Concept Note

"Twenty Years of Strategic Partnership for the Arab Population and Family"

4–5 November 2026 (Nile Amethyst Hall, St. Regis Hotel, Cairo)

1. Introduction

The General Secretariat of the League of Arab States — Social Affairs Sector, Population Policies Department (the Technical Secretariat of the Arab Council for Population and Development) and the Family and Childhood Department — is organizing, in partnership with the Doha International Family Institute, a high-level event entitled "Twenty Years of Strategic Partnership for the Arab Population and Family," to be held in November 2026. The event will celebrate two decades of strategic partnership between the League of Arab States and the Doha International Family Institute; review the outcomes of their joint initiatives and achievements and their role in the development of population and family legislation and policies in the Arab world; and launch a series of guidance manuals and joint reports and announce forthcoming initiatives.

The Arab family is the fundamental nucleus and primary pillar of social cohesion and sustainable development. Since establishing the Doha International Family Institute in 2006, the League of Arab States and the Institute have shared a vision that has become an effective, enduring regional partnership, placing family issues at the forefront of national and regional public policy agendas.

Today, in affirmation of this steadfast course, and against the backdrop of compounded crises and escalating armed conflicts besetting the Arab region, political and demographic realities show that protecting the family and supporting its resilience directly affects the region's national and social security. Accordingly, this high-level event marks an exceptional milestone: twenty years of effective partnership, and it presents policymakers with new evidence through the launch of a package of recent studies and guidance manuals designed to support the Arab family and strengthen its resilience in the face of crises and conflicts.

2. Background: Two Decades of Effective Partnership

This event draws on a rich archive of joint work and pioneering initiatives undertaken by the Doha International Family Institute in cooperation with the League of Arab States, which have directly enriched knowledge and policy content on the family across the Arab world. This partnership has materialized through several landmark strategic projects, including:

- **Publication of the Arab Family Document within the Framework of Sustainable Development (2016):** which provided a regional frame of reference for integrating the dimensions of family well-being into national development plans.

- **Launch of the book "The State of Marriage in the Arab World" (2019):** which offered a comprehensive demographic and social analysis of trends in the institution of marriage and of the challenges confronting it.
- **The study "Assessment of Marital Relationships during the First Five Years of Marriage" (2021):** which furnished accurate data on the factors underlying family stability and early family breakdown.
- **High-level events on the margins of the regular meetings of the United Nations:** held to advocate for Arab family issues in international forums.
- **Joint regional events:** convened at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and on the margins of the Institute's conferences in Doha.

Building on this established trajectory, the partnership culminates in the current event by presenting new knowledge products that translate evidence into practical policies responsive to current and anticipated challenges. Preparations and coordination are ongoing for the launch of the following initiatives:

- **"Guidance Manual for the Premarital Preparation Programs":** The product of joint work that brings together manuals on premarital preparation from the Mashreq, the Maghreb, the Gulf, and the least developed Arab countries, and builds on the outcomes of the expert meeting held at the League of Arab States headquarters on 15 and 16 October 2025.
- **Report "The Impact of COVID-19 on Population Dynamics in the Arab World":** the product of joint work between the Population Policies Department of the League of Arab States and the Institute, in implementation of the resolutions of the Arab Council for Population and Development (Resolution No. 12 of 2025 and Resolution No. 9 of 2022).
- Announcement of the partnership in **developing the general frameworks for effective governmental interventions to support the resilience of the Arab family in conditions of war, armed conflict, and forced displacement**, in implementation of Resolution No. 12 adopted at the Seventh Ordinary Session of the Arab Council for Population and Development, held in Baghdad (4 December 2025), together with the inauguration of a joint regional study that reinforces the resilience and cohesion of the Arab family in times of crisis.

3. Objectives

1. **Celebrating twenty years of strategic partnership** between the League of Arab States and the Doha International Family Institute and reviewing the outcomes of their joint initiatives and achievements, and the part these have played in developing family legislation and policies in the Arab world.
2. **Launching a package of new knowledge publications and policy instruments** (referred to above).
3. **Examining and identifying the effects of crises and armed conflicts** on the stability of the Arab family and on the protection of vulnerable groups (children, women, older persons and persons with disabilities).

4. **Strengthening the integration of the family dimension** into emergency response plans, crisis management, early recovery and community reintegration.

5. **Formulating practicable recommendations** for submission to the ministerial councils and competent bodies in support of social protection and family resilience.

4. Main Themes of the Event

- **Theme One: The Outcomes of Two Decades of Partnership and Prospects for Arab Family Policies:** an analytical reading of the achievements and methodological shifts in the treatment of family issues within national and regional agendas.
- **Theme Two: Family Prevention and Preparation as a Gateway to Societal Stability:** discussion of the Guidance Manual for Premarital Preparation and of the mechanisms for its application across the Arab regions.
- **Theme Three: Family Resilience in the Face of Conflict and Forced Displacement:** formulation of the preliminary frameworks for the manual of governmental interventions and for the study on the impact of war and displacement, and integration of the family dimension into relief and recovery programs.
- **Theme Four: Population Dynamics and Family Transformations in the Aftermath of Compounded Health Crises:** Implications of COVID-19 report findings for demographic composition and social well-being.
- **Theme Five: Economic Security and Social Protection for the Family:** evaluation and development of alimony funds, and safeguarding of the rights of mothers and children in transitional situations and in cases of family breakdown (presentation of national experiences).

5. Target Groups and Participants

- Representatives of the members of the Arab Council for Population and Development, of the family, planning and statistics authorities, and of the ministries of justice in the Arab States.
- Representatives of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and the specialized ministerial councils.
- Experts, academics, policymakers and specialists in social, demographic and Shari‘a-related matters.
- Representatives of United Nations agencies and of regional and international organizations concerned with development, population, the family and social protection.
- Civil society institutions and associations active in the fields of population, family support and social protection.

6. Expected Outcomes

- An executive roadmap for operationalizing the “Guidance Manual for Premarital Preparation” and supporting the development of national programs, whether mandatory or optional.

- Announcement of the partnership in preparing a "Manual of Effective Governmental Interventions to Strengthen Family Resilience and Protection", in implementation of Resolution No. 12 adopted at the Seventh Ordinary Session of the Arab Council for Population and Development, held in Baghdad (4 December 2025).
- Launch and discussion of the report "The Impact of COVID-19 on Population Dynamics in the Arab World."
- Announcement of the study "The Impact of Wars and Conflicts on Displaced and Refugee Arab Families."
- In addition to the foregoing, announcement of the partnership in two projects:
    - The study "Disability Across the Life Course: Monitoring and Analyzing the Support System and Empowerment in the Arab World."
    - The Arab Strategy for Early Childhood.

7. Program of the Event (Two-Day Agenda)

Day One (4 November 2026): Celebrating the Partnership: Building the Arab Family — Foundation and Protection

09:00 – 10:00: Registration and reception of participants and guests

10:00 – 11:00: Official Opening Session: Celebrating twenty years of strategic partnership between the League of Arab States and the Doha International Family Institute.

- **Address by the Guest of Honor:**
    - His Excellency Dr. Nazir Ayyad, Grand Mufti of Egypt and President of the General Secretariat for Fatwa Authorities Worldwide, Arab Republic of Egypt

- **Opening Addresses:**
    - His Excellency Sheikh Jassim bin Abdulrahman bin Mohammed Al-Thani, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Arab Republic of Egypt and Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the League of Arab States
    - Minister Plenipotentiary Inas El Fergany, Head of the Social Affairs Sector, General Secretariat of the League of Arab States
    - Dr. Sharifa Noaman Al Emadi, Executive Director, Doha International Family Institute

- **Keynote Addresses:**
    - His Excellency Mr. Khalifa bin Issa bin Abdullah Al Kubaisi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Development and Family, State of Qatar
    - His Excellency Dr. Amr El-Wardany, Member of Parliament, Chair of the Committee on Religious Affairs and Endowments of the Egyptian House of Representatives, and Adviser on Family Counseling, Arab Republic of Egypt

- **Short film**: "Two Decades of Building Arab Family Policies: Achievements and Impact"

- **Group photograph**

11:00 – 11:30: Coffee break

11:30 – 12:30: Session One: The Impact of COVID-19 and Compounded Crises on Population Dynamics in the Arab World

Moderator:

- Dr. Sharifa Noaman Al Emadi, Executive Director, Doha International Family Institute

Speakers:

- Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Aref, Director of the Department of Family Research and Policy, Doha International Family Institute: presentation of the report's principal findings — the effects on fertility, mortality, migration data, and demographic composition.
- Ms. Riham Abouelhassan, Senior Data Management Associate, Regional Data Hub International Organization for Migration (IOM) Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa
- Dr. Mohamed Saad, Chairman of the Department Council of Mental Health and Psychological Counseling at the Faculty of Education, Ain Shams University

12:30 – 13:30: Prayer and lunch break

13:30 – 14:30: Session Two: National Experiences in the Development of Population Policies

Moderator:

- Minister Plenipotentiary Chouaa Dassouky, Director of the Population Policies Department, League of Arab States

Speakers:

- Intervention by Egypt: Her Excellency Dr. Abla Al-Alfy, Deputy Minister of Health and Population, Head of the National Population Council
- Intervention by Qatar: Mr. Abdulhadi Saleh Al-Shawi Al-Marri, Director of the Technical Office, Permanent Population Committee
- Intervention by Jordan: Dr. Hind Atef Hanna Al-Halasa, Director of the Programs Unit, Higher Population Council

Day Two (5 November 2026): Family Resilience amid Crises and Conflicts, and Future Recommendations

10:00 – 11:00: Session Three: The Resilience of the Arab Family in Conditions of War, Armed Conflict and Forced Displacement

Moderator:

- Ambassador Omar Dahab, Vice President, Family Watch.

Speakers:

- Dr. Abeer Al-Hooli, Professor of Education, Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, Kuwait: Protection of Vulnerable Groups (children, women, older persons and persons with disabilities) and Integration of the Family Dimension into Relief and Early Recovery Operations.
- Interventions by Sudan: Dr. Habib Mohamed Habib, Representative of the Secretary-General of the National Population Council and Director of the Population Policies and Programs Department.
- Interventions by Iraq: Ms. Fawz Ahmed Mohammed Salih, Senior Chief Researcher and Director of the Population Policies Division, Human Development Department, Ministry of Planning.
- Interventions by Libya: Dr. Nouri Abu Al-Qasim, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Planning for Sustainable Development Affairs.
- Interventions by Yemen: Dr. Najib Al-Humaiqani, Secretary-General of the National Population Council.
- Intervention by Lebanon: Dr. Bashir Esmat, Advisor to the Minister of Social Affairs for Public Policies

11:00 – 11:30: Coffee break

11:30 – 12:30: Session Four: Strengthening the Institution of Marriage in the Arab World and Supporting Its Continuity

Moderator:

- Minister Plenipotentiary Lobna Azzam, Director of the Family and Childhood Department, General Secretariat of the League of Arab States

Speakers:

- Dr. Sharifa Noaman Al Emadi, Executive Director, Doha International Family Institute: an overview of the principal features of the "Guidance Manual for Premarital Preparation Programs in the Arab World" and of the outcomes of the Experts' Meeting held in Cairo in October 2025.

- Dr. Ingy Mohamed Abdel Hamid, National Center for Social and Criminological Research: An Exposition of the Present Threats to the Enduring Foundations of the Family.

National experiences in strengthening the institution of marriage in the Arab world:

- The experience of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Dr. Mohamed bin Mabghour Al-Nashri, Director of the Family Programs Department, Mawadda Association for Family Development.
- The experience of the Arab Republic of Egypt: Ms. Randa Fares, Adviser to the Minister of Social Solidarity for Family and Women's Health and Development, and Director of the Mawadda Program.
- The Experience of the State of Qatar: Ms. Lulwa Al-Yazidi, Director of the Community Awareness Department, Wifaq Center
- Dr. Amal Ibrahim Hamad, Chair of the Arab Family Council for Development: presentation of the book "Before the Marriage Officiant."

12:30 – 13:30: Prayer and lunch break

13:30 – 14:30: Side Session on the Margins of the Event: Social Protection and Economic Security — The Report "Alimony Funds in the Arab World" (National Experiences)

Moderator:

- Dr. Ghada Al-Saleh, Minister Plenipotentiary and Supervisor of the Social Surveys and Studies Unit, General Secretariat of the League of Arab States.

Speakers:

- Counselor Mohamed Mohie El-Din Abu El-Amaem, Legal Expert, Ministry of Justice, State of Qatar: presentation of "the Regional Report on Best Practices and Procedural Frameworks for Alimony Funds."
- Dr. Nehad Aboul Komsan, Advocate before the Court of Cassation and Chair of the Egyptian Center for Women's Rights: Securing Alimony in Family Disputes, From Legislative Frameworks to Effective Enforcement
- The experience of the Qatari Alimony Fund: H.E. Judge Dr. Mohammed Hassan Al-Hail, Judge of the Court of Appeal, Supreme Judiciary Council, State of Qatar.
- The experience of the Palestinian Alimony Fund: Ms. Fatmeh Muaqqet, Director General, Palestinian Alimony Fund.

14:30 – 15:00: Closing Session and Announcement of Future Regional Studies and Projects

- Minister Plenipotentiary Lobna Azzam, Director of the Family and Childhood Department, General Secretariat of the League of Arab States

- Dr. Sharifa Noaman Al Emadi, Executive Director, Doha International Family Institute

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