



## WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

We are a regional network that connects election management bodies, civil society organizations and individuals from the Arab region to promote the political participation of women, and enhance their role as voters, candidates, party agents, observers, and election administrators.



## OUR VISION

We aim to increase and enhance the effective participation of women in electoral and political processes across the region, and to find solutions to the barriers women face in their participation in political life.



## OUR MISSION

We want to catalyze gender equality and contribute to building a positive narrative for women's political participation through advocacy and outreach, data collection and research, capacity building, and standard setting in the region.



## WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE?

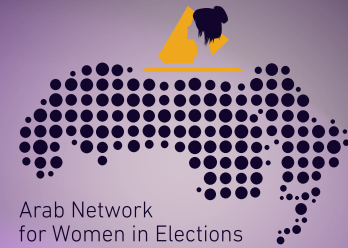
We are the only network in the region that brings together election management bodies and civil society organizations to work collectively in promoting women's electoral and political participation at the regional level. The network allows our members and partners to collaborate on and amplify efforts already underway at the national and regional level, and to create and seize new opportunities to influence public decisions and perspectives on women's political participation in the region.



## Supporting Partners:



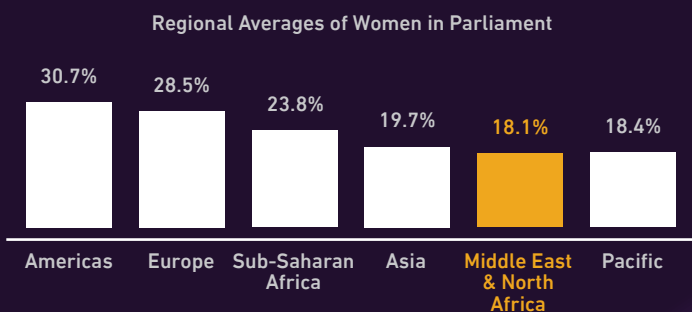
Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.



Arab Network  
for Women in Elections

الشبكة العربية للمرأة في الانتخابات

Women's political participation strengthens democracy, leads to greater responsiveness to public needs, and results in increased collaboration and cooperation in policymaking. To participate, women must be equally recognized before the law and enabled to exercise full rights of citizenship. In the Arab region, political space for women remains one of the most challenging areas of development. While women's political participation has increased in the last sixteen years, it is still limited. National efforts by state and non-state actors to push the gender agenda, and introduce special measures including specific gender quotas that guarantee minimum representation have contributed to this progress.



The Arab Network for Women in Elections is established, as a platform under the umbrella of the Organization of ArabEMBs, to leverage on these efforts at the regional level, connecting key state and non-state actors to harness their energy and channel it towards realizing greater participation of women in electoral and political processes.



## WHAT WE DO



Advocacy

Conduct regional advocacy campaigns on women's political and electoral participation in the region;

Promote and highlight the achievements, role and positive influence of women in public life;

Obtain commitments from EMBs to develop, resource and support gender units and activities at the national level;



Standards

Develop regional standards and promote gender-mainstreaming in policies and procedures that affect women's political participation;



Data and Research

Serve as a knowledge hub for data and research on women in elections;

Facilitate the efforts of civil society, EMBs, and other national institutions in collecting and disseminating data and information on women in elections;



Training & Capacity Building

Provide national and regional trainings on promoting women in elections, particularly to EMB staff;

Implement mentoring programs for women in elections at all levels;

## CALL FOR ACTION

To join the network as a member or partner, please contact ArabEMBs at

✉ [info@arabembs.org](mailto:info@arabembs.org)

Please follow us on: **ArabNT4Women**



## ROADMAP TO THE LAUNCH

With the support of UNDP, the Organization of Arab Electoral Management Bodies (ArabEMBs) held a regional workshop in April 2016 on promoting women's political participation in the Arab region. The workshop identified the need for a regional mechanism for cooperation and networking which led to the initiative of establishing a regional network to promote women's political participation in the region.

Following consultations and discussions that took place throughout 2017, ArabEMBs and UNDP formally presented the initiative to a group of election administrators, leaders, and international experts at an advisory group meeting held in April 2018. The results of the meeting were:

- The agreement to establish the regional network under the umbrella of ArabEMBs
- The decision to expand the network to include civil society organizations and others who are actively working to get more women into public life
- The formation of a working group to define the structure and framework of the network

The working group included EMB representatives from Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Palestine, Jordan, Somalia and Tunisia, as well as experts from UNDP, UN Women, IFES and IDEA. Following the first working group meeting, the International IDEA took a formal decision to partner with UNDP and ArabEMBs in supporting the network.

Throughout 2018, the working group held extensive consultations and discussions on the structure and framework of the network.

In February 2019, the ArabEMBs endorsed the outcomes of the working group and moved forward to launch the network by the end of 2019.

## AFFILIATION CATEGORIES

The network consists of the following types of affiliations:

- **Members:** electoral management bodies in the region, regional civil society organizations, and influential individuals
- **Partners:** national, regional and international institutions and organizations that support and promote the work of the network

The network is supported by the UNDP and International IDEA; it also benefits from the expertise and knowledge of UN Women and IFES.

For more information on the affiliation criteria, please visit: [www.arabembs.org](http://www.arabembs.org)