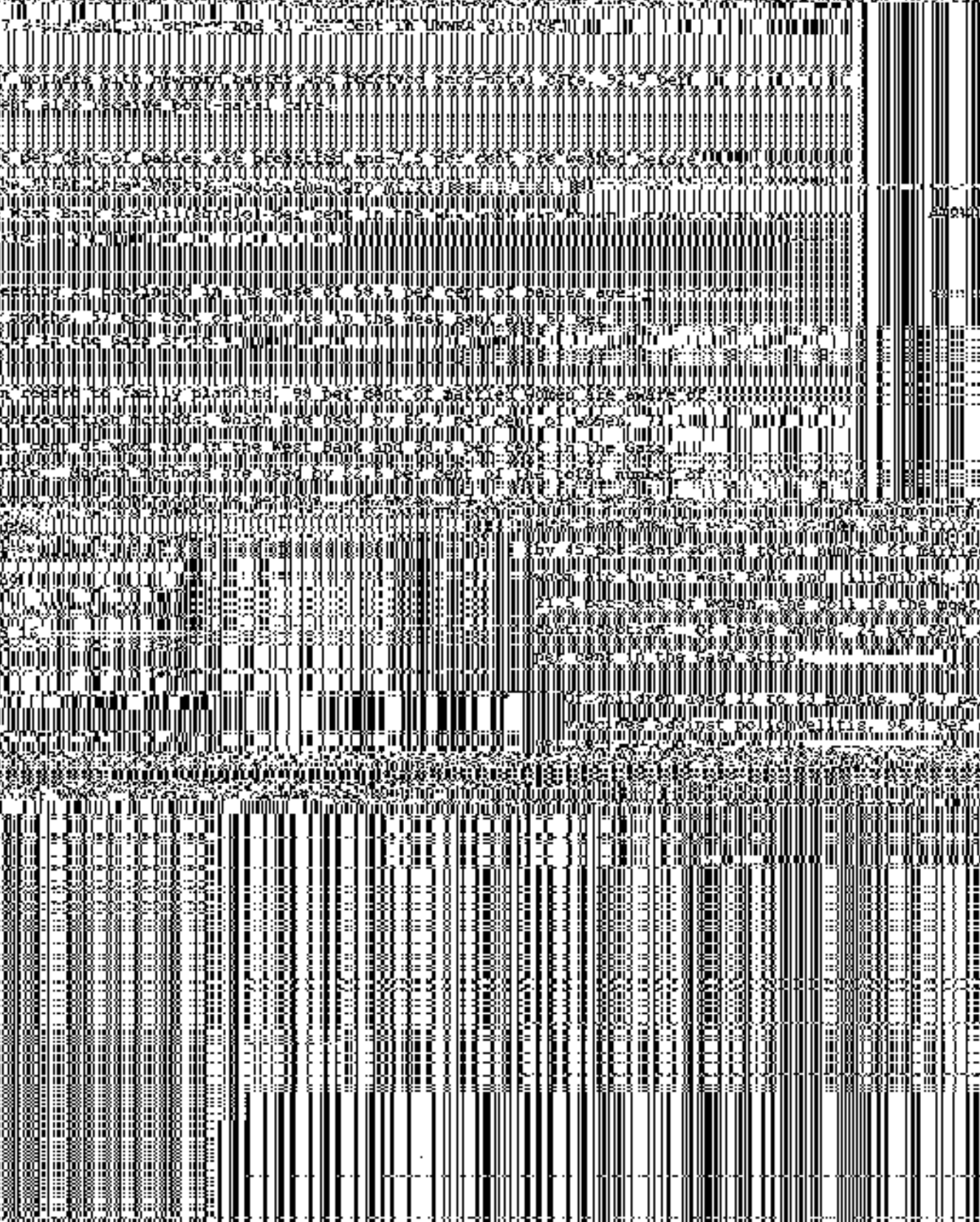


TABLE 1: DISTRIBUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN INHABITANTS COUNTED BY AGE, SEX AND AREA (INCLUDING THE INHABITANTS OF JERUSALEM)

[NB: Please insert the figures starting on the right-hand side of the page and reading leftwards- i.e., first column in the English text will start with the number 369 934 and end with the number 914 344, final column will start with 47.0 and end with 100.0]

(Column headings across the top of the table)

Males	Females	Both	Percentage	Males	Females	Both	Males	Females	Both	Percentage
			sexes							

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics, 1954

