

Final Declaration

Of

Arab-African Conference & Exhibition

on Industrial Products for Businesswomen

November 2-5, 2016

InterContinental Citystars - Cairo



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Final Declaration

In conclusion of the Arab-African Conference & Exhibition on Industrial Products for Businesswomen, a final declaration was issued including the following statements:

We, the participants of the Arab-African Conference & Exhibition on Industrial Products for Businesswomen, meeting on 2-5 November 2016 in Cairo, under the theme of Women's Economic Empowerment through Industrial Development;

Expressing our profound gratitude to the President H.E. Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi for the patronage of the event, the government and the People of the Egypt for hosting this important event in their beautiful and beloved Egypt;

Conveying our profound gratitude and deep appreciation to the League of Arab States for its distinguished efforts in supporting different activities that aim to boost the Arab economy;

Expressing our sincere appreciation for Arab Union for Industrial Export Development (**AUIED**) the Council of Arab Business Women (**ABWOC**) and the Arab African Union for Businesswomen (**AAUBW**) and for their cooperation in organizing this event;

Expressing our sincere appreciation for the African Union (**AU**), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (**UNECA**), Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (**BADEA**), International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (**ITFC**), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (**UNIDO**), the Arab International Center for Entrepreneurship and Investment (**AICEI**), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (**COMESA**) and all participating Arab & African women's organizations for supporting the event.



Expressing our deepest thanks to all those who contributed to enriching the conference and its sessions with their ideas and opinions, which demonstrated their moral commitment and humanitarian interest in empowering women in the Arab & African Countries.

Reaffirming our commitment to strengthen cooperation between Arab and African countries in the field of inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) and recalling the United Nations General Assembly resolutions 67/202 entitled "Entrepreneurship for Development" and AU Agenda 2063 as a "global strategy to optimize use of Africa's resources for the benefits of all Africans" ; we call upon governments, the private sector, academia, civil society and international organisations to cooperate in undertaking the following steps towards enhancing and boosting women in industry in the Arab Region and Africa:

1. Gender equality, equal opportunities for women and girls to have access to education, healthcare, decent employment, political participation and economic empowerment is the only way to achieve comprehensive economic development.";
2. Support women entrepreneurs is a main pillar to spur economic growth, and considering Khadija network founded by the League of Arab States and the UN Women as a regional platform to support women entrepreneurs in the Arab region, which is working to modify the policies and develop national and regional strategies to facilitate access to resources and sources of funding and providing Marketing Solutions for women entrepreneurs in the Arab region.
3. Work on improving the productivity of small and medium enterprises and entrepreneurial environment for women through supporting, financing, capacity building and information providing;



4. Take a coordinated and inclusive approach to promoting entrepreneurship involving all stakeholders, while noting initiatives of civil society, academia and the private sector as important entrepreneurship drivers;
5. Consider partnership with the private sector in promoting entrepreneurship, generating employment and investment, increasing revenue potential, developing new technologies and innovative business models, and achieving high, sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth while safeguarding workers' rights;
6. Foster women's participation and leadership in planning, budgeting and policy-formulation in the economic sphere, particularly in the management of public and private enterprise;
7. Highlight the importance of continuing to advance the strengthening of the institutionalization of the national machineries for the advancement of women in Arab region and Africa and, in that sense,
 - Promote and support the efforts of States to fulfill the commitments adopted at the international, Arab and African level on gender equality and women's rights, including those adopted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
 - Stressing the importance of continuing to build partnerships and alliances among governments, international organizations, civil society organizations and youth groups to change negative gender stereotypes.
8. Recall the commitments made by Arab Member States in the Cairo Declaration for Arab Women and the Strategic Plan for Women Empowerment, as well as the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, which calls for gender equality in all areas of public and private life and a commitment to achieving the Sustainable



Development Goals, we emphasize on increasing the participation of women entrepreneurs and producers in global value chains and to ensure that they enjoy greater economic benefits from participating in international trade.

9. Strengthen the capacity of national financial institutions and develop financial inclusion for women to reach out to those who have no access and to banking, insurance and other financial services, and encourage them to adopt regulatory and supervisory frameworks to facilitate the safe and sound provision of services to such populations, increase access to information and promote financial literacy, particularly for women;
10. Expand alternative sources of financing and diversify retail financial systems to include microcredit and microfinance;
11. Call on Governments to allocate funds for financing of women owners of SMEs and develop financial institutions for financing SMEs
12. Promote linkage of Scientific Research and Technology and Innovation with entrepreneurship and support transfer of technology for SMEs owned by women.
13. Establish platforms for women to communicate and exchange ideas, a move that will not only stimulate creativity but will also give women a sense of support and self-confidence, enabling them to better prepare and target success.
14. Collect and analysis data and statistical indicators on women's participation in economic development in the Arab & Africa Countries, to promote women's roles in business sectors.
15. Develop a dedicated database of Arab and African women in Industry including studies, investment opportunities and promotional services which aim to



enhance joint investments and facilitate Arab-African trade among businesswomen.

16. Promote the establishment of Business Development Centres and Business Incubators for supporting women entrepreneurs through startups of businesses and SMEs.

17. Activate the role of the media in raising awareness about the empowerment of women economically and socially, especially for marginalized areas

18. Promote Afro-Arab Cooperation in the field of Economic Empowerment of Women by:

- Building Bridges between Businesswomen in Africa and women in the Arab World for exchange of knowledge and expertise
- Create Linkages and network with Business Communities and Business Associations and Councils of RECs (Regional Economic Communities).
- Work to create Arab-African partnerships for Businesswomen in the field of industry that is export viable and targeting parties markets
- Support capacity-building programs and exchange of experiences among Arab and African women entrepreneurs
- Request from African and Arab banks in addition to funds to provide soft loans to women entrepreneurs to empower them economically
- promote Investment in SMEs and Joint Ventures between Business Women in Africa and The Arab World and establishment of a joint industrial companies targeting local markets and export
- Joint projects for building capacity of Business Women in different fields and facilitate access to finance



- Promote Access to Market for the industrial products through linking with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) including COMESA which is the biggest regional economic block of 19 African countries, in addition to TAFTA bloc in the beginning of 2017.

19. Express gratitude to the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa in supporting of initiatives aim at the development of industrial exports and strengthening the role of intra Arab and African trade, demand from the bank and AUIED to continue cooperation for the development of industry, Arab and African women's empowerment

20. Call for holding the Arab-African Conference on industrial products for businesswomen on a regular basis, every year or every two years, alternatively among Arab and African countries

21. Send appreciation telegram to H.E. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and H.E. Ahmed Aboul-Gheit, Secretary General of the League of Arab States.
