Concept Note

The Rural woman in the Public Policies

Side Event convened by the Ministry of Family, Solidarity, Equality and Social Development-Morocco

On the sidelines of the 62nd session of the Commission on the Status of Woman (CSW62)
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Organizer: Ministry of Family, Solidarity, Equality and Social Development - Kingdom of Morocco.

In the framework of a synergy between the government departments and the different civil society actors, and under the high leadership of HM King Mohammed VI, The Kingdom of Morocco has made progressive advances in promoting women's rights and achieving equity and gender-equality.

Morocco peaceably pursues its various achievements in the implementation of measures to achieve sustainable development and social justice, which includes, among its priorities, the principles of fairness, gender-equality and empowerment of women, so that they occupy their rightful place as partners in the development and actresses in the country's prosperity.

In this context, structural reforms have been adopted at the legislative and institutional levels, through which the Moroccan government confirms its commitment to strengthen women's rights, fight against all forms of discrimination and work towards equality rights and equity as they were stipulated in the 2011 Constitution.

To this end, the Moroccan Government undertakes to promote women’s human capital and to facilitate greater contribution of women to economic growth and sustainable development.

Thus, the 2nd Governmental Plan for Equality "ICRAM 2" (2017-2021) was designed to translate the commitments expressed in the Government Program for the 2017-2021 period in a context of convergence of various sectoral programs and strengthened government dynamics following the implementation of the 1st level ICRAM 1 (2012-2016).

The Plan 'ICRAM 2' fits also into the Kingdom's international commitments, especially those of the 2030 Agenda of sustainable development and the 2063 Agenda of the African Union. These two frames, to which the Kingdom of Morocco strongly adheres, dedicate specific goals to promote equality and women's empowerment. The 2030 Agenda includes the fifth Sustainable Development Goal "Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls." The aspiration for gender-equality of 2063 Agenda is formulated as follows "an African continent where development is people-centered and particularly relies on the potential of women and youth." The Plan ICRAM 2 endorses these intentions and contributes to their implementation.

The Plan ICRAM 2, adopted in August 3rd, 2017 by the Governing Council, is based on approaches that strengthen human rights, gender mainstreaming and outcome-based management. This implementation is achieved through the alignment of commitments with priorities, modalities of participation and partnership, and the accuracy of responsibility for achieving objectives.
Comprising seven strategic priorities and 24 objectives in a way to answering a common vision of "Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls based on a human-rights approach", the first axis of the ICRAM 2 plan is devoted to "Enhancing employability and economic empowerment of women."

It is then placed on the agenda maintained at this level, and primarily promoting the economic empowerment of women (AEF) which is one of the main axes of intervention for the promotion of economic women, inclusive economic growth and poverty eradication, and target rural women.

This axis has defined four strategic objectives:

- **Objective 1.1**: To Create a framework for the economic empowerment of women.
- **Objective 1.2**: To promote participation of women in the labor market with equal access to decent jobs and opportunities for professional development.
- **Objective 1.3**: To strengthen the economic position of women in rural areas.
- **Objective 1.4**: To Facilitate the growth and success of female entrepreneurship.

Equally, it focuses on the promotion of women’s equal access to decent work and job opportunities. To this end, a framework for economic empowerment will pay particular attention to entrepreneurship and improvement of working conditions for women in all sectors, and particularly the primary sector. Through its content, this axis deals with the various factors hindering the achievement of objectives in the field.

Furthermore, and despite the efforts to promote the rights of women and girls in rural areas, improving their living conditions, and subsequently their empowerment and achievements remain below expectations. Several factors are responsible for this situation and that includes:

- Rural women face a specific process of inequality and social exclusion;
- The non-recognition and non-valuing of rural women’s work, which constitutes a permanent or occasional family labor and plays a vital role in agricultural and domestic work;
- Literacy, poverty and lack of access to resources and markets are factors that hinder not only their empowerment and their effective participation in the development of the region.

It is in this context and in connection with the theme of the 62nd session of the Status of Women (CSW), the Ministry of Family, Solidarity, Equality, and Social Development organizes this exchange meeting and debate around prospects for promoting gender-equality in rural areas and strengthening the position of rural women through development projects.

**Objectives:**

This meeting aims to achieve the following objectives:

- To highlight the efforts and reforms undertaken by the Kingdom in promoting the life conditions of women and girls in rural areas;
- To provide a platform for exchange and decision about international experiences in the field;
- To discuss obstacles to socio-economic situation of rural women in general and those specific to their empowerment such as not valuing their work, limiting access to resources, their decisions and so on ....
- To discuss issues and challenges linked to the promotion of rural women’s situation and to the promotion of their participation both to rural and national development, as part of a successful implementation of the ICRAM 2 plan 2 provisions.