

## *Introduction*

The Doha International Institute for Family Studies and development (DIIFSD), in collaboration with the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender issues and Advancement of women at United Nations (OSAGI), organized a colloquium on the Empowerment of Women in the Arab countries in Tunis on 5-6 October 2010.

The primary objective of the colloquium was to provide United Nations Member States with expert opinion and recommendations regarding policies to empower women in the political, economic and social fields.

The conference addressed key issues including: gender empowerment and socio-economic development of society, the main impediments in the region, the adoption of appropriate policy responses and legal reforms, the role of the State and the ways and means to join forces with civil society to empower women.

During two days, Experts, UN representatives and NGOs dealing with social development from different regions of the world discussed achievements and challenges facing women in the world particularly Arab women and explored empowerment of women in multiple contexts, promoting an exchange of ideas and experiences.

The participants identified effective policy responses as well as best practices, taking into account the region political, social, economic and cultural aspects and provided policy recommendations that should be implemented by the state and other stakeholders.