



**Press Release**

**Conference: Women in Islam: Understanding the rights and  
Identity of Women in the Islamic World**

**New York – March 08, 2023**

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Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari chaired Conference on “Women in Islam: Understanding the rights and Identity of Women in the Islamic World”. This Conference being held on 8 March 2023 is an initiative of Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. It is being convened by Pakistan in its capacity as the chair of the OIC Council of Ministers at the UN Headquarters on the sidelines of the 67th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

The objective of the Conference is to bridge the perception-reality gap on the rights of women in Islam and to counter gender stereotypes that are often associated with Muslim women. The Conference will celebrate the experiences and successes of iconic Muslim women so as to inspire younger generations around the world.

The conference had High-Level and Policy Dialogue segments. Foreign Minister will chair the High-Level segment. Keynote Speech will be made by the Chair of 48th CFM, Foreign Minister of Pakistan, H.E. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari

President General Assembly, H.E. Csaba Kőrösi delivered opening remarks.

Executive Director UN-Women, Ms. Sima Bahous ; Chair of 67 CSW, H.E. Ambassador Mathu Joyini and Permanent Representative, Ambassador Hameed Ajibaiye Opeloyeru, OIC Observer Mission to the UN delivered a message on behalf of Secretary General of OIC, Ambassador Hissein Braham Taha .

During the High Level segment, statements made by High-Level Dignitaries from Representatives of OIC Member States followed by other member states and UN Agencies and international organizations

The policy dialogue was moderated by Ms Saima Saleem, Pakistan’s First Woman Career Diplomat with a Disability and Human Rights Expert. Short Documentary on Iconic Muslim Women by the Women Development Organization will also be played. The policy dialogue will feature Iconic Muslim Women. Amina J. Mohammed, UN Deputy Secretary General; Dr. Afnan bint Abdullah Al-Shuaibi, Executive Director, Women Development Organization, OIC; H.E. Maya Morsy, Minister of Women and President of the National Council for Women of Egypt ; H.E. Lolwah bint Rashid, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar; Malala Yousafzai, Nobel Laureate and Founder of

Malala Foundation; Dr. Lana Bin Said, Associate Professor, King Saud University and head of the Women committee in the family affairs; Dr. Azra Raza; Chan Soon-Shiong Professor of Medicine and Clinical Director of The Evans P. Foundation MDS Center at Columbia University; H.E. Hanan Ahly, Director of the UAE Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre will be among key participants.

Interventions from the Floor from Participating Delegations and organizations were made followed by closing remarks and comments by Iconic Women . Chair of 48th CFM, Foreign Minister of Pakistan, H.E. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will conclude the conference.