



Terms of Reference of the Sub-Committee on Women Rights

Nature and Background:

The Sub-Committee of Organization of Islamic Cooperation Ombudsmen Association (OICOA) on Women Rights was established at its 4th General Assembly held recently in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Sub-Committee is headquartered at FOSPAH, Islamabad. H.E. Ms. Fauzia Viqar, Ombudsperson of FOSPAH, is the Chair of the Sub-Committee on Women. As Chair of the Sub-Committee on Women Rights, FOSPAH will do its utmost for pioneering initiatives in gender-sensitive adjudication, awareness, and institutional reform, inspiring ombudsman offices across the Muslim world.

2. Many countries have made significant efforts, undertaken a number of activities, measures and established institutional and administrative mechanisms to protect and promote the rights of women across the OIC. The work of the Sub-Committee is expected to deliver concrete results that would improve not only the existing legal frameworks but would also put in place models and procedure for the effective empowerment and rights of women in all spheres of life.

For delivering the expected outcomes, it is proposed that the Sub-Committee on Women Rights of OICOA may meet at least four times before the next General Assembly. Schedule of the future meetings of the Sub-Committee on Women Rights of OICOA will be decided at the forthcoming first online meeting of the Sub-Committee on 22 December 2025.

General objectives of the Sub-Committee on Women:

- a. Support harmonization of legal and policy frameworks on Women's Rights.
- b. Strengthen redressal and prevention mechanisms on women's empowerment across Member States.
- c. Empower women through enhanced awareness of law and entitlements.
- d. Sustain regional cooperation and dialogue focused on pressing gender justice issues.

- e. Align with WDO and the OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (OPAAW).
- f. Serve as regional platform for collaboration, training, and peer learning.

Role of the Sub-Committee on Women:

- 3. To take the work of the Sub-Committee forward, the Sub-Committee would:
 - a. Complement and coordinate with existing OICOA efforts for gender justice across the Muslim world by providing targeted institutional frameworks, scalable interventions, and region-specific policy coordination.
 - b. Operationalize commitments under the OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women by providing thematic expertise, technical assistance, and a model for institutional replication.
 - c. Coordinate with national institutions to strengthen redress mechanisms for denial of rights and discrimination against women. This will include a model complaint management system dealing with women's rights and denial of services.
 - d. Promote model legislation, jurisprudence specific to women's rights and protections and support member states in legislative drafting.
 - e. Facilitate capacity-building across OIC Member States on women's protection and empowerment.
 - f. Serve as a regional policy and knowledge hub for women's rights and protections.
 - g. Collaborate with and support WDO in achieving its institutional goals by creating a practical mechanism for implementation.
 - h. Produce research on existing policy gaps, highlight success stories, and develop recommendations in the relevant areas and share related data with member states.
 - i. Establish reporting system for periodic review and appraisal of progress in the advancement of women at national, regional and OIC levels.