



# Women Participation in Decision

## Making Process in Iraq

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## Introduction

After the United Nations Organization was established in 1945, women rights were included largely in the legislations of many countries in all over the world. All the international advertisements, resolutions & data were based on equality between men & women on various levels without any discrimination for women. During 21<sup>st</sup> century, many resolutions, conventions & protocols have been issued; any of them refers to women, their rights and the necessity of developing national & international strategy for protecting them from the consequences of conflicts, for women are the fundamental bases of political, economic and social life.

Women issue can't be seen separated from other basic issues in the community, that's why demanding of involving them in the political process requires balanced equality between women and men via full merging them into the community development besides their integrated participation in various aspects of life.

## Goals of Research

Goals of research are as following

- 1- Identify the concepts of participation & decision making process.
- 2- The reasons behind reluctance of women participation in political process.
- 3- Attempt of benefit from experience of women in the past.
- 4- Study the international conventions & resolutions and how to make use of them in developing a vision that contributes in finding suitable solutions .

- 5- Monitor of implementing the quota in all the legislative activities including Provincial Councils, Parliament, Council of Ministers...etc. Moreover continue of quota in both executive & judicial authorities and trying to be increased.

### **Hypothesis of Study**

It's possible to say that the research is based on hypothesis that says any expansion of women participation in political process will be done through adhering of Iraqi government to its constitutional & international commitments that lead to expansion of women political participation in the decision making process. This research will answer the questions mentioned below:

- 1- What do political participation and decision making process mean?
- 2- How can women participation in decision making process be evaluated?
- 3- What are the international resolutions that enhance political participation of women?

## Chapter One

### Conceptual Framework of Political Participation and Decision Making Process

#### I. Political participation

The democratic principle of political participation is a one of most important principles of modern national state; we can distinguish between democratic national regimes based on citizenship & equality in rights and duties and authoritarian, totalitarian and authoritarian regimes based on state monopoly. It is a result of number of social, economic, cognitive, cultural, political and moral factors that contribute in determining the structure of community and its political regime, features and mechanisms functioned. It also determines the pattern of social and political relations and how they are compatible with the principle of participation which has become one of the essential landmarks of modern civil communities.

#### A- Definitions of Political Participation

It is required to clarify the term of "participation" in general in order to define the term of "political participation and its details". So the most familiar definitions of the concept of participation are as following: (1)

- 1- Participation means any voluntary work implemented by citizens in order to effect on determining the public policies, managing the public affairs or selecting the political leaders on governmental, local or national levels.

- 2- Participation is also defined as citizens' contributions in directing the work of government, local government or conducting direct or indirect advisory, executive or supervisory contribution required in the community.
- 3- Participation is defined by others as organized voluntary efforts related to selecting of political leadership, policies making, plans developing, programs & projects implementing whether on locally or nationally productive or service levels.
- 4- Participation also means citizens' contribution in any way related to the policies of local development prepared & implemented by their own efforts or in cooperation with local and central governments.
- 5- Participation is defined as mutual efforts implemented by both government & citizens on different levels to mobilize available resources or it means the efforts that can be found for facing the necessary needs in accordance with plans previously prepared & social policies that serving all.

## B- Kinds of Participation

Participation can be divided into three basic kinds: social, economic & political participation. Any of these three kinds of participations is strongly linked, overlapped & affected to the others. That's why it's hard to be separated in practice.

- 1- **Social Participation:** It means activities that aim at overcome some of daily practical problems; it also contributes to achieve solidarity among the citizens inside the community.
- 2- **Economic Participation:** it means participation of citizens in the projects of economic development via contributing in their decisions making, funding & implementing. It also means activities implemented by citizens to

support national economy such as taxes, fees paid...etc. There's one more definition that means the individuals spend money within the limits of their incomes. That leads them to have surplus all the time, so they will behave with awareness through boycotting traders who raise the prices or hide goods on consumers, a matter that lead to support the national economy.

- 3- **Political Participation:** The topic of the research is based on political participation. It means optional activities implemented by citizens in order to affect directly or indirectly on selection of leaders process or influence on the decisions & policies they make. It also may mean the political role of citizens in the society they live in, where they have opportunity to contribute in discussing the public goals of the community; determine the best methods to be achieved. This kind of participation will be achieved through direct & indirect political activities. The best definition of political participation, written by Samuel Huntington and John Nelson, says: "the activity implemented by citizens in order to influence on government decision making process regardless the activity was implemented by an individual or group, organized or spontaneous, continuous or discontinuous, peaceful or violent, legal or illegal as well as active or inactive. (2)

### C- Levels & Forms of Participation

Levels of Participation in public life differentiate from a country to another, from time to another time in the same country. It depends on how the circumstances are appropriate for participating or not, how the citizens are contributed to join the public work. Most of researchers agree that there are four levels of political participation namely: (3)

- 1- **Higher level:** Political activity practitioners, This level includes those who match 3 of 6 conditions namely: member, volunteer or candidate of political organization, attend political meeting continuously, participate in election campaigns, deliver messages on political issues for parliament, high political officials, press and talk on policy to individuals who are outside the inner circle of that.
- 2- **Second Level:** Those who are interested to policy including those who vote in elections and monitor all what happens on policy.
- 3- **Third Level:** Those who are not interested in policy & dislike working in policy. They don't even make time or allocate money for policy, despite some of them participate when they have to because of they feel their direct interest are exposed to danger, they go through tough time or their life conditions are subject to deterioration.
- 4- **Fourth Level:** Those who are politically extremist, they work outside of legal frameworks. They use methods of violence. While citizens who don't care, they either quit all the forms of participation or they join the extremist & violent participation.

#### D-Stages of Participation

- 1- **Political Interest:** It means monitoring of public issues for long or short time, besides monitoring the political events. Some of individuals discuss with their families & friends at work on policy. Such discussions escalated during crisis and election campaigns.

- 2- **Political Knowledge:** It means distinguishing the political officials who play political role in the society such as members of Provincial Council, Parliament, Shura Council & national officials such as ministers.
- 3- **Political Voting:** It means participation in electoral campaigns through supporting including finance support through funding the campaigns, supporting the candidates or participating in voting.
- 4- **Political Demands:** It means communicating with official government foundations, filling the complaints and participating in the political parties and voluntary associations.

#### **E-Requirements of Active Political Participation**

Participation requires a number of factors that make it more active, continuous & help it to achieve its goals, a matter that lead to increase full development.

The most important demands are: (4)

- 1- The need to ensure the providing of basic requirements needed by citizens such as food, clothing, and adequate housing, health, education, job opportunities, freedom of opinion and other needs that make them psychologically and physically satisfied, thus, they can participate in the public life inside their country.
- 2- Raise the awareness of people on the subsequences of political, economic and social conditions of the society via citizens' seeking to achieve the knowledge required or various methods that form public opinion in the society such as government culture, education & mass media, non-government labor & other vocations unions besides political parties.
- 3- Sense of citizenship, sense of citizens that their political, economic & social participation is so important that they have to do as citizens.

- 4- Faith with the benefit of participation, when citizens feel the importance and activity of participation as well as the rapid response of officials, they feel to participate more. A matter that lead to improve their life and the life of others they live with.
- 5- Clarify the stated policy through good declaration of plans, goals and how they match the needs of citizens.
- 6- Faith of the political leadership with the importance of citizens' participation in policy making & implementing, giving them opportunity to support their participation through ensuring their political freedom, hopes, ambitions, views on the issues & obstacles of the society they live in, discussing the officials' statements, public laws whether inside parliament, press or public symposiums in a secured atmosphere without being subjected to legal accountability.
- 7- Existence of legislations that ensure, assure & protect participation. Existence of various methods & means of expressing the views, thoughts & proposals freely & clearly. These methods & means will support the ideas; the participation will be to ahead of decision makers.
- 8- Existence of training programs for the officials whether in the government & non-government institutions in order to be trained on skills of listening, concentrating, respecting the thought of individuals, raising of individuals attention ,methods and developing of their capability to participate.
- 9- Existence of ideal model in any of the work sites, a matter that leads to select the leaderships, ensuring the ideal person to be elected. So such an elected person will encourage participation & faith with youth capability & their role in developing process.

- 10- Decentralized management is required, for it will lead citizens to participate in managing their own affairs, it also will give them the opportunity to contribute and do efforts.
- 11- Increase the voluntary organizations and raising the level of their effectiveness to work in a broad areas as much as possible, thus, they can work everywhere & different activities, they can play active role through more of validity given. So they will be more affected for serving the society.
- 12- Consolidate the role political & social institutions of education such as family, school, university, religion institutions, parties, methods of communications...etc. and encouraging them to motivate the individuals on participation.
- 13- Methods of communications must be honest & objective in dealing with different issues, obstacles and events. Moreover all citizens' views & thoughts regardless their vocations and party affiliations should be given opportunity to be expressed.

## II. Decision Making Process

The study of political decision making process leads to understand the nature of the political regimes of the countries in all over the world especially third world countries. The analysis of decision making process unveils how democratic are the regimes of the third world countries, how they developed, essential directions of the leadership, who are the top figures dominated the political process? , how they rule the countries through different political decisions & for who? , the methods followed by them on decision making. The term of decisions was defined by David Easton as following: "Outcomes of all

the forms of the political regimes by which, the internal or external authoritative allocation of values is distributed for society". Decision making process also is defined conscious choice process among the available alternatives included doubts, so decision making process is based on choosing among available alternatives.

Again decision making process is defined as how can chose reasonable decision among other competitive alternatives. All decisions lead to particular goals or prevent undesirable outcomes to be happened.

There are many several of basic dimensions & elements of decision making process based on the definitions mentioned above, namely: (5)

- 1- Decision making process is an integrated community process.
- 2- Basic effort implemented by decision makers focuses on collected facts related to decisions in order to be analyzed & evaluated.
- 3- Make a specific decision can't be done randomly, but it will be chosen after studying all the consequences.
- 4- The task of collect & evaluate all the elements & variables related to decision on the ground implemented by decision makers is difficult.
- 5- Predict of decision making is difficult.

#### **A- Essential Elements of Decision Making Process**

The main elements of decision making process in general can be divided into the following:

- 1- **External environment of decision:** It includes many dimensions, facts, pressures and effects that support conducting particular actions & movements, while it restricts the alternative actions & movements. So it's

possible to say that the more pressure caused by external environment, the less possibility of behave & choose can be done before decision makers.

- 2- **Internal environment of decision:** It includes prevailing social conditions, political & economic regimes, NGOs, stakeholders, political parties...etc.
- 3- **Pressures caused by need of decision making on a particular issue or situation:** It's hard to imagine a decision without such pressures. Moreover it will not be needed to make such a decision or so on at all. This pressure may be caused by connection for a specific goal; it is probable to rise or down, increase or decrease in accordance with determination & insistence to achieve the goal required.
- 4- **The Nature of formal organizational structure of decision making process:** The organizational structures mentioned above differ in accordance to how they are forked, multi-level, complicated procedures that control them & their contacts & dealing.

The elements on the organizational structure of decision making process that should be taken into the account are as following:

- The nature of the relation between legislative and executive powers.
- The nature of the relation between the president & his aides.
- Standing on how the central or non-central public policy of the country is.

#### **B-Elements Affected on Decision Maker**

The elements & variables of decision making process mentioned before are influential on the process itself. When any issue needed to make a decision on it, a decision maker will be subjected to influential elements. Thus, the decision maker will be controlled by these elements during all stages of decision making. The elements are as following: (7)

**1- Personal characteristics:** It means characteristics related to the political leader personality that influence on the way of making of external policy decisions, the way of dealing with these decisions. Political leader gains these characteristics during the different stage of his/ her life. The characteristics mentioned above include authoritarianism, ability to innovate, sense of adventure, fame seeking, self-realization, ability to overcome challenges...etc. These characteristics play obvious role in decision making process, it can be seen through the way the leader deals with subordinates , how the leader reacts toward the behaviors of other parties, how they influence on the leader in return, how the leader haste in decision making, how the leader express flexibility & accept compromises.

**2- Decision maker's belief & value system:** It means set of beliefs & values on the external environment that can be felt by decision makers. These beliefs are linked to each other & not contradicted for the vision's decision makers, so that lead them to control the information that can be accepted & understood from the external environment. Decision maker gets a lot of information from untrusted resources. Decision makers care of information via belief system & refuses or neglects other information. Then they look for suitable alternatives according to their belief system.

**3- Ideology:** Ideology is an English word that means "beliefs". It also means system of perceptions, beliefs and theories where individuals' life, political, economic & social communities are built on. Ideology is defined as opinions, thoughts, political theories, religious, moral, aesthetic and philosophical privacy. Thus, "Ideology of decision maker – an individual or more – play an important role in decision making related to the external policy. Ideology contributes in determining how decision makers look at the world, it also determines the methods in which decision makers explain & evaluate the fact in accordance with the principles & concepts they believe in.

Finally, There's one thing needed to be mentioned which is the evaluation of political decision comes via analyzing three stages of decision making in all systems, the stages are as following: (8)

**First stage or previous stage of decision making:** It means preparatory stage where a particular problem occurs & needed to be solved soon or later; it may be needed to be solved, depending on its nature, via two stages: thinking & assimilation.

**Second stage or decision making process:** It means study, prepare & search on alternatives, evaluation and reaching the suitable resolution through the structure of prevailing political system whether leader figures or institutions of decision making. If the stage of decision making is well known & the documents required were available, it will contribute in comprehensive objective evaluation of political decisions. But decision making is dominated by ambiguity, a matter that leads to severe confusion in identifying the truth of what's going on, so the political analyzing becomes incomplete. This stage unveils who participated in decision making, selecting the best alternative, the number of decision makers participated, their different roles. On the other word, this stage unveils what was happening till the final decision was made.

**Third stage, implementing or post decision stage:** It means preparing for the environment where the decision will be implemented & the suitable procedures will be taken. Then, the decision will be monitored & evaluated, new procedures will be taken to overcome the obstacles caused by expected & unexpected implementing of the decision, that's what so called repercussion. Evaluation of decision can be analyzed & how it succeeded or not in an obvious practical way in accordance with the three stages previously mentioned.

## Chapter Two

### Development of Women Participation in Decision Making Process (2003–2014)

#### I. Women in Governing Council & formation of government before writing of constitution

Iraqi Governing Council (IGC) was the second administrative authority established after the US & Britain led-war on Iraq in March 2003, where Baghdad was invaded in 9<sup>th</sup> of April 2004. Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA), headed by Paul Bremer, was the first administrative authority that led the country's affairs after the occupation. IGC was established in 12<sup>th</sup> of July 2003 by CPA. IGC was given several key powers, while CPA had complete power according to laws of war & military occupation agreed in United Nations Headquarter. The limited powers given to IGC started in 12<sup>th</sup> of July 2003 till 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2004. Then IGC was replaced by Iraqi Interim Government. IGC consisted of 25 members who represented Iraqi various parties; they were all working against the former president Saddam Hussein.

(9)

The first administration authority (IGC) included poor participation of women, only 3 of 25 members in 2004. Then, the law of administration for the state of Iraq for the transitional period in 2004, approved by IGC, included some articles, including article C that says "election law aims at raise the women participation in the National Assembly no less than 25%". Order 96 article III term 4 passed by CPA says "there should be a female candidate among

first three candidates in each list besides there should be two female candidates at least among six candidates in each list and so on". (10)

When the Iraqi Interim Government was replaced by the Iraqi Transitional Government, 4 of 31 ministries were given to women; the ministries are Labor & Social Affairs, Municipalities & Public Works, Agriculture and State Ministry for Woman Affairs. (11)

After first parliament elections conducted in 2005, 87 of 275 seats were gained by women, known that the National Assembly elections was conducted preparing for writing the constitution. It means that 32% were feminist members. Moreover 10 women (18%) also participated in the committee of constitution writing. 10 Women members were distributed to 6 branch committees for writing different chapters of constitution. The constitution article XLIX approved women quota in the parliament as a goodwill initiative on women participation in the political process. (12)

That means the minimum quota of women participation in both executive & judicial authorities is not included in the interim constitution. Women participation in the first cabinet headed by Ibrahim Al-Ja'fari included 6 of 36 (11%). It was the first cabinet elected after 2003. Anyway, women have not been given any of four high positions. The ministries namely: Migration & Migrants, Environment, Woman Affairs, Communications, Sciences & technology and finally Municipalities & Public Works. (13)

In the first provinces councils' elections that conducted in conjunction with parliamentary elections in 2005, women gained 25% of councils' seats despite the constitution is not included such legislations, a matter that led to ensure & protect women quota via legislations especially election laws, so women quota will not be affected, whether for there's no constitutional text

that ensure women quota or electoral systems that have been changed by consecutive regimes from closed list system which considered Iraq as one constituency, that ensures women rights regarding the number of women' seats to closed list system, that divided Iraq into 18 constituencies and then to opened list system, that divided Iraq into 18 constituencies, besides the difference between both percentage of votes & Saint Lego systems or Saint Lego modified law, all these details that needed more time to be explained have obvious impact on quota, so The Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC), authorized by the Parliament, developed the mechanism that ensure women quota (25% as a minimum) whether in parliamentary or provinces councils elections. Women also were included in the list of ambassadors in different countries, known that they were voted by the first parliament elected, at that time the list of ambassadors included four women. (14)

It seems that women participation in political process was a somewhat accepted & identical with the legislations included in the law of administration for the state of Iraq for the transitional period and then the Iraqi constitution. This is one of the most important achievements recorded for Iraqi women after 2003.

## II. Women in Iraq Institution

Since the constitution is the supreme law of the country, so it is supposed to provide and ensure the five human rights of all citizens without discrimination, includes the equal of rights between men and women, ensures particularly for women the rights of family, motherhood, childhood and protection of them as it is included in both international conventions of

five issues of human rights namely: ensure the equality between men and women regarding the rights as well as women rights regarding the family, motherhood, childhood & their protection. All these rights besides equality between men & women were included in the Iraqi consecutive constitutions.

(15)

### **1 – Iraqi constitution issued in 1925**

The (Iraqi Basic Law) issued in 1925 is considered as a developing constitutions, because it focused on human rights, respect of fundamental freedoms, despite the word of "women" is not included in the constitution, but some of human rights are included with no word of "women", the article VII says "personal freedom shall be guaranteed for all of Iraqis, they shall not be interfered, captured, moved somewhere else by force, joined to the military army by force without any law passed. While, tortured or exiled out of Iraqi Kingdom at all". The article XII says "Iraqis have right of freedom to express their opinion, publication, hold meetings, establish & join associations in accordance of Iraqi law. All that reflected opinion expression for both men & women".

Regarding the rights of women and men both, article XVIII says: "Iraqis are equal before the law in rights & duties, entrusted in government jobs without discrimination, each according to qualification & ability, government vacancies are provided for Iraqis only except in the case of exceptional circumstances Non-Iraqis shall be employed according to a law, while Foreigners shall be/ can be used according to conventions & constructions". In the second amendment conducted in 1925 to the Iraq Basic Law, the article VIII came to amend Article XVIII of law mentioned above, the article

VIII says: "Iraqis are equal in civil & political rights, duties regardless origin, language or religion, they are entrusted with civil or military government jobs, while the foreigners given can't occupy such jobs unless a specific law passed in the exceptional circumstances".

In the third amendment to the Iraqi Basic Law conducted in 10<sup>th</sup> of May 1958, an interim article in the second item says: "the basic law can be amended within one year from the date of implementation of this law, including the political rights given to educated women, if the amendment approved by the two councils according to the item mentioned above, it will be submitted to the King in order to be approved, so the article gave educated women the political rights. (16)

## 2- Iraqi Interim Constitution issued in 1958

After the revolution of 14<sup>th</sup> of July 1958 the government basic law including all of amendments, issued in 1925, has been annulled by the government. It declared working on the interim constitution in 1958, for the desire to confirm the rules of governance and organize the rights and duties for all citizens. It has been announced that the interim constitution must be adopted by all till the permanent constitution is legislated.

The interim constitution also included respect of citizens' rights of liberties, Arabs and Kurds are partners in the country, the constitution recognizes their rights within the Iraqi national unity. Freedom of belief, personal freedoms, sanctity of homes and freedom of religion were included in the constitution.

Legislations on women were included in the part 2 of the article IX (the origin of authorities, rights & duties), it says: "All citizens are equal before the law in public rights and duties regardless origin, gender, origin, language, religion or

creed". This article made both women and men equal in the rights and duties. This article didn't differ from what have been included in both basic and amended laws issued in 1925 regarding the equality before the law between men and women. The only difference is the word "women" was mentioned in the interim constitution issued in 1958, while it was not found in the previous constitution whether before or after being amended, but the equality of the rights were written as following: "all citizen are equal regardless gender, religion, and so on".

### 3- Iraqi Interim Constitution issued in 1963

Many of legal texts, ensured Iraqis rights especially women, are included in the interim constitution issued in 1963. Despite the word of "women" was not mentioned in the constitution, but many of benefits and features that ensure women rights were included through the equality between women & men. (17)

The article V of the constitution explains the legal status of family, it says: "The family is the base of society; it is based on religion, morality and patriotism".

The right of work for men & women on the base of equal opportunity was included in the constitution. The article VI says: "The government ensures equal opportunities for all Iraqis".

Other women's rights such as protect of motherhood, childhood and law supported the family are also included in the constitution. Article XV says: "The government shall ensure support of family, protect of motherhood and childhood according to the law". While social security & aid in cases of citizens are sick, old aged, disable or unemployed shall be provided according to

article XVI that says: "social security & aid shall be provided for all Iraqis (men or women) in cases of sickness, old age, disability or unemployment".

Article XIX related to the rights and duties of men & women says: "Iraqis are equal in the rights and duties regardless to gender, origin, language, religion...etc. The national rights of the Kurd people as a part of the Iraqi people is ensured by the constitution. Moreover both men & women are legally equal as it has been mentioned. Article XXXVI says: "Health care is guaranteed for all Iraqis through building of different hospitals, health institutions and then to be expanded". The article, previously mentioned, ensured implicitly the health rights of women.

#### **4- Iraqi Interim Constitution issued in 1968**

It seems that many legal texts included in the interim constitution issued in 1968 did not differ than the texts mentioned in the previous constitutions. So the of women rights such as protect of family, of motherhood, childhood, their social security, work opportunity and equality before the law in rights and duties. The article VIII explains that family is the base of society as following: "family is the base of society regardless religion & national morality".

The article, mentioned above, was followed by paragraph (a) of article IX that ensures women rights related to security and protect for themselves, children and family, it says: "the government shall ensure the family support, protect of childhood and motherhood according to the law". While woman's right related to social security were included in paragraph (b) of article IX as following: "the government shall ensure social security services plus the Iraqis have a right to

be given aid in the case of old age, sickness, disability and unemployment", The right of social security is the same included in the previous constitutions, the word "women" is not mentioned, but women & men are included in the word "Iraqis". Article X says: "The government shall guarantee equal opportunities for all Iraqis". The right equal employment opportunities are by the government for both women and men. Again the same text in the article XXI was mentioned in the previous constitution that says: "Iraqis are equal before the law in the rights and duties regardless gender, ethnicity, language or religion. They all (Arab & Kurd), they cooperate in maintaining the country, their national rights are insured by the constitution as a unified people". The article shall insure equality before the law for both women and men alike.

### **5- Iraqi Interim Constitution issued in 1970**

The part 3 of the constitution insured the basic rights and duties including the citizens are equal before the law regardless gender, ethnicity, language, religious or origin. The article XIX (a) says: "citizens are equal before the law regardless gender, ethnicity, language, religion or social origin". Women rights were legally included in the constitution as men.

While paragraph (b) of the same article says: "equal opportunities are insured to all citizens within the limits of the law", so the right' women of employment opportunity as men were included in the constitution.

The article XXVII, (a) says: "eradication of illiteracy shall be implemented by the government, so free education opportunity will be provided all Iraqis in the primary, secondary & university studies. Thus women were given education opportunities as men. The article XXX, paragraph (b) says: "Equal employments shall be provided according to law". So women were given

employment opportunity like men. Paragraph (d) of the same article says: "wider social insurance shall be insured for all citizens in cases of sickness, disability, unemployment or old age by the government". Thus women were given the right of social insurance as men in the constitution.

## 6- Permanent Constitution issued in 2005

While careful reading the rights and duties included in the constitution's articles & items, it will be noticed both men & women's rights & duties included in some of them, while women's separately rights are included in others. The article XIV says: "Iraqis are equal before the law regardless gender, ethnicity, origin, color, religion, belief, opinion and economic or social class". It means that women are equal with men before the law. While the article XV says: "each individual has the right of life, security & freedom, so they can't be deprived or restricted of these rights unless according to a law or a decision issued by judicial authority. It means that women have the right to live a secure & free life.

Men & Women's rights of employment are not neglected in the new constitution; they are included in the constitution. The article XVI says: "All Iraqi equal the regarding right of deployment, the procedures required for that shall be taken by government". Personal freedoms are also insured in the constitution, for Personal freedoms are included in the constitutions of the civilized countries in all over the world, the item 1 of the article XVII says: "Personal freedoms are insured for everyone, but the shall not be incompatible to the rights of others & public morals". It means that individual liberties are

insured for both men & women in the constitution. Iraqi legislators realized the political status of Iraqi women via reading the history of women, their struggle and the active role they can do, so women's right in political participation is included in the constitution, the article XX says: "citizens whether men or women have the right to participate in the public & political affairs including the right to vote, elect & run for a position".

The constitution also insured the other women's rights such as to be respected & taken care by their sons & daughters. The item 2 of the article XXIX says: "children shall be given the right by their parents related to upbringing, care & education, while parents shall be respected & taken care by their sons & daughters especially in cases of need, disability or old age". Women also are included the social insurance according the constitution, the item 1 of the article XXX says: "social, health insurance and basic needs of life are insured by the government to individuals & families especially women & children besides suitable housing & incomes are insured too".

Women's right of living in dignity was included in the constitution. The item 3 of the article XXXV says: "women shall be prevented to works such as forced works, slavery & women trafficking as well as children trafficking and sex slaveries are not permitted at all". Women's right of political participation in the parliament is insured in the item 4 of the article XLVIII says: "electoral law aims at achieving the percentage of women participation in the parliament not less than 25%". (19)

### III. Women in Iraqi governments after writing of constitution

Since Iraqi government was established in 1921 till 2003, where Iraq was governed by a monarchy regime and then three consecutive military republican

regimes, women haven't been given adequate political participation. Monarchy regime was nominally democratic, for the lack of cultural, mental & moral substructures whether on the level of politicians or society. Women haven't been given the opportunity of political participation till the republican regime was established in 1958. Iraq was the first country among Arab & Middle East countries, where a Cabinet included a woman (Naziha Al-Dulaimi). That was the first step for Iraqi women toward political participation in decision making process. Women organizations played so influential role regarding the political issues that led to enact the personal status law. A matter that led equality of heritage between men & women, determine the marriage age and eliminate of polygamy.

After 2003, a transitional & democratic regime was established; a law of administration for the state of Iraq for the transitional period was enacted in 9th of March 2003. Legal & administrative bases of the transitional ruling were conducted and the interim constitution of the totalitarian regime was dissolved as well. A law of administration for the state of Iraq for the transitional period included articles on women's rights including women's quota in the legislative, executive and judicial authorities. The first participation of women in the political process was in the Iraqi Governing Council, when the council included 3 women members of 25, but they did not play an influential role because of the short period that the Governing Council led the country and the impact of political & security events on the social fact of Iraqi as well. But things gradually changed including women's role. After Saddam was removed from the power, the number of women ministers increased in the Cabinet. The government headed by the leader of the Iraqi National Accord Ayad Alawi included 5 women ministers: minister of agriculture Sawsan Ali Al-Sharifi,

minister of migration & displacement Pascal Esho Warda, minister of environment Mishkat Al-Mou'min, minister of municipalities & public works Nisrin Mustafa Al-Barwari and minister of labor & social affairs Layla Abdullatif.

During the period of transitional government headed by Ibrahim Al- Ja'fari, the number of women ministers increased to 6: minister of communication Juan Fouad Ma'som, minister of sciences & technology Basima Putrus, minister of migration & displacement Suhaila Abed Ja'far, minister of both environment & human rights after Hashim Al-Shibli refused to take over the position, minister of municipalities & public works Nisrin Mustafa Al-Barwari and state minister for woman affairs Azhar Al-Shekhli. It seems that the ministries given to women are either service or scientific. During the period of the government headed by Nouri Al-Maliki, the number of women ministers decreased to 4. Iraqi Unified Alliance, the largest coalition in Iraqi parliament refused to nominate women to take over the positions in the Cabinet. The women ministers are: minister of construction & housing Bayan Dirzi nominated by Kurdistan Coalition, minister of environment Nirmeen Othman also nominated by Kurdistan Coalition, state minister for woman affairs Nawal Al-Samarrai nominated by Iraqi Accordance Front and minister of human rights Wijdan Mikhael nominated by Iraqia Coalition. So there were 4 women of 38 ministers in the first Cabinet headed by Al-Maliki. The second Cabinet headed by Al-Maliki (2010-2014), there was only one woman minister: state minister for woman affairs Ibtihal Gasid Al-Zaidi. The women representation was completely decreased, plus they haven't been given any role in the Iraqi high positions.

Since Al–Abadi became prime ministers in 2014, the opportunity of women's participation in the Iraqi government has been definitely decreased, for the Cabinet included two women ministers: the minister of health Adela Hamoud and the state minister for woman affairs Bayan Nouri, ate Ministry for Woman Affairs was dissolved, while the Ministry of Environment was merged with the Ministry of Health. That came as a part of series of reforms committed by PM Al–Abadi. (20)

Although many articles on equality of political rights between men & women are included in the constitution, such as the item 4 of the article XLIX that insure 25% of parliament seats at least for women. Also women gained 25% of parliament seats according to the women quota included in the constitution, but Iraqi women are still not influential on the political process & they haven't been given sovereign ministries or even any influential leading position. Women activists in the parliament are still demanding that women should be given sovereign positions in the government including the ministry of defense or interior that is still rejected by the governmental officials under the pretext of the so complicated security situation that it's hard for a woman to take such as a position.

#### **IV. Women in parliament, provincial councils, independent committees, judiciary and CSOs**

It's not easy to restrict women participation in positions under the levels of ministers, for positions are being changed from time to time. The available statistics below will focus on women participation in both governmental & non-governmental positions in order to be evaluated later.

##### **A- Iraqi parliament & provincial councils**

After the political system change in Iraq in 2003, the quota system was adopted in both parliament & provincial councils' election, a matter that led women to participate easily to occupy parliament & provincial councils' seats. Women representation in the parliament in 2006 was 27.3%, while in 2010, women representation decreased to 25.2%. In 2010, the number of the MPs was 325, 243 men members & 82 women members, known that the number of MPs in the parliament term in 2010 increased 50 members than it was in pervious parliament term, where the MPs were 275. The number of men members was 200, while the number of women members was 25. In the parliament term in 2014, the number of parliament' seats occupied by women was 83 of 328, known that the parliament's seats were distributed in accordance to the rate of population in each province.

The total number of provincial councils' seats in the elections held in 2009 was 744 including the provinces of Kurdistan region. The seats were divided into 550 for men and 194 for women, known that the seats were distributed in accordance to the rate of population in each province. Baghdad was given the higher number of seats, for the population live in is higher in comparison

of the other provinces, so the number of seats was 48. The number of men seats was 36 while the number of women seats was 12. (21)

In the provincial councils elections held in 2013, 99 of 378 nominated women won in the elections, known that they all represented 12 provinces, so the percentage of women representation in the provincial councils was 26%. The highest percentage was 27.5% in Najaf, Salahuddin & Dyala, while the lowest percentage was 25% in Diwaniya & Wasit. It means that women quota was adopted in all the provinces by IHEC than it was in the previous elections held in 2009. (22)

Women of major coalitions such as Rule of Law "Dawla Al-Qanoon", Citizen "Al-Moatin" and Liberals "Al-Ahrar" occupied the majority of 66 women seats, while women of the other coalitions occupied the other 33 seats, each coalition won 1 to 3 seats only.

#### **B- Independent bodies & special ranks**

The articles 102 – 108 included in the Iraqi constitution explain that all the independent bodies are under their specific authorities. The works of independent bodies such as High Commotion of Human Rights, Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) and Commission of Integrity are monitored by the parliament; their works are organized by a law as well.

Iraqi Central Bank, the Federal Board of Supreme Audit, Communication & Media Commission and the three Divans of Endowments are considered administratively & financially independent according to the constitution. The paragraph 2 of the article 103 unveils that the Iraqi Central Bank is monitored

by the parliament, while both the Federal Board of Supreme Audit, Communication & Media Commission are linked to the parliament.

According to the paragraph 3 of the article 103, the three Divans of endowments are attached to the Council of Ministers. Establishment of Martyrs is attached to the Council of Ministers as well. Only two of the independent bodies are run by women, the bodies are Establishment of Martyrs & Mayoralty of Baghdad. The percentage of special ranks of women officials is 36.8%, including 25% of director general & deputy director general in the Iraqi ministries. (23)

### C- Judiciary

Although women are not included in the list of 9 judges of the Higher Judicial Council appointed by the President of the Republic, the number of women judges who run the courts of the Higher Judicial Council increased after they have been permitted to apply for working in the judiciary field since 2003. It's worth mentioning that there were only a couple of women judges in Iraq before 2003, but now there are 67. Over the years, women judges proved that they are qualified to work in such field, for they do great job, so their job is worth highly respected by the whole community. The number of judicial crew in general increased 1000 more than it was before 2003, so the number of men & women Judges & prosecutors nowadays is 1587.

### D- Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

After 2003, the number of Iraqi feminist Civil Society Organizations exceeded 400; some of these organizations located in all over Iraq including Kurdistan Region are related to political parties & coalitions. The percentage of feminist

CSOs, work in the field of family & children, headed by women is 69% according to database collected by CSOs.

The relations between local feminist CSOs in Kurdistan Region & international Organizations led to more activities related to women implemented by the local CSOs there. A great achievement has been achieved by local feminist CSOs in Kurdistan, where a law issued in 2004 that adopt the personal status law No. 188 issued in 1958. The local feminist organizations in cooperation with parliament and international organizations such as UN & EU did great role when they cancelled reservation regarding one of items included in CEDAW that says: "an Iraqi citizenship can be issued for a newborn baby who his/her mother is Iraqi while his/her father is non-Iraqi". This step came in ensure women's rights included in the constitution issued in 2005. The local feminist organizations succeeded in enhancing the role of women in decision making process through include the parties' law with the laws that insure women participation in political process as it's insured in the constitution. Adopting UNSCR 1325 related to women that will be explained in details in the next section. All that shows that Iraqi women contributed influentially in the political process.

## Chapter Three

### Women in International Covenants & Conventions

With respect to the international agreements, Iraq has acceded to 6 of 7 main United Nations conventions on human rights, namely: the two international covenants on civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights" (1971), "international convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination" (1970), "convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women" (1986) and "convention on the rights of the child" (1994). Iraq has also acceded to 7 of the 8 International Labor Organization's conventions on human rights, namely: "right to organize and collective bargaining convention "(1962), "the two conventions 29 & 105 concerning the abolition of forced labor"(1959 & 1962), and" the two conventions 100 & 101 concerning the elimination of discrimination (employment & occupation)" (1959 & 1963) and "the two international conventions 138 & 182 on child labor" (1985 & 2001). (24)

There are some reservations on items included in the conventions acceded by Iraq, namely: (25)

- 1- International Covenants: Iraq announced that the ratification of the covenants does not imply recognition or entry into any relations with Israel.
- 2- Convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination: The article XXII concerning ways of resolving disputes that may occur between member states regarding the interpretation or application of the convention. Iraq also considered that ratification of the convention does not imply recognition or entry into any relations with Israel.

- 3- Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women: Article II, paragraphs 6 & 7, the paragraph 6 is related to the obligation of states parties to take all appropriate measures to modify or abolish laws, regulations, customs and practices that lead to discrimination against women, while paragraph 7 is related to cancelling all the national penal codes that lead to discrimination against women. The article IX, paragraph 1 is related to the equality between women & men rights on acquire, retain and change the national identity card, while paragraph 2 is related to the equality between women & men rights on their children's national identity card. The article XVI relates to eliminate of discrimination against women in all matters regarding the marriage and family relations on the condition that should not contradict with Islamic Sharia. The paragraph 1 of the article XXIX concerning the ways of resolving disputes between member states concerning the interpretation or application of the convention.
- 4- Convention on the rights of the child: Article XIV, the paragraph 1 relates to the obligation of states parties to the rights of the child in thought, conscience and religion, but here, when a child changes his/her religion that will be contradicted with Islamic Sharia
- 5- With respect to the regional level, Iraq has agreed to the "Cairo declaration on human rights in Islam", issued by the foreign ministers conference of the Islamic Conference countries in 1990, which is a guiding document that does not required to be ratified. Iraq also approved the revised Arab pact of human rights issued in Arab summit held in Tunisia in May 2003, but most of Arab country including Iraq didn't ratify the pact, so it hasn't been implemented on the Arab ground yet. The

most two important international conventions (CEDAW & UNSCR 1325) signed by Iraq will be discussed in this chapter.

## I. **The Convention on the Elimination of All Form of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**

After the end of World War II in May 1945, the first international treaty was held in San Francisco on women's rights, while in 1946 the first committee to monitor women's conditions & rights was formed. Then, some decisions were issued and several international conferences held to address this issue including the conference held in 1979, the decisions resulted were implemented on the ground since 1981 when the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW) was signed. This convention was included in the list of the universal declaration of human rights and other reports issued by the UN that referred to inequality between women and men and how women are more poor and uneducated than men, despite women play great social role when they undertake the pains of pregnancy & birth, for they are key partner who make the life sustainable. CEDAW included a comprehensive program on the methods to eliminate discrimination between men & women. (26)

After the United Nations General Assembly adopted in December 1979, CEDAW has been implemented on the ground, 30 articles that's considered as an international code for women's rights, it calls for equality between men & women's rights related to civil, political, economic, social & cultural liberties. CEDAW was signed by the majority

of the states in all over the world except US, Iran, Vatican, Somalia, Sudan & Tonga. US refused to sign CEDAW, for the US Congress's report rejects imposing the legislations on the personal status law including birth control describing as interference in the domestic affairs.

Most of the countries in all over the world including Arab countries signed CEDAW with some reservations on specific articles were taken into the consideration.

CEDAW determines the adoption of both measures and principles that lead to equality between men and women everywhere, the adoption of measures & principle was as a result of 5-year consultations held by women committee, experts and lawyers. It calls for equality between men & women (whether married or not) regarding the participation in civil, political, economic, social & cultural life. It also calls the member states to enact legislations that eliminate all the forms of discrimination against women in all fields in accordance with the articles included in the international convention. The majority of Arab and Islamic countries acceded to CEDAW, such as Jordan, Algeria, Iraq, Kuwait, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Yemen, Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Turkey and Malaysia. The most important items that enable women political participation as much as they can are as following: (27)

- 1- The article III says "member states shall condemn all the forms of discrimination against women, with an emphasis on adoption of the policy aims at eliminating the discrimination against women, besides their constitutions & laws should be included equality between men & women with ensuring to be implemented as well as the states violated the

- convention should be punished. Iraqi consecutive governments must obey the articles included in CEDAW, for Iraq is a member state".
- 2- The article IV says: "all the member states including Iraq must take procedures required in the political, economic, social & cultural fields such as legislations that insure women's rights, besides helping the women to behave in accordance with human rights & personal freedoms".
  - 3- The article VII says: "the procedures required shall be taken by the countries acceded that eliminate discrimination against women in political & public life, equality between men & women related to voting, nominating in parliament & presidency elections, determining the public policy of the country through employment opportunities available for them, participating in the political parties & unions. Iraqi women shall struggle to achieve the goals previously mentioned through symposiums & training workshops to be held, submitting the memos, writing in press & media in order not to be marginalized by uncivilized groups.
  - 4- The article VIII says: "the countries acceded shall take measures to ensure the equality between women & men in order to be appointed in the diplomatic corps. So women can to represent their government on the levels before the other governments and international organizations.
  - 5- The article IX determined that countries, acceded the convention, agreed to insure women rights related to acquire, change or retain their national identity cards as men, especially if a woman married a foreign man or if he changed his national identity card, she has to change her national identity card too. CEDAW insured equality between the men & women's rights related to the national identity cards of their children. There was

reservation on the article mentioned above by Iraqi law, but after 2003 the reservation was cancelled by Iraqi government, so the children may have the national identity cards as their mothers.

6- The article X of the Convention unveil the obligation of states to ensure equal rights between men and women in the field of education and join studies for degrees, equality since nursery, equality in curriculum & exams for all the academic levels through encouraging the coeducation, equality in the available opportunities related to various fields, ensuring & organizing the families' health. The obligation will be adopted by Iraqi government as a member state of CEDAW without any discrimination against women.

7- The article XI confirmed to take all necessary measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of employment, starting from the right of same opportunities, conditions and advantages of working (profession), equal salaries & employment, the right to social security in cases of unemployment, sickness, disability, old age, paid leave, retirement, health protection, having a child, prevent them to be terminated due to pregnancy and childbirth, the right of maternity leave, the right of social protection & services while women are pregnant. These legislations can be developed when required, on those who break the legislations shall be punished.

8- The article XV includes the equality between men and women before the law, the equality of legal capacity between them regarding the civil, administrative & legal affairs, cancelling of all the items legislated by the countries that eliminate the legal capacity of women related to their transport, housing, residence. Moreover the necessity of amending the

legislations including the Iraqi personal status law, Inheritance, taxes, status & independence of Iraqi women, equality between men & women and the right of financial autonomy.

Although Iraq acceded CEDAW, besides the legislations on combating the violence against women included in the constitution, the fact of women's rights in Iraq still suffers from a lot of problems and challenges, for there is no anti-domestic violence law included so far, besides the strategic plan against violence included in the constitution haven't been completely implemented, despite it was ratified by Iraqi government.

Also the customs, traditions, non-education, poverty, lack of legal awareness, lack of studies, research and reports which monitors the women's situation & changes, lack of awareness on gender issues affected negatively on the fact of women in Iraq, a matter that lead to adopt procedures required by the government bodies in order to develop the women' conditions.

## II. United Nations Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1325

United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on women, peace and security was issued in October 2000 to eliminate the violations against women whether during or after the wars and armed conflicts. Women's rights should be protected from any violations & women should be enabled to participate in decision making process in accordance with international instrument, conventions, the Universal

Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and constitutional rights. Any organized human community cannot achieve the goal adopted related to development and progress when the women, the essential part of the community, are discriminated & their rights violated. So community who live without freedom, they cannot live behave like other communities, so they will lose ability as much as freedom they lost. Moreover they will lose dignity as much as the will they lost.

The empowerment of women and their active participation in all social, economic and political aspects life is an essential humanitarian goal in the modern world they live in. UNSCR 1325 is a document consisting of 18 articles that based on four topics that emphasize the importance of women participation at all levels of decision making and peace processes including gender training on peace keeping operations, women & girls rights' protection, generalization of gender perspective in order to be announced & implemented by the UN' systems. All the topics included in the document of UNSCR 1325 will encourage the resolution itself to work inside the UN agencies & Security Council, besides the topics will encourage the UN Secretary General, governments and the conflicted parties to adopt them as well. Moreover the most important thing is that UNSCR 1325 calls the world attention on a specific issue, it calls for governments & international institutions to adopt it as well. (28)

The resolution reaffirms the important women's role in conflicts prevention and resolution, peace building, the importance of their equal participation in all efforts aimed at keeping and enhancing the security & peace. UNSCR 1325 also stresses on the necessity of enhancing the women's role in conflicts resolution & prevention, the complete

implementation of international humanitarian law international human rights law that protect women & girls rights during and after conflicts. It stresses the necessity of all parties should take into the consideration the programs of mine clearance and awareness on the danger of mines. UNSCR 1325 calls for the necessity of the generalization of ender perspective in all keeping process, besides the necessity of understanding the consequences of the armed conflicts on women & girls and motivate the local & international institution in order to insure their protection & participation in peace keeping process, a matter that leads to their participation & enhancement in the international security & peace keeping process. The necessity of unified database on the effects of conflicts on women & girls is required according to the resolution.

The most important items included in UNSCR 1325, which are related to the subject of study according to this research, are as following: (29)

- 1- It urges the member states to ensure increasing of women representation at all the levels of decision making in national, regional and international institutions & mechanisms for conflict resolution, management and prevention.
- 2- It encourages the UN Secretary General on the implementation of the strategic action plan (a/49/587) that calls for the expansion of women participation in all decision making levels in conflict resolution and peace keeping process.
- 3- It urges the UN Secretary General to appoint more women as representatives & special envoys of good offices, and calls upon member states shall be demanded to nominate women in order to be listed &

submitted to the UN Secretary General. The names of women will be included in a central list that will be periodically updated.

- 4- It also urges the UN Secretary General to seek for women's role & contribution to be expanded in United Nations field operations, and especially among military observers, civilian police and staff of human rights and humanitarian assistance.
- 5- The UN Secretary General will be requested to call upon the member state about the guidelines principles and training materials related to the protection of women, their rights & needs, besides the importance of women participation in all peace keeping & building measures, the UN Secretary General is also requested to calls upon member states to include participation in trainings to raise awareness of HIV that prevent infection by AIDS besides all what previously mentioned in their national programs, for these programs will be used for training of military & civil police personnel as a preparatory step to be deployed. The UN Secretary General also is requested to ensure the participation of civil personnel working in peace keeping operations in the same training.
- 6- During the negotiations & implementation of peace treaties. All active stakeholders are requested to adopt gender perspective that include the following: (30)
  - A- The basic women & girls needs required should be taken into the consideration while going back home & resettlement. All needs required should be provided for them such as rehabilitation, reintegration & reconstruction after the conflict ends.

- B- Measures to support local women's peace initiatives and operations carried out by indigenous people to resolve conflicts and those to involve women in all mechanisms of implementation of the peace treaties should be taken.
- C- Measures to ensure the protection and respect of women & girls' rights especially those related to the constitution, the electoral system, police and judiciary.
- 7- It calls upon all the parties involved in armed conflict to completely respect & protect international law related to women and girls' rights, for they are civilians. The conventions that should be respected in particular are: the Geneva Conventions (1949) & its additional protocol (1977), the Refugee Convention (1951) & its protocol (1967), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1977) & its Optional Protocol (1999) and the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child (1989) & its two Optional Protocols dated 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2000. Moreover provisions related to basic Rome system of the International Criminal Court should be taken in to the consideration.
- 8- It calls for the UN Secretary-General to conduct a study on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, the role of women in peace building, the gender dimensions of peace process & conflict resolution. It also calls for the UN Secretary General to submit a report on the results the study and to the Security Council. Moreover the member states should be submitted the report.

The UNSCR, in accordance with the items included in it, can insure for women the rights mentioned below: as following:

- 1- It's a great opportunity for the community to implement the UNSCR 1325 via training courses on conflict prevention and resolution for women that be conducted when diverse groups of women can be gathered to discuss civil affairs and how to use UNSCR 1325 as a method for advocacy and support.
- 2- It increases awareness on different opportunities that ensure the fairness and credibility of the gender based violence (GBV) during the wars especially with regard to negotiations on conflict resolution and post-war efforts to rebuild, protect, monitor & respect of humanitarian women & children' rights in the region.
- 3- It also provides a new type of influence and communication policy with UN decision makers, contact the UN Resident Representative, meet the staff of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) inside the refugee camps, review the implementation of the Commission directives regarding the protection of women refugees, pressure on the Legislative Council for the effective laws that protect women, peace and security and prepare of training materials on the gender in accordance with the nature of region and the culture of people who live in.
- 4- It supports the effectiveness of women in the process of networking and sharing the information through networking and cooperation with women's organizations, collect more information on women, peace and security, share experiences with groups of women and strategic partners.

Many CSOs joined the alliance to support UNSCR 1325. The alliance formed a lobby group to press on the government urging state actors to launch a strategy for raise the fact of Iraq women. A National Action Plan (I-NAP) was launched in February 2014 by Iraqi government as a response to the recommendations prepared by the State Ministry of Woman Affairs plus many of CSOs. I-NAP launched by Iraqi government for four years (2014-2018) is to implement UNSCR 1325 on the Iraqi ground, so Iraq is the first country in the Middle East & North Africa launches such a plan.

The plan includes an obvious strategy based on perfect & actual basis that unveil the situation in Iraq. It contributes to enhance the status of women in the society, increase their participation in decision making & implementation process. The most important issues & pillars included in the plan are as following:

#### **A- Pillar 1, Participation:**

**Overall objective:** to increase women's influence & rights in negotiations, civil peace and political decision making.

#### **Strategic objectives:**

- 1- Develop mechanism that ensures women's proportional & fair representation and participation in all the legislative, executive and judicial authorities besides decision making positions on the local & national levels.

- 2- Ensure women's proportional & fair representation in complete participation in reconciliation committees, peace building & conflicts resolutions negotiations and councils of civil peace achievement.

### **B- Pillar 2, Protection & Prevention:**

**Overall objective:** to improve the women's living conditions, rights & services and ensure women have access to them.

#### **Strategic Objectives**

- 1- Merge women's rights in the justice and security systems in order to eliminate violence against women.
- 2- Protect women from GBV and provide secured government shelters for victims of trafficking, homeless and abuse treatment.

### **C- Pillar 3, Promotion:**

**Overall objective:** to integrate UNSCR 1325 on the national level.

#### **Strategic Objectives:**

- 1- Generalize and integrate the concept of gender in all policies & processes related to conflict prevention and resolution as well as peace building.
- 2- Increase community awareness of the resolution, employ women and enhance their capabilities through rights based approach.

### **D- Mobilization, monitoring & evaluation of resources**

**Overall objective:** to support the implementation of I-NAP of UNSCR 1325 by all the state actors. While the first initiative of I-NAP support the active monitoring of the implementation process.

**Strategic Objectives:**

- 1- Perfect the writing of transparent reports based on the results.
- 2- Allocate national and international fund and monitor specific funds for the NAP.

**Conclusion**

Raising of women active political participations in political decision making & implementing comes to enable them to practice their rights, freedom and duties. Women participation in decision making positions in Iraq nowadays is a historic opportunity that should be carefully taken through coordinating the efforts and determining the active women as well. Women should raise their awareness, capabilities and faith in the role they do in the field of future and peace building in Iraq. These important & influential issues will lead the theoretical concepts mentioned below to be implemented on the Iraqi ground. That requires supporting the transition of Iraqi society that includes diversity and insures equal rights & opportunities for all regardless gender, ethnicity, age, religion and affiliation. The concepts are as following:

- 1- Modify and reform the local and national legislations to address women's' needs, rights and freedom.
- 2- Impose a women quota in all political foundations while seeking to be increased to 40%.

- 3- Implement the organizational restructuring to insure the raise of women in local and national political foundations.
- 4- Support the CSOs working in the field of empowering the women through workshops and training sessions that build the skills and capabilities of women in advocacy and leadership and raise awareness & education of the community in order to promote women's rights and participation in political and civil fields.
- 5- Encourage political parties to adhere empowering of women through women's quota in elections & the leading ranks of the parties. Ensure women participation in decision making process inside the parties as well.
- 6- Merge quota system in the laws of the parties, leadership & other organized ranks of the parties as included in the constitution 25%, besides ensure that every party should adhere to name women in the internal structure of the party.
- 7- Reduce the minimum women ages who are nominated to provincial councils, parliament and presidential election, councils of ministers ...etc. to 25 years in order to include young women in this process.
- 8- Create a positive environment for empowering the women to take one of the following leadership positions: President, Prime Minister or speaker of the parliament.
- 9- Increase the number of women in leadership positions at the local and national levels such as: the head of the provincial, municipal or local council and so on.

10- Need the support of religious foundations for empowering the women.

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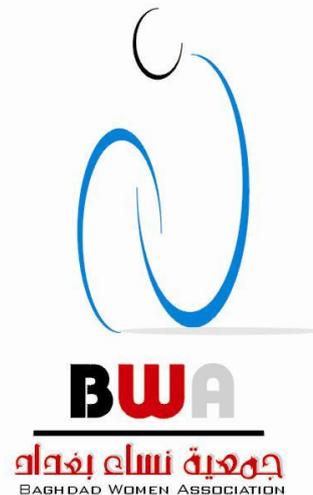
**Project Name:** Eliminate of discrimination and violence against women

**The project's goals:**

Eliminate of discrimination and violence against women in Iraq via implementing the national action plans previously prepared.

**The research's goal:**

It focuses on the policies & legislations that hamper the active participation of women in decision making process.



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