

*Translated from Arabic*

### **Women and disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control**

Iraq is convinced of the fundamental role of women in society, whether at home or in the workplace. Women participate in decision making in the legislative power (Parliament); in Government, where they are represented by the Ministry of Women's Issues; and in local government, as members of local councils in the governorates. The Government of Iraq has taken measures to prevent and control the proliferation of weapons. Laws have been enacted to prevent armed attacks and arms proliferation. Those laws do not exclude or discriminate against women in any area. Iraq is a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and has submitted its report accordingly.

Women are an important component of the family, society and the State, and must be taken into account in programmes for disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. The categories of "male and female combatants", "categories in non-combat roles, including women" and "children connected with armed forces or groups" all include women, and women affect the latter group indirectly. The preamble of General Assembly resolution 68/33 recognizes the valuable contribution of women to practical disarmament measures carried out at the local, national, subregional and regional levels in the prevention and reduction of armed violence and armed conflict, and in promoting disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. In so doing, it underscores another dimension of women's role in that area: women are equal to men in fulfilling their responsibility to contribute to the realization of local, national and international peace and security.

Women play an important role in disarmament in local and national civil society through their direct effect on the family, which is the building block of society. They raise and guide the family, directing the interests of its members according to the principle of shared duties. They instil a spirit of self-examination that prevents individuals from misusing weapons. They have an influence on people who express their views through violence and terrorism. Depending on their situation, they can help to disseminate a culture of non-violence and disarmament. However, the necessary role of women in the family and society can be fulfilled only if the following supportive factors are present:

1. There should be appropriate opportunities for women to take on leadership roles in security committees at the local and national level and in Parliament;

2. Women's organizations should run awareness-raising campaigns to highlight the role of women in disarmament and arms control, the legal repercussions of resorting to weapons, and the negative effect of weapons on society in general.

Iraq is convinced that, in accordance with the principle of equality, women should work fully and effectively with men in all areas related to disarmament and non-proliferation. That role is one of the fundamental conditions for the realization of sustainable peace and security. Iraq is also convinced that women, depending on their situation, can have a considerable impact on practical disarmament measures at the local and national levels, and on non-proliferation and conflict prevention.

Iraq has made significant efforts to increase the involvement of women in national institutions involved in disarmament, security and law enforcement.

In accordance with the 2005 Permanent Constitution of the Republic of Iraq, the Government of Iraq grants equal opportunities to women for representation in all national and international action on disarmament, non-proliferation and prevention of armed violence. Women are included in the relevant decision-making processes.

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