

# GENERAL FEDERATION OF IRAQI WOMEN

## STRUCTURE

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### ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

**General Congress:** The highest authority in the GFIW

**Central Council:** It consists of members elected by the General Conference

**Executive Bureau:** The executive authority that comprises members elected by the Central Council

**The Branch** : The highest authority in the branch

**Branch Bureau** : The highest executive authority in the branch

**Division Bureau** : The highest authority of the administrative unit within its area

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### THE GENERAL CONGRESS

It represents the highest authority in the GFIW. It comprises the GFIW Chairwoman, members of the Executive Bureau and 1-100 percent of GFIW members. 250 members are

chosen through direct secret balloting by all GFIW members of the branches for a three-year term.

The General Congress is responsible for drawing policies of the federation as well as putting plans for its activities and events.

### **THE CENTRAL COUNCIL**

It comprises 57 members elected through direct secret balloting by members of the General Council. The council is the highest authority in the GFIW when the congress is not at session. It is responsible for all works in front of the Congress. It practices its power for a one-year term and its headquarter shall be in Baghdad. Function of the Council ends when a new council is elected. Confidence in the Council may be renewed and the same members or some of them may be re-elected.

### **EXECUTIVE BUREAU**

The highest administrative and technical authority in the GFIW It is linked with the Central Council. It is formed and supervised by the Central Council. The Bureau is repressible for its entire works. Direct secret balloting determines the members of the Executive Bureau from among the Central Council. Its headquarter shall be in Baghdad.

\*\*\*Article 24 of the GFIW law of 1972 as amended stated that the federation should have branches in all provinces. The branch comprises of all its members and it is formed of:

### **THE CONGRESS OF THE BRANCH**

The highest authority in the branch and it is comprised of all the branch representatives to the General Congress who had been elected by the divisions of the branch. It supervises and checks all works of the branch.

### **THE BOARD OF THE BRANCH**

The highest executive authority in the branch. It is directly linked with and supervised by the Executive Board. It comprises members if need be. The members of the Board are to be elected from among members of the congress of the branch for a three-year term. No less than 9 members and head of the branch should be elected for the branch.

### **The Board of the Division**

The division of the branch is formed by a decision taken by the board of the branch. It is run by a committee comprised of members of the division elected through direct secret

balloting. It is linked with the board of the branch and it should be under the board's supervision.

The board includes head of the division and a number of 5 or 8 members.

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

The GFIW law No.139 of 1972 as amended for the second time in 1976, stated that the Executive Board includes:

H- the Secretariat-any of the secretariat formed by the Executive Board to perform any task.

Accordingly, The Executive Board includes seven secretariats run by members of the board, a committee headed by GFIW chairwoman assisted by an executive board member and seven departments run by GFIW members specialized in the work of these departments.

### **GFIW Chairwoman**

#### Chairwoman Office

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1-Planning and Control Secretariat       | 9- Meetings Department              |
| 2-Foreign Affairs Secretariat            | 10-Audit Department                 |
| 3-Autonomous Region Secretariat          | 11-office administration Department |
| 4-Culture and Information Secretariat    | 12-Kindergarten Department          |
| 5-Information Center Secretariat         | 13-Women Magazine.                  |
| 6-Secretariat of Social Development      |                                     |
| 7-Secretariat of Economic Development    |                                     |
| 8-Committee on women economical projects |                                     |

**Planning and Control Secretariat---** In coordination with Secretariats concerned with finance and activities, this secretariat works for proposing for necessary central indicators as well as making information related to the activities of the federation available in such way that insures efficient realization of the federation's goals. It also controls the performance and efficiency of achieving those goals.

**Foreign Affairs Secretariat**—It aims at establishing and developing relations with Arab, foreign and international women organizations in different domains. It addresses

the foreign intellect at all levels through building informational means with organizations outside the country. It also works for shedding light on the federation's role, contributions and accomplishments to engage women in the process of the economic, social and cultural development.

**Autonomous Region Secretariat**—It works to supervise the administrative and organizational affairs of the branches of the federation in Erbil, Sulaimaniya and Duhok provinces. It also makes women in the said region aware of their role in building and developing the society as well as of performing their national duty. It provides cultural, social and health services for women and makes them able to take advantage of the available educational opportunities.

**Culture and Information Secretariat**—It aims at developing the educational and cultural status of women as well as to educate women cadres in different domains. It also aims at developing the federation's information march to serve the domestic, Arab and international activities of the federation.

**Information Center Secretariat**—It works for developing the federation's information system through enhancing the role of the library in publishing and extending information as well as collecting documents related to the federation. It also works for: making references concerned with activities of the federation and women as well, building an information bank through establishing and updating information basis on computers and developing basis and systems of the administrative, financing, organizational and documentation activities and building information basis as needed by the branches.

**Economic Development Secretariat**— It aims to develop, promote and increase contributions and participation of women in the economic activities in such away that could help achieve goals in both the economic development in the country and in developing the financial potentials of the federation that lead to its (the federation) self-sufficiency.

**Economic Projects Department**—It consists of an administrative council headed by GFIW Chairwoman and includes a member representing the Executive Board, a number of specialists from governmental departments and experts in economy, credit,

computing and private sector. The department works for establishing productive projects, developing the already established ones, financing women investment projects at the federation's units or at the private sector, providing women with working opportunities and family services at reasonable costs.

**Social Development Secretariat / Family Consultancy Center**--It works for developing society through making qualitative and quantitative changes based on developing women's social status related to her position and role in the family and society, ensuring her equal rights to that of men to help carry out their active role in family and society. **Family Consultancy Center** —Run by a member of the Central Council assisted by specialists in law and social research. Its work concentrates on finding solutions to family problems, offering legal consultations, putting suggestions for legislative changes that do not harmonize with women development, studying legal problems and the obstacles facing the implementation of law in family fields.

**GFIW Chairwoman Office**—Run by an office head who is directly linked with the Chairwoman. Head of the office is responsible for the administrative activities, works and meetings of the Chairwoman.

**Meetings Department**—Headed by a member of the federation and linked with the Chairwoman. The head is responsible for the entire activities of the department which aims at organizing meetings of the central council and the Executive Bureau and reporting decisions to the authorities concerned for purposes of implementation and follow-up.

**Audit Department**—headed by a specialist in computation and linked directly with the Chairwoman. It is responsible for the entire financial activities of the Executive Bureau.

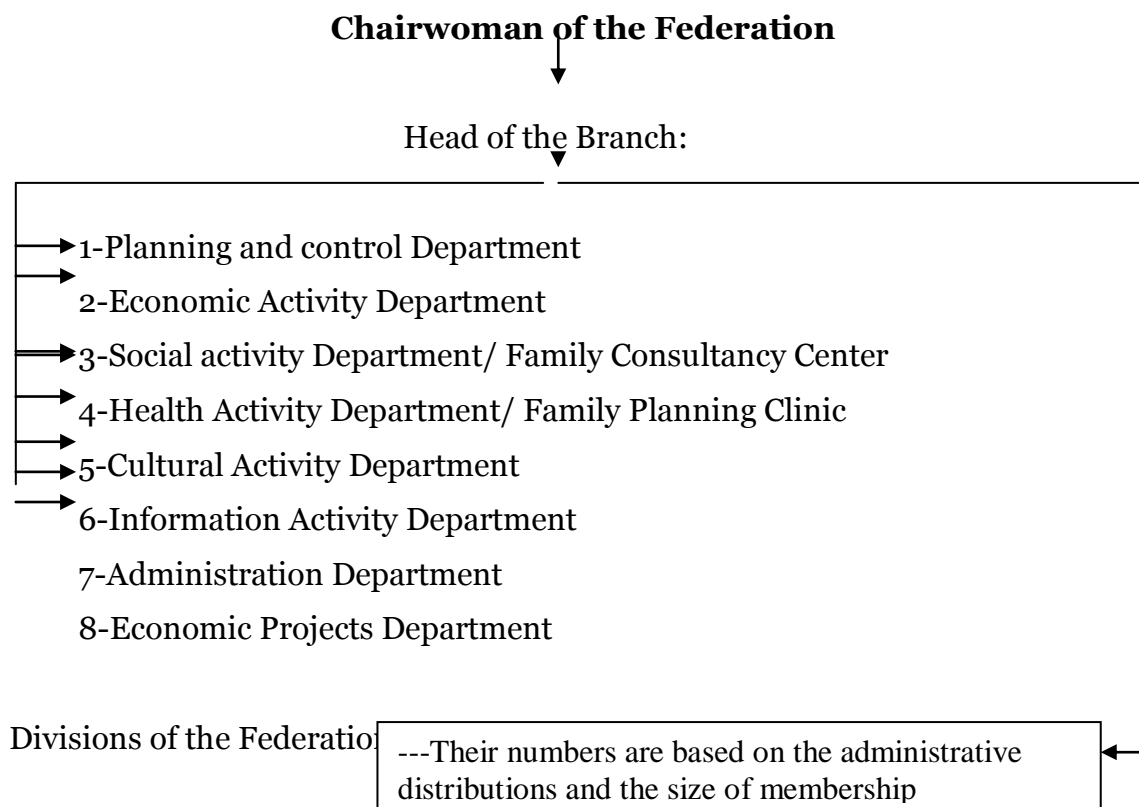
**Administrative Department of the Executive Board**—Headed by a director who is directly linked with the Chairwoman. The head is responsible for the entire service and administrative activities of the Executive Bureau. It also provides administrative and financial services to the Executive Bureau.

**Kindergarten Office**—Headed by a member of the federation linked with the Chairwoman. The head is responsible for the entire activities of the office. It aims at supervising and providing all necessary equipment for the federation’s kindergartens.

**Women Magazine**—Supervised by GFIW Chairwoman as an editor-in-chief and a manager from the editing staff. The magazine is run by a member of the federation .It aims at making the public opinion aware of women issues in all domains as well as displaying the federation’s role in this field.

### **STRUCTURE OF THE BRANCH**

- Chairwoman of the Federation
- Head of the Branch
- Board of the Branch (Specialized Departments)
- Divisions of the Federation
- Division Board
- Sectors



!- Social 2-Health 3-Economic 4-Culture 5-Information

**Planning and Control Department:** Suggests the central planning indicators of the branch activities, plans the budget and monitors the implementation of the activities

**Economic Activity Department:** Plans for the economic activity of the branch and develops women's economic status through improving their skills

**Social Activity Department:** Plans and implements the legal and family activities of the branch and its units and puts for studies and solutions family problems

**Health Activity Department:** Plans for and implements health activities, supervises family planning clinic and develop federation's cadre in health fields

**Cultural Activity Department:** Supervises and plans for the cultural activities as well as develops the cadre in this field

**Information Activity Department:** Directs and implements the entire information activities of the branch, supervises the implementation of the division's plan, organizes relations with different information departments and intellectual women as well

**Administration Department:** Directs and implements the administrative and computing activities of the branch and follows-up properties of the branch at its units

**Economic Projects Department:** Implements and supervises economic projects that finance resources of the branch

## **Network & Membership**

### **1- The Network:**

Article 28 as amended stated that “ the federation's organs in one province should be distributed according to the administrative organs in the province and according to their social and professional grouping”.

Accordingly, the organs of the federation have expanded to reach 41 branch distributed in 19 province, 39 of which are distributed according to the geographical areas and two

specialized ones in Baghdad. The first is educational and the second concerns women professionals

The Executive Bureau—41 branch, 253 division, 1604 sectors

## **2-The Membership:**

Article 5 of Chapter three of the 1991GFIW Law as amended stated that:

- A- Every Iraqi woman who is 18 years old has the right to be a member of the federation.
- B- To submit an application for membership acknowledging her acquaintance with the federation's law and its internal rule, expressing her belief in its objectives and her readiness to abide by the law and rule and the constantly struggle for the realization of the objectives mentioned there in.
- C- Her application must be approved by two members
- D- Every Iraqi woman who is 15 years old has the right to be a member of the federation, but has no right to vote in the elections or apply for leading a federation's organ until she reaches 18
- E- An Arab woman residing in Iraq is considered an Iraqi for the purposes of applying this law

**Members of the federation reached 612613 up to 1/1/2000 distributed according to the social status and as follows:**

Housewife (348316)

Student (1558630)

Professional (100359)

Rural women (3158)

**This membership is prevailed through 41 branches distributed in all provinces:**

1-Specialized Branches (4917)

2-Geographical Branches (607696)

Total (612613)

## 1- Specialized branches

Province	Name of the federal branch	Division	Committee	Size of membership
Baghdad	Women Forum			100
	Professionals	22	11	4817
Total	2	22	11	4917

**The distribution of the federation's net on the administrative departments and size of membership up to 1/1/2000:**

## 2- The Geographical Branches:

Name of the province	Name of the Branch	No.of Divisions	No. of Sections	Size of membership	Social reality of membership			
					House wife	Student	Professional	Farmer
Nineveh	Mosul	5	20	8712	6918	892	902	
	Nineveh	7	47	23720	1883 7	2428	2455	
	Al-Rimah	5	17	5647	4084	978	585	
	Uml-Rabiain	4	24	13550	9450	3645	455	
Ta'meem	Kirkuk	5	27	9780	6993	1388	1399	
	Ta'meem	3	21	8518	4237	1843	2438	
Salladin	Salladin	9	37	9265	5681	2963	499	122
	Mu'tasim	2	8	4026	2468	1288	217	53
	Qa'id	3	17	6441	3979	2063	347	52
	Farouq	3	12	3558	1653	886	964	55
Diyala	Diyala	5	29	24773	8530	13310	2933	
	Muqdad	5	15	19085	1020 4	7175	1706	
Anbar	Anbar	5	15	4040	2003	805	1232	
	Falluja	3	18	3400	1685	678	1037	
	Jassira	6	25	5000	2478	997	1525	

Baghdad	Sukaina	10	77	41600	2365 0	13450	4500	
	Khansa'	6	44	18762	1066 6	6066	2030	
	Khawla bint al- Azwar	8	19	23875	1253 0	6568	4727	
	Al-Zahra'	10	85	25125	2059 5	2632	1891	
	Saddam	11	98	34733	27277	4916	2540	
	Zubaida	17	75	42500	1869 8	12102	11700	
	Sumaia	8	64	8638	3438	805	3600	795
	Al-Batool	7	90	28265	1809 7	7489	2679	
Babil	Babil	4	32	10267	3087	4047	3133	
	Hilla	8	48	18948	9985	4644	4113	206
Kerbala	Kerbala	9	41	7150	4861	1713	576	
Najaf	Najaf	9	28	30350	1635 0	4850	9050	
Qadissiya	Qadissiya	13	99	32949	1888 6	11870	2193	
Muthanna	Muthanna	6	41	16384	9391	5902	1091	
Wassit	Wassit	6	38	22641	11302	5773	5155	411
	Suwaira	6	32	16766	7999	4246	3817	304
Thiqar	Thiqar	6	44	13628	6044	3392	4067	125
	Al-Zahful Kabir	8	42	10500	2200	2070	5300	930
Misan	Misan	12	56	18300	11895	4776	1627	5
Basra	Basra	8	63	18710	11007	3815	3888	
	Um al- Ma'arik	10	60	17204	10121	3508	3575	
Duhouk	Duhouk			350	255	20	75	
Erbil	Erbil			875	485	139	251	

Sulaimaniy a	Sulaimaniy a			408	297	24	87	
Totall	39	253	1604	607696	34831 6	155863	100359	3158

## THE OBJECTIVES

1-General objectives as stated by GFIW Law of 1972 (as amended in 1976).

- A-On the regional level
- B-On the Pan-Arab level
- C-On the international level

2-Medium-term objectives approved by the 16<sup>th</sup> General Conference for the years 2000/2001/2002.

- A-In the political field
- B-In the economic field
- C-In the social field
- D-In the organizational, administrative and financial fields.
- E-Institutional arrangements

### **1-A-On the regional level**

1-Prepare and mobilize Iraq's women to play their active role in the battle of the Arab nation against imperialism, Zionism, reactionary forces and backwardness to achieve civilization progress and to build up unified, democratic and socialist society.

2- Raise the level of women in Iraq by all possible means and secure their enjoyment of rights that are equal to men's rights in political, civil, economic, social and cultural fields, to provide equal labor opportunities and develop them to occupy high positions in the state. Defends their rights and interests, and to participate in repealing any laws, norms, systems, customs, or practices that are based on discrimination against women.

3-Safeguard the national unity through promoting progressive national awareness among women and masses, and to consolidate struggle and solidarity relations with the professional and mass organizations in rendering public services, joining popular work and

civil defense. And in taking part in the projects of economic, social and cultural development as well as in building up revolutionary Iraq.

4-Enhance family life and patronize maternity and childhood

### **1-B-On the Pan-Arab level**

1-Develop the sisterly relations among Arab women in all countries and to exchange expertise and cooperate to develop it

2-Promote unity of Arab women through working with the General Arab Women Federation (GAWF)

3-Consolidate relations and cooperation with the different nationalistic, regional, governmental and non-governmental organizations in the Arab homeland and to develop joint work to help promote the organization's stand and interest in Arab women issues

4-Participate seriously in the movement of Arab Revolution which aims at liberating Palestine and the occupied territories, to diminish completely all sorts of imperialist or Zionist existence in the Arab homeland. And to build up the society of unity, freedom and socialism

5-Participate seriously in developing the struggle abilities of Arab women so that she can contribute to promoting the steadfastness of the nation and country against external danger

### **1-C-On the international level**

1-Exchange expertise and information with all international women organizations

2-Achieve best forms of solidarity with international women organizations and actively take part in their activities as well as sign bilateral protocols with them to achieve the federation's objectives

3-Obtain membership of international women organizations and actively participate in their activities to help promote the federation's leading position in these organizations

4-Consolidate relations and cooperation with different international, governmental and non-governmental organizations and develop joint work in accordance with the federation's objectives

5-Voice national causes and defend them and to convince international women organizations to adopt national rights of the Arab nation

## **2-A-In the political field**

- 1-Work by different means which ensure women to occupy high position and participate in decision-making procedures
- 2-Raise women ability in participating in decision-making
- 3-Continue mobilizing women and promoting awareness of the size of the conspiracy against Iraq and means of confronting it
- 4-Participate in promoting peace and security and to continue work on international and Arab levels to lift the embargo off Iraq
- 5-Promote the federation's position at international and Arab levels and develop relations with international and Arab organizations and figures
- 6-Interact with women international issues, especially the negative consequences of the international political and economic changes in light of the federation's position as a consultative member at the UN Non-governmental Organizations

## **2-B-In the economic field**

- 1-Promote women abilities to help them acquire working positions to participate completely in the society on the basis of equality and without discrimination. Accordingly priority should be given to the subject of employment and ways of living of young, middle and elderly women
- 1- Alleviate and reduce poverty and overwhelm reasons behind it as well as to alleviate its consequences especially on women-in-charge of their families (despite the fact that the phenomena of poverty is provisional and is linked with the impact of the embargo on Iraq
- 2- One of the basic tasks of activity of economic projects is: A-Invests the federation's findings of equipment and buildings. Investing these findings should rely on studies of the economic benefit of the projects of the federation's branches efficiency. Efficiency of the federation's branches and projects department should be developed accordingly to help enhance women's role in private activities as well as preparing specialized staff in administration and follow-up. B-Forms a union or association for businesswomen. C-The federation should work as an umbrella to women wishing to establish projects through making site, money, equipment and administrative measures available.

## **2-C-In the social field**

- 1-Promote the benefit of the health services rendered to women to change negative aspects appeared on women and family and to strengthen women's health awareness
- 2-Strengthen women awareness of their rights, opportunities and privileges approved by the law, to activate implementations that ensure women's rights and to promote their contributions to the society
- 3-Urge women make good advantage of the educational and training opportunities they gained and help women rely on themselves
- 4-Promote the role of the federation in ensuring women and family a social security
- 5-Give productive families more care and attention especially families of martyrs
- 6-Establish and define purposes of the national worldwide campaign for propagation of Islamic faith to help promote moral values in society and family and to stress women's rights and duties as set by the Islamic Shari'a (Law of Islam)
- 7-Use all means of mass communication to raise the awareness of women, help deepen the way the society looks at women

## **2-D-In the organizational, administrative and finance fields**

- D-1-Develop women cadres
- D-2-Develop relations between the federation and its members and stress the quantitative development of membership
- D-3-Develop the use of computers and communications technology
- D-4-Adopt the charges system in defining the expense of the rendered services and membership
- D-5-Reconsider the administrative structure of the computing and control system in light of the expansion in the finance and computing works.
- D-6-Enable computing cadres, leading cadres to implement the set financial instructions
- D-7-Complete technical and administrative measures needed to exploit findings of the federation whether be it lands or money in a way that help finance the federation's budget
- D-8-Reconsider the level of salaries and allowances paid for the administrative staff and to put a new system of spurs
- D-9-Evaluate periodically the advantage of investments in comparison with the current costs

D-10-Use computers in the computing process of the branches and to develop and treat the centrally used computing bases

D-11-Adopt a special evaluation term for the projects to define the good and dispense with those of no use

D-12-Establish geographical computing units to unify accounts of the branches in a province in a way that do not affect the financial independence and powers of the branches

## **2-E-Institutional arrangements**

E-1-Establish a detailed database in accordance with the adopted international rankings which could facilitate work of the federation in laying out programs aiming at increasing women's participation and promoting their capabilities to achieve general strategic objectives

E-2-Cooperate with organizations and unions concerned with these objectives such as Industry Union, Chambers of Commerce Union and professional organizations and unions

E-3-Cooperate with the United Nations agencies and funds to provide technical aid and support for establishing small projects

E-4-Care for the institutional structure of the federation in accordance with the specialization of the secretariats and their departments to fulfill their commitments through:

--Developing the existing infrastructure

--Establishing new organs in accordance with the priorities defined by work necessities and the available human and financial potentials

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## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

1- GFIW's participation in international conferences

**GFIW participated in international conferences concerning woman since the international conference held in Mexico in 1975, Copenhagen 1980, Nairobi 1985 and Beijing 1995.**

Organizing the International Symposium of Human Rights for Women- Ways of Facing Challenges

Going along with the conceptual developments of human rights and woman after the International Conference on Human Rights in Vienna 1993, which objectively combined between human rights in general and woman's rights and considered them as part of human rights, the federation called for an international symposium in Baghdad on April 20-22,1994 about human rights of woman-ways of facing challenges in which many organizations and figures took part. A declaration was issued at the end of the symposium called "Baghdad Declaration on Human Rights of Woman).

**A book in Arabic and English was issued on the procedures of the symposium including all the researches put forward in the symposium and the documents issued.**

### **GFIW Center for Documenting Human Rights of Woman**

GFIW created a center of documents and studies concerning human rights in general, and woman's rights as part of the foreign relations activities. The center contains all the documents issued by the UN committees concerned with human and woman's rights, including their decisions, and the covenant committees concerned with observing the implementation of the international agreements of human rights.

### **Studies issued by the federation on Human Rights of Woman**

Many studies were issued on human rights of woman and the challenges facing Iraqi woman as she pursues her human rights. Following is a list of samples of such studies:

- 1- The effects of economic sanctions on the health of Iraqi family/Baghdad International Symposium 1994.
- 2- Woman and ways of facing challenges in the field of the right to development/Baghdad International Symposium.
- 3- Charters and agreements of human rights- woman status and dilemmas of implementation/ Baghdad International Symposium.
- 4- The legal status of women in Iraq.
- 5- The impact of international conflicts on the woman's status- woman between participating in enhancing peace and a victim of conflicts. A study submitted to the International Symposium on Woman and Development in the Political and Economic Dimensions held in Libya on August 28-31,1994.
- 6- The NGO's role in enhancing peace, solving conflicts and dealing with their impacts on woman. The Iraqi woman's experience.

- 7- A study on the legality of sanctions in the light of the UN decisions and the strategy for the advancement of women until 2000/Baghdad 1995
- 8- Poverty among women- Reasons, Results and the GFIW's role in treatment.
- 9- Strategy of alleviating poverty with confirmation on the role of the GFIW
- 10- Dimensions of Human Rights Declaration on Women's rights.Dec.8-10, 1998.
- 11- The impact of sanctions on Iraqi woman, a research submitted to the 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the World Women Democratic Union/Nov.1998

GFIW participation in preparing and discussing Iraqi reports on Iraq's implementation of convention of CEDAW

GFIW participated in preparing regular reports about Iraq's implementation of CEDAW, it also contributed to discussing regular reports submitted to the committee on eliminating discrimination against women. It also participated as a member of the delegation, which discussed the regular reports in front of the Committee of Eliminating Discrimination against women. An expert from the GFIW headed the delegation to the discussions of the first report. The same expert also participated in the discussions of the second and third reports.

#### GFIW membership in international organizations concerned with family and woman

GFIW is a member in the International Union of Family Organizations. Chairwoman of the federation is also Vice-president of the International Union. The federation is also a member of the Women World Democratic Federation.

#### **1- Multi-lateral International and Arab relationships**

The federation has multi-lateral international and Arab relationships distributed in the UN organizations and the specialized agencies. The federation built relations with 29 UN organizations and 36 human rights organizations.