

**Resolution of the regional seminar “Living with the rule of law
-Equality of rights and opportunities for women”
14-15 November 2014.
Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan**

The regional seminar on “Living with the rule of law-Equality of rights and opportunities for women” was aimed at sharing experience, knowledge and ideas among representatives of the public sector, academic community, civil society activists and experts developing policy on enhancing opportunities for women in the Central Asian region, it was also aimed at creating a dynamic plan of action to support women.

Best international practices in family law and protection of economic (property) rights of women were presented at the seminar, as well as successful policies of the participating countries on professional and civic responsibility and accountability of community organizations, successful innovative practices for fulfilling women's rights to education and training.

The seminar was attended by representatives of the public sector, academic community, civil society activists, and experts in the field of development of women's rights from France, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The following issues were addressed in the framework of seminar:

- Family law, the transfer of property rights. The civil status of children, declarations, the creation of a specialized observatory
- Improvement of legislation for juvenile cases
- Family mediation as an alternative to protect the interests of women and children
- Promotion of legality, participation and leadership of women at all decision-making levels (economic, political, cultural, social)
- Key aspects of the interaction of NGOs with government agencies to promote women's rights
- The results of applied research on women's entrepreneurship in Kazakhstan: motivation, specific, needs
- Training and education as the key to women's freedom. The ultimate goal: drawing up national charter on education and its implementation.
- Promotion of rights and opportunities for women with disabilities
- The fight against gender discrimination.

Despite the guarantee of equal rights and equal opportunities for men and women enshrined in the Constitution and despite existing international obligations in the field of equality between women and men, assumed by the countries of the Central Asian region that have signed the Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, there has been in the last decade, an increase of inequality of status between women and men in the socio-economic as well as in the

political spheres. Despite existing legal guarantees of equality for employment, the sex of the job-seeker, and often the existence and number of children are crucial in finding employment. In this regard, it was proposed to develop a strategy for equality between men and women in the form of special programs in the areas of employment, education, health, promotion of women at decision-making level, these programs need to be provided with financial and organizational resources.

The participants of the seminar adopted the following strategic directions of the dynamic plan of action to support women in the region:

1. Strengthening strategic alliances and encouraging the institutionalization of the initiative on promoting of women's rights through a creation of a “Coalition” of regional organizations, support to the Coalition’s operation and sustainability through partnerships of public and non-governmental organizations, media and telecommunications, for exchanging information, developing and harmonizing policies, developing and promoting measures for implementing the Action Plan (Appendix 1);
2. Information exchange between organizations and activists to promote women's rights through the creation of a single information source in the form of an official web site, the use of social networking, the organization of official mailing on development of related issues in the region;
3. Conducting an information campaign (conferences, round tables, workshops, educational and research initiatives) to encourage the active participation of all stakeholders in the activities promoting equal rights and opportunities for women and attracting active members to the Coalition; publication and wide dissemination of the current seminar materials in the mass media and Internet in order to promote informational interaction and the above mentioned Initiatives;
4. Undertaking gender expertise in adoption of laws and other socially important state decisions.

Appendix 1

Action Plan

№	Activity	Organization
1	Civil and political rights	
2	Social and economic rights	
3	Cultural rights	
4	Strengthening of the rights and opportunities of women with disabilities	
5	Domestic violence	
6	Psychological support	
7	Family mediation	
8	Right to education, including professional re-training	
9	Problem of polygamy	
10	Problem of early marriage	
11	Training of judges	
12	Training of mediators	
13	Human rights and Access of women to justice. Strengthening of legal literacy	
14	Strengthening marketing literacy	
15	Access of women to work	
	Development of homebased work	
	Professional training	
	Practical problems resolving- birth registration, kindergarten, medical assistance etc	
16	Women migrants	
17	Women with HIV	
18	Women representatives of national minorities	
19	Raising gender awareness of civil servants	
20	Gender statistics	