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OWA all in Orange marking the 16 Days of Activism Campaign in Muscat



The Omani Woman Association (OWA) participated this year in the 16 Days of Activism Campaign against Gender Based Violence (GBV), in order to join the call for global actions to increase awareness, galvanize advocacy efforts, and share knowledge that combat harmful practices against women and girls. In a joint activity held early December titled **“Orange the World: Generation Equality stands against GBV”**, more than 23 members of the OWA attended to debate the legal reforms introduced in Oman, which are helping to end GBV and harmful practices against women and girls, the empowerment mechanisms that are adopted by the country to unleash the women potentials, and examples of local Omani women, who stood against the stereotypes and cultural norms to achieve their aspirations.

Two prominent guests were invited to the event, and spoke to inspire the attendants in a very interactive discussion, Ms. Jamila Al Jahwari, the award-winner journalist in Oman, and Ms. Asila Al Harasi, the Y-Peer leader and the excelled civil engineer in the country. They addressed the traditions and cultural norms they faced at early ages, being women from the region, and how they were able to overcome these hindrances and social barriers. They also pinpointed that women have to be united and support each other to tap into the available women rights machineries and gender equality mechanisms and laws in the country, and raise awareness on the applicable regulations in order to defeat the unjust practices and report on GBV cases they may detect, paving the

ICPD25: A preparation meeting ahead of Nairobi summit to mobilize Oman's continuous support and commitment to UNFPA mandate and ICPD Agenda

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On the 5th of November 2019, UNFPA GCC held a meeting with the delegation of Oman heading to attend the Nairobi Summit in Kenya. The delegation which consists of top officials of several government ministries and national stakeholders attended the meeting, led by the Head of the Delegation Dr. Yahya Al Maawaly - Under-secretary of the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) of Oman. Through the meeting, the delegation members re-affirmed their understanding and appreciation of the significance of the ICPD Programme of Action (PoA) and Cairo Declaration. The Director General of the Primary Health Care Directorate at the Ministry of Health of Oman stated that according to the Health Development Agenda 2050 of the Sultanate and the progress made to ensure reducing the maternal death, the Sultanate is already on the road to ensure zero preventable maternal deaths in future according to the progressive vision of the ICPD Agenda.

On other side, the delegation members from MoSD, confirmed that women empowerment is a cornerstone of the Ministry's work plans, therefore, several initiatives are undertaken every year to enhance women economic and social empowerment in the country, which are creating a paradigm shift in the women development related policies in the Sultanate to meet the pillars of the ICPD agenda and deliver the promises made under the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) for women. The delegation members indicated that the government is fully supportive to the UNFPA mandate and they will continue backing it through the ongoing partnership with the UNFPA GCC sub-regional office.

UNFPA takes part in Qatar Population Day celebration 2019



On 22nd of October 2019, the Permanent Population Committee (PPC) of Qatar held a major event marking the national population day titled “Qatar population policy: the reality and the prospect”, under the patronage of HE Dr. Saleh al-Nabit, the Minister of Development Planning and Statistics and Chairman of the Permanent Population Committee (PPC), and in the presence Mr. Asr Toson, Representative of UNFPA GCC, who was a keynote speaker for the event. In his statement, Mr. Toson praised the outstanding continuous co-operation between UNFPA and PPC and the joint activities conducted in 2019, including developing the communication strategy of the current population policy of the State of Qatar 2017-2022 and training several staff members of the Committee in areas related to population policy, statistics and data collection. He extended his thanks to PPC and its Technical Office under the leadership of Mr. Abdul Hadi Al-Shawi - PPC Technical office Director, for being supportive for UNFPA mandate and for ICPD25 preparation process, given the high level representation of Qatar at the Nairobi Summit.

Following that, a significant presentation was made by UNFPA consultant Prof. Jean Yeung, the Provost’s Chair of Sociology at the National University of Singapore and Director of the Singaporean Centre for Family and Population Research (CFPR). Prof. Yeung highlighted the experience of her country in developing and implementing equitable and sustainable population policy and the impact of such policies in ensuring family coherence.



Concluding Statement of Nairobi Summit ICPD25 “Accelerating the Promise”



The final version of the Nairobi Statement, formulated after six months of global consultations led by the International Steering Committee on ICPD25, with hundreds of organizations and thousands of people involved, including delegations from GCC countries, came to light. The Nairobi Statement provided a global framework for the formulation of government and partner commitments, and it was the final outcome of the Summit that was held on 12-14 November 2019 in Kenya, which aimed at accelerating the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action (PoA), leaving no one behind, and ensuring rights and choices for all.

The statement emphasized several pillars including advancing the ICPD PoA promise of universal access to reproductive health of girls', and women's empowerment and gender equality, while leaving no one behind, in particular youth as agents of positive change and the leaders of the generation to carry forward the ICPD PoA and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that requires new, innovative and strategic partnerships, including with and between youth, civil society organizations, local communities, the private sector, and through south-south and triangular cooperation among countries.

The statement laid out the future plan for implementation and way forward, and emphasized intensifying the efforts for the full, effective and accelerated implementation and funding of the ICPD PoA, and committing to UNFPA 3 transformative results: zero unmet need for family planning information and services, zero preventable maternal death and zero sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices. Furthermore, this statement indicated the necessity to mobilize the required financing to finish the ICPD PoA and sustain the gains already made, by Using national budget processes, increasing domestic financing and exploring new, participatory and innovative financing instruments & increasing international financing for the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the ICPD PoA. In addition to drawing on demographic diversity to drive economic growth by investing in the education, employment opportunities and health, building peaceful societies, providing quality data and ensuring the well being of the youth.



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