

Gender, Citizenship & Nationality Programme

“Arab Women & the Denial of Citizenship: A Regional programme on Gender and Nationality”

PROPOSED MINOR REVISION ON PHASE TWO

JANUARY 2007

.I. BACKGROUND

Based on the outcomes of Phase I and on the agreements of the regional strategy meeting, and the outcome of the transition phase and the regional meeting of June 2005, the objectives of Phase II of the Gender, Citizenship and Nationality programme are as follows:

1. Launch regional and country based policy dialogues on gender and nationality with key decision makers and stakeholders
2. Raise public awareness on nationality as a case in point for engendering citizenship in the Arab world
3. Launch country specific legal reform initiatives related to Arab nationality Laws
4. Identify and address country-based challenges which may obstruct legal reforms

Phase II takes into consideration the various stages and differentiated processes in each country. Most importantly, it will use Egypt (where the law has been changed but with no retroactive effect on 14.7.2004) and Algeria (where the law was changed in March 2005) as a model and a case study for learning and debate.

The countries covered in phase II were initially meant to be:

1. Lebanon
2. Egypt
3. Syria
4. Yemen
5. Jordan
6. Morocco
7. Bahrain
8. Algeria
9. Palestine

.III. PROPOSED MINOR CHANGES ON PHASE II

Phase II activities were both regional and country based. They revolved around the following categories:

- 1) Advocacy for legal reforms
- 2) Communication and knowledge dissemination
- 3) Monitoring progress

A detailed annual report on Phase II was submitted in late 2006. Following the submission of the report, the first regional nationality conference was held in Bahrain/Manama in December 2006.

It was evident then that the programme is dealing with three categories of countries:

Category one: Countries already included in Phase II and where work is progressing as planned. These include Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Morocco, Bahrain and Algeria.

Category two: Countries already included in Phase II but where progress on campaigning and advocacy is limited because of contextual and structural blockages. These include Jordan, Yemen and Palestine.

Category three: Countries not included in Phase II but where potentials for mobilizing local partners and launching breakthrough campaigning and advocacy work is quickly materializing. These include Kuwait, Oman and KSA.

As such, CRTD.A is proposing to replace countries in Category two with the countries in Category three.

Phase II (and subsequently Phase III) will therefore have the following geographical coverage:

- Lebanon
- Egypt
- Syria
- Morocco
- Bahrain
- Algeria
- KSA
- Kuwait
- Oman

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