iv) Number of women judges: ndf.
b) Are there civil laws that apply only to men or women? Yes.*
c) Family law:
  i) UNCDD, religious.*
  ii) Recent change? ndf.
5. Political rights:
  i) Right to vote? No.4
  ii) To stand for election (national and municipal levels)? No.*
  iii) Number of women in parliament? There are 2 in the Majlis Al-Shura (Consultative Council), and 5 in the State Council.5
  iv) Women in the cabinet? None.6

6. The state:
  a) Employment in the state apparatus? Yes.12
  i) In which sectors? The civil administration, armed forces, police. Approximately 20% of civil servants are women.13
  ii) Heads of government departments? Yes.14
  iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women’s issues: the Ministry of Social Affairs, Labor and Vocational Training.15
  b) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? Yes.17
  c) NGOs that monitor women’s situation? Yes.18

7. Gender monitoring and action:
  a) National Council of Women? ndf.19
  b) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? Yes.17
  c) NGOs that monitor women’s situation? Yes.18

8. Education:
  a) Adult female/male literacy rates: 61.6/80.1%.20
  b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: primary level 72/77%; secondary level 67/68%;20 tertiary level: ndf.
  c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: 52% of primary school teachers and 50% secondary school teachers were women in 2002.21

9. The economy:
  a) Female economic activity rate: 19.2%.22
  b) Economic rights:
    i) To ownership of property? Yes.23
    ii) To own and manage businesses? ndf.
    iii) To open bank accounts and take loans in their own name? No.24
    iv) To receive social security and pensions in their own names? ndf.
  c) Percentage of female-headed households: ndf.
  10. Health:
    a) Vital statistics:
      i) Life expectancy (f/m): 72.6/69.7%.25
      ii) Average age of women at first marriage: ndf.
      iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: 14 per 100, 500 births (1985-99).26
    b) Reproductive rights:
      i) Is contraception legal? Yes.27
      ii) Is abortion legal? Yes, in limited cases.28
  c) Female genital mutilation? Yes.29
  d) Employment in the modern health sector: Women work as physicians and nurses.30

11. Culture:
  b) Do women perform in public (as actors, musicians, etc)? ndf.

ENDNOTES
4. Ibid., p 195.
5. Ibid., p 195.
6. To obtain a passport and leave the country, a woman must have authorization from her husband, father, or nearest male relative. However, a woman having a national identity card (which also must be authorized by a male relative) may travel to certain Gulf Cooperation Council countries without a passport: http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2002/18285.htm
9. Ibid.
10. To receive social security and pensions in their own name, a woman must have authorization from her husband, father, or nearest male relative. However, a woman having a national identity card (which also must be authorized by a male relative) may travel to certain Gulf Cooperation Council countries without a passport: http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2002/18285.htm
12. Ibid.
13. Ibid.
14. Ibid. The first Omani woman ambassador was appointed in September 1999.
15. The ministry provides support for women’s affairs through support and funding of the Omani Women’s Association (OWA) and local community development centers: http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8286.htm
21. Ibid.
23. Ibid.
26. Ibid.
29. Ibid. Also see http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/followup/beijing+statatements/oman.htm
31. Ibid.
32. Ibid.
33. Ibid.
34. Ibid.
35. Ibid.
36. Ibid.
40. Ibid. Also see http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/followup/beijing+statatements/oman.htm
42. http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8286.htm
44. http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8286.htm
47. Ibid. Also see http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/followup/beijing+statatements/oman.htm
5. Political rights
i) Right to vote? Yes.10
ii) Stand for election (national and municipal levels)? Yes.
iii) Percentage of women in parliament (Legislative Council): 5.7%.
iv) Women in the cabinet? None.

6. The state:

a) Employment in the state apparatus? Yes.12

b) Economic rights:

i) Right to own and manage businesses? Yes.13

ii) To open bank accounts and take loans in their own name? ndf.

iii) To receive social security and pensions in their own name? ndf.

iv) To receive life expectancy? ndf.

v) To receive social security and pensions in their own name? ndf.

vi) To own property? Yes.23

7. Gender monitoring and action:

a) National Council of Women? No.14

b) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? No.17

c) NGOs that monitor women's affairs? Yes.18

d) Are there civic laws that apply only to women? As in Jordan.

ii) Heads of government departments? Yes.14

iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues? Yes, see above.15

8. Education:

a) Adult female/male literacy rates: 86.4/95.7%.19

b) Female/male gross enrollment ratios: primary level 96.8/85.1%; secondary level 64.0/56.1%; tertiary level 23.8/24.7%.20

c) Percentage of women judges: 3.13% of judges in the West Bank and 5.56% of judges in Gaza were women in 1997.21

d) Employment in the state apparatus? Yes.12

e) Economic rights:

i) Right to own and manage businesses? Yes.13

ii) To open bank accounts and take loans in their own name? ndf.

iii) To receive social security and pensions in their own name? ndf.

9. The economy:

a) Female economic activity rate: 10.4%22

b) Economic rights:

i) To ownership of property? Yes.23

ii) To own and manage businesses? Yes.24

iii) To open bank accounts and take loans in their own name? ndf.

ENDNOTES

1. The 1-year model women's parliament (1998) – organized by a coalition of women's NGOs – has raised reforms in family and personal status law to the National Authority: http://www.law.emory.edu/FL/index2.html

2. “Not yet having gained formal recognition as a state Palestine is not yet able to ratify international human rights instruments”: http://www.law.emory.edu/FL/index2.html

3. See endnote 2. But the Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling participates with other Arab women's groups in a project to extend CEDAW: “The Exclusion of Women in the Arab World from Effective Protection of International Human Rights Law”: http://www.wvlc.org/unsrc.htm

4. Until the Oslo Accords, the West Bank was ruled by Jordanian law, Gaza by Egyptian law, East Jerusalem by Israeli law. Since Oslo, unification of the legal systems of the West Bank and Gaza has been on the agenda of the Palestinian Authority: http://www.law.emory.edu/FL/index2.html


6. Ibid.

7. Ibid., p. 178.

8. Ibid., p. 178.

9. As with the general legal system, sz with Family and Personal Status Law, Muslim Palestinians in the West Bank follow Jordanian PSL, in Gaza Egyptian PSL; in East Jerusalem, they choose between the Jordanian or Israeli shari'a courts. However, since 1994, some new regulations have been issued by the Palestinian Qadi al-Qudia: Palestine/Palestinian Territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip: http://www.law.emory.edu/FL/index2.html

10. Women voted and stood as candidates in the elections for the Legislative Council in 1996. There were 25 women candidates, five of whom were elected, among them Hanan Ashrawi. A woman, Samiha al-Khalil, also competed in the presidential elections of the same year.

11. www.eurostat.eu.int/mediascopelegations/1


13. Ibid.


15. See endnote 14.

16. Palestinian delegations participated in the UN Decade for Women conferences, though not as representing a state.

17. The General Union of Palestinian Women held a conference in Jerusalem in August 1994, and formulated their proposals for a constitution that would embody full gender equality: http://www.gupu.net/publications/publications.html

18. Eg. the Women's Studies Program at Birzeit University: the Women's Action Technical Committees (WATC); the Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling.


21. Ibid.


24. Ibid.


30. Ibid.

31. Ibid.

32. In 1994, women made up 29% of the total 41 employees in radio stations and TV channels in the West Bank; and 17.4% of the total 133 employees in Gaza. No statistics with regard to print media: PCBS (1998), Women and Men in Palestine: Trends and Statistics. Ramallah: PCBS.

33. Ibid.