

During working session on "The Key Role of Women in Building Peace" at International Summit on Transnational Crime, Geneva: ISESCO Director General calls upon international community to improve women's living conditions in developing countries



Today in Geneva, at the opening session on "The key Role of Women in Building Peace around the World and in Africa", which was held under the chairmanship of Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri, the Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), as part of the International Summit on Transnational Crime, Dr Altwajri underlined that peace begins in the minds of women, for they are the educators of the generations and the shapers of minds. "This means", he pointed out, "that when a woman believes in peace and adheres to its principles, she certainly becomes a peace maker and a builder of peace defenses in the minds and hearts of her children and of the whole society".

In the same vein, he emphasized that women cannot carry out such a vital, humane role unless their living conditions are improved. "That is why the efforts that have been deployed on all levels, by governments and NGOs, to enhance the lives of women have been focused on empowering them to play their role in promoting peace in their households, local environments, societies and in the international community", he underscored.

Also, he highlighted that peace is built on the principles of social justice, equality, law enforcement, and on respecting the right of human beings to live in dignity and to choose the lifestyle that suits their spiritual, cultural and civilizational specificities.

Likewise, he pointed out that as long as women live in bad conditions, as it is the case in Africa, Asia and Latin America, true peace cannot be established. "Hence, stepping up the efforts of the international community in joint humanitarian action to improve women's living conditions in those areas will certainly promote the global efforts aimed at preserving peace in the world", he highlighted.

By the same token, he called on the international community to enable women to fully enjoy their rights, helping them to develop their capacities and discharge their mission of contributing, along with men, to preserving world peace.

Similarly, he underlined that talking about women's role in building peace in the world would be for naught, so long as two-thirds of the world's population faces difficulties in attaining dignity with an equitable standard of living.

It is worth mentioning that this working session was held jointly by ISESCO and UNESCO, as part of the International Summit on Transnational Crime, held by Crans Montana Forum, in Geneva, Switzerland, from 17 to 20 October 2012.