

**Second Arab Forum on Media and  
the Rights of the Child: Girls' Education  
Dubai, 2 – 4 May, 2006**

**I. Background**

1. The First Arab Forum on Media and the Rights of the Child met in Dubai, December 2004, with the participation of fifty media professional from 13 countries. The forum was a joint activity of the Dubai Press Club, Al Bayan Newspaper, Arab Institute for Human Rights (AIHR), Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR), Dubai Humanitarian Aid City and the UNICEF Regional Office for Middle East and North Africa .
2. The First Forum reviewed the situation of children in the Arab World, discussed the implications of applying the human rights approach to media coverage of issues related to children and reviewed experiences of media coverage. It also drafted an Arab Charter on Media of the Rights of the Child.
3. This year, the Forum intends to focus on the issue of Girls' Education in the Arab world.

**II. Objectives**

4. The objectives of the Second Forum are:
  - a. Understanding the situation of Girls' Education in the Arab World in terms of enrolment, dropouts, social factors that influence Girls' Education and educational inputs (teachers, curricula, buildings, sanitation ... etc).
  - b. Familiarizing participants with examples of successful strategies and experiences related to Girls' Education.
  - c. Understanding the role of media in terms of analysing the situation of Girls' Education, understanding the influence of media related factors (eg. images of women and girls in media), and covering the story as a key developmental concern.
5. Field visits will be organized for several participants to orient them on the situation of Girls' Education in the region.

### **III. Key themes**

6. It is proposed that the Forum covers three key themes:
  - a. Testimonies from media professionals who have visited projects in the field, together with expert presentations.
  - b. Identification of social and behavioural patterns that influence the situation of Girls' Education and identifying the influence of media on these factors.
  - c. Follow-up on the proposed Charter for Media and the Rights of the Child

### **IV. Organisers**

7. The organizers:
  - ◆ Dubai Press Club, Dubai
  - ◆ Al Bayan Newspaper, Tunis
  - ◆ Arab Institute for Human Rights (AIHR), Tunis
  - ◆ Center for Arab Women for Training & Research (CAWTAR)
  - ◆ UNICEF MENARO, Amman
  - ◆ WFP
  - ◆ UNESCO
  - ◆ Ford Foundation
  - ◆ DAHC

### **V. Participants**

8. It is proposed that participants include professional media representatives from effective media establishments at both the regional and national levels, in addition to professional media associations. Participants should be at the decision-making level with gender balance taken into consideration. Total number of participants should not exceed 40.

### **VI. Date and Venue:**

Dubai, 2 – 4 May, 2006.

### **VII. Criteria for selecting participating media:**

- a. Concern with human development issues.
- b. High professional standards.
- c. A regional vision and reach.
- d. Gender balance.
- e. Arabic speaking.