ARAB WOMEN: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

We Are On The Move.....

Under the Auspices of Our Keynote Speaker

Her Highness

Shaikha Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa

Wife of His Majesty, the King of Bahrain
Chairwoman of the Supreme Council for Women, Kingdom of Bahrain
President of the Arab Women Organization

19-20 September 2005
Wolfson Hall, Churchill College, University of Cambridge
Her Highness was born in the city of Muharraq in 1948, at the Palace of her paternal grand father, Shaikh Mohammed Bin Isa Bin Ali Al Khalifa. She was brought up in Riffa under the patronage of her maternal grandfather, the former Ruler of Bahrain, Shaikh Salman Bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the father of her mother Shaikha Fatima. She has three brothers and four sisters.

Her Highness studied at schools in Bahrain, and sought further education by joining a number of specialized courses in the U.K.

In 1968, she married His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain, who was Crown Prince at the time. She is mother to four children, the eldest of whom is His Highness Shaikh Salman Bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Commander-in-Chief of Bahrain Defence Force, who was born in October 1969. She has six grand children, three boys and three girls.

Her Highness has always been actively involved in issues of importance to the people of Bahrain. As First Lady she actively pursues a number of initiatives to ensure the wellbeing of the less fortunate members of society thus improving their living standards. This is evident in her interest and support to certain projects that enable Bahraini families to increase their income through learning to revive and perpetuate traditional crafts and industries.

She also strongly encourages women participation in the Kingdom's development process and is closely involved with issues relating to the welfare of children and youth.

In her capacity as Chairwoman of the Supreme Council for Women which was established by Amiri Order no. 44 of 2001, Her Highness seeks to find ways to cooperate with other civil institutions involved in the work of women and the role of the family in Society. The Supreme Council for
Women has recently announced a national strategic plan for improving the status of Bahraini women in various domains. The plan involves both short and long-term goals including the political empowerment of women in preparation for the municipal and parliamentary elections in 2006.

- In an honorary capacity, she presides over numerous vocational and philanthropic societies, such as Bahrain Cancer Society and UCO parents care center. She takes a keen interest in their activities and work, participating directly in continuously improving the quality of services extended to various members of society. Her Highness also follows-up the work and programs of the various women's societies in the Kingdom.

- At Pan-Arab and International levels, she participates in specialized conferences and the activities of organizations concerned with women's affairs. The Arab Women's Summit Conference is of special interest and she personally follows up on the implementation of its resolutions and recommendations within the Kingdom. Her Highness' representation of the Kingdom of Bahrain alongside world leaders before the UN General Assembly in 2002 during the 27th Extraordinary Session for the Child, gained wide Arab and International attention, and succeeded in reflecting the advanced status of women and children in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

- Her highness was awarded an Honorary Professorship of Social Sciences from The China Women's University in 2002 during an official visit to China, at the invitation of the All China Women's Federation.

- Her Highness has a keen interest in Bahrain's cultural and artistic heritage. She is an active advocate for the preservation of the beautiful historic Bahraini architecture. She herself is known for her artistic talent as is evident in her paintings.

- Her Highness encourages the preservation of the environment as well as the Flora and the Fauna of the Kingdom through her patronage of numerous programmes and exhibitions concerned with these issues.

- Her Highness has considerable experience and ability in the discernment of thoroughbred pedigree Arabian horses. Her efforts and dedication to maintain the breed's purity contributed to Bahrain being classified by the International Organization for Arabian Horses as one of the first countries that protect those breeds.

- Her Highness is fluent in three languages; Arabic, English and French.
Organizer

Arab Women Organization (AWO)

Professor Wadouda Badran

The Director General of the Arab Women Organization, a newly established intergovernmental organization under the umbrella of the League of Arab States. Professor Badran is a political scientist and was the Vice Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University. She was also a diplomat, the Egyptian Cultural Counsellor and Director of the Education Bureau in the United Kingdom. Professor Badran was a member of the Egyptian National Council for Women and has publications on enhancing women participation in politics.
The AWO is an intergovernmental organization established under the umbrella of the League of Arab States and headquartered in Egypt. It emerged from the Cairo Declaration issued by the First Arab Women Summit which convened in Cairo in November 2000 in response to a call by H.E. Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, Egypt's First Lady and which was co-organized by the National Council for Women in Egypt, Hariri Foundation in Lebanon and the League of Arab States. The agreement came into effect in March 2003.

The AWO aims at:

- Empowering Arab women and building their capacities to promote progress of Arab societies.
- Raising awareness of the necessity of engaging women as equal partners in societal development.
- Coordinating Arab efforts in order to foster women empowerment and elevate awareness of their vital role in society.

Objectives of AWO include:

- Achieving solidarity of Arab women as a cornerstone for Arab solidarity.
- Coordinating common Arab stands regarding Arab, as well as, international affairs and when dealing with Arab women issues in regional and international organizations.
- Raising awareness regarding economic, social, cultural and legal issues pertaining to Arab women.
- Fostering cooperation and exchange of experience between member Arab states to enhance the status of women.
- According women issues priority in developmental policies and plans.
- Empowering women and building their capacities as human beings and citizens to play an effective role in societal institutions, in the labour market, and in decision making circles.
- Enhancing essential health and education services for women.
AWO tools and instruments include:

- Collecting and disseminating data regarding the status of Arab women.
- Coordinating local and national efforts pertaining to women issues.
- Following relevant developments in international organizations.
- Setting model programs to alleviate Arab women in all fields.
- Networking and cooperating with relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations.
- Organizing seminars and workshops to coordinate joint Arab action regarding women issues.
- Conducting research on Arab women issues and their role in society.

Policies adopted by AWO are based on the Strategy for the Enhancement of Arab Women, as well as, on the recommendations of the forums organized under the framework of the first and second Arab Women Summits. The AWO sets its priority to promote the empowerment of women in the following areas:

- **Education**: especially eradication of female illiteracy
- **Health and Environment**: especially strengthening healthcare and promoting women awareness of environmental hazards
- **Media**: especially changing the negative image of Arab women
- **Social development**: especially promoting gender awareness in strategic and action planning
- **Economy**: especially poverty alleviation for women
- **Politics**: especially enhancing women political participation
- **Legal Sphere**: especially amending laws discriminating against women or preventing them from undertaking an active role in society
AWO
25 Ramsis St., El Korba, Heliopolis, Cairo,
The Arab Republic of Egypt.
Tel.: +202 4183301/101
Fax: +202 4183110
E-mail: info@arabwomenorg.net
The Arab International Women's Forum (AIWF)

Mrs. Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani

The Arab International Women's Forum

Established in London in 2001 with the motto Building Bridges, Building Business. The Arab International Women's Forum (AIWF) has ably demonstrated that it is the voice of Arab women showcasing their development, breaking stereotypical images and creating greater public awareness of their success and prospects within an international context.

Set up as a nonprofit organization in London, with a non-political and nonreligious position, AIWF links Arab business and professional women in the 22 Arab countries with each other and with their counterparts in the international community. Through AIWF members have the opportunity to widen key contacts and friendships, foster co-operation, enhance their business, marketing and investment skills and keep up to date with current issues.

Working at the highest levels, AIWF's growing role is acknowledged in very many leading international organizations - among them, the United Nations, Commonwealth Business Council, UNESCO, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, UNIFEM, and The National Council for Women in Egypt.

AIWF as a non profit organization based and registered in the UK works very closely with the Women's National Commission, the Equal Opportunities Commission, The Commissioner of Public Appointments, The Commonwealth Business Council, The British Council and of course proud to cooperate with the DTI and The Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

AIWF has been represented at meetings and conferences of the Arab Labour Organization, the World Economic Forum, the Gorbachev Foundation, the Arab US Economic Forum, the Council of Europe, the Foundation for the Social Promotion of Culture, the First and Second Arab Women's Summits sponsored by the First Ladies of the Arab World, and the Women for Peace Initiative led by HE Mrs Suzanne Mubarak.
AIWF is very proud to have collaborated with The League of Arab States in hosting the AIWF 2004 Annual Conference, the first to be held in the Arab world, at The League of Arab States in Cairo in June 2004.

The Forum is at the forefront of building bridges across the cultural and knowledge divides. AIWF also encourages women's participation in business and public life to the benefit of themselves, their communities and their economies, locally and internationally.

**AIWF**

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Registered in England
No 4205758
Mr. Rifaat Rozeik

Born in the Sudan, educated in Egypt, Rifaat has been in the UK for more than 35 years. Trained as a physicist, he failed to discover any new law of physics. After a bit of research in radar and medical electronics he started an engineering group to support his wife Sheila. For the past 10 years Rifaat has been the general manager of Superbase Developers plc, a software company based in Cambridge, UK.

Superbase Developers plc:

Superbase Developers plc is a software company based in Cambridge, UK, with offices in Europe, Canada and the USA. The company specializes in complex database applications and lists among its clients more than 150 of the companies on the Forbes 500 list. Superbase is credited with being the world’s first windows database.

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John Boyd was born in Cambridge, studied there and in the United States. He joined the British Diplomatic Service in 1962, serving predominately in China, Hong Kong and Japan but also Germany, the US and UN. He has been Master of Churchill since 1996. He serves in parallel as Chairman of the British Museum. His enthusiasms are languages, books and music. He is married to Julia, herself an author (and, unusually, President of the College Boat Club). They have a family of five, and one daughter is learning Arabic.
Churchill College is the national and Commonwealth memorial to Sir Winston Spencer Churchill (1874-1965), best known for his courageous leadership as British Prime Minister during World War II. He founded the College to help raise Britain's science and technology standards. The College devotes 70% of its effort to science but has also great strengths in the arts, ranging from languages to law.

The College encourages breadth and the enquiring mind. The Churchill Community is strongly international at both undergraduate and graduate level, with half the latter coming from overseas. It is also very family minded. In addition, Churchill was one of the first men's Colleges to admit women students. Located in the newest part of the Cambridge campus it is seen as an innovator.

The College flourishes in many directions, from music and drama to debate and sport. One of its glories is the Archives Centre which contains the papers not only of Winston Churchill and Margaret Thatcher but also those of a wide range of politicians, scientists and creative thinkers.

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[www.chu.cam.ac.uk](http://www.chu.cam.ac.uk)
Ms. Shahira Magdy Zeid

BA in Business Administration 1982, American University Cairo Egypt. Vice Chairman of MZ Investments, holding company for several entities in fields of Offshore Oil and Marine Contracting (Maridive & Oil Services); Tourism and Real Estate (Marriott European Holdings, Sakkara Tourism Investment); and Inland Transportation and Freight forwarding (NOSCO). Member of Executive Committee of Arab Business Council; Chairperson of Women's Strategy Group of Egypt's International Economic Forum; and Member of the Arab International Women's Forum, Children are the Future Foundation, American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt, and Suzanne Mubarak Women’s for Peace Movement.
The Women’s Strategy Group of Egypt’s International Economic Forum

EIEF is a non-government and not-for-profit organization, whose main objective is focused on Egypt's development. The Forum's major activity is to work in developing policy initiatives that can contribute to its main objective. Forum activities are undertaken via policy papers, conferences, special events and the work of specialized strategy groups.

Women's Strategy Group of Egypt's International Economic Forum:

**Mission Statement:**
Women as equal partners in future progress. Advocate women's active involvement in economic, social and political development, through adopting more aggressive attitudes, aiming to position women at forefront of policy-making, using the power of relationships and communications.

**Objectives:**
- Attract membership of business and entrepreneurial thinkers.
- Build international alliances, coalitions and affiliations through networking towards more empowerment of women.
- Adopt fresh approaches to engender a culture of women's role in business at large.
- Influence public opinion and policy.
- Raise awareness about corporate social responsibility.
- Enhance more gender sensitive policies in government plans.
- Give due attention to inter-religious dialogues as regards women's status.

**Aims and Activities:**
- Hold monthly meetings with distinguished speakers in various fields of development.
- Coordinate with the Forum’s other strategic groups in mutual fields of interest.
- Secure the required community and media exposure to maintain momentum.
- Organize skills training programs, management workshops and seminars.
- Create a database infrastructure for relevant information.

*Egypt’s International Economic Forum*
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www.eief.org
Zahi Hawass is a world-renowned Egyptian archaeologist. Now he is the Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities and the Director of the Excavations at the Giza pyramids, Saqqara and Bahariya Oasis. He has been excavating around the pyramids for the last 20 years and has made several major discoveries including the Tombs of the Pyramid Builders and the Valley of the Golden Mummies in Bahariya Oasis.

He is the author of many books and articles on Pyramids, such as The Pyramids of Ancient Egypt and other books related to Egyptology. He lectured all over the world. Hawass has brought Egypt into the homes and hearts of people worldwide through numerous television appearances.

Zahi Hawass has received the First Class Award for Arts and Sciences from President Mubarak in 1988 for the Sphinx conservation. In October 2000, he was one of thirty international figures to receive the Golden Plate Award from the American Academy of Achievement to honor his accomplishments in archaeology. In 2001, National Geographic announced him as an Explorer in Residence and in 2003 his name was written on a CD for the Mars exploration and Rover Mission.
Women in Ancient Civilizations
“Women in Ancient Syrian Civilization”

Professor Nagah Mohammed

Is a professor at the History Department, University of Damascus. She has a PHD with honors in Sociology/Anthropology from the University of Sourboun, Paris. She was nominated as one of few to be honored for her impressive academic achievement due to the Arab Science Day (2001). She is a member of the Arab clergy, Arab Historians Union and an honorary member in The Maghreb Historian Society.

Dr. Mohammed is also a member on the literary committee for altering and improving academic history curriculums (Ministry of Education 2003). She has written several books that have been translated to French, as well as many research documents regarding the Middle East region, Women issues, Syria and has contributed in several seminars and conferences.
Women in Islam

H.E. Professor A. Kamal Aboulmagd

Professor of Law at Cairo University, Egypt. Former Minister of Information, and a practicing lawyer in the fields of constitutional and administrative law. Since 1980 he served as judge, vice president and president of the Administrative Tribunal of the World Bank in Washington. Was Dean of the Law School at the University of Kuwait from 1978 to 1981. Was legal advisor to the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kuwait from 1981 to 1985. At the present, he is also member of the Institute of Islamic Research at Alazhar (Cairo), a member of the Board of Trustees of the new “Alexandria Library” a member of the Royal Moroccan Academy, and a member of the National Council for Women in Egypt. He is Vice President of the National Council for Human Rights in Egypt. In 2001, he was selected by the UN Secretary General to co-author a document on Dialogue Among Civilizations, submitted and endorsed by the General Assembly in November 2001 under the title “Crossing the Divide”. Author of several books and articles on legal philosophy and constitutional law. During the last three decades he wrote several articles on Islamic reforms, two of which were very well received “Dialogue Not Confrontation”; and “A Contemporary Islamic Viewpoint”.

H.E. Mrs. Lulwa Al Awadi

H.E. Mrs. Lulwa Al Awadi, the Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Women, head of the Executive Council of the Arab Women Organization and the head of the Arab Legal Group of the Arab Women Organization, is the first Bahraini woman to hold the status of a minister. In 1976, she became the first registered woman lawyer on the island; she was a member of The National Charter Preparatory Committee, and The National Charter Activation Committee. Al Awadi is married and has three children.
C.E.O and company founder of “SANABIL MED”, a Tunisian-European company operating in e-learning and multimedia edutainment field. Ms. Sana graduated as an engineer in Industrial Engineering (Bac + 6) from National School for Engineers - Tunis.

She worked as a Developing Engineer in “SHELL TUNISIE”, Production Engineer in “M.TEXTURE”, Plant Manager & Information System Manager in “OREGON MAINE”, and a Project Manager for Software solutions, then the General Manger, of “ASTER INFORMATIQUE”.

Ms. Gneima has different activities with NGOs. She is the General Secretary of Road Safety Association in Tunisia, Member & Founder of «l’Association Tunisienne de l’Internet et du Multimédia ( @tim ), Member of the Tunisian TAEKWENDOO Federation, Member of a gender NGO dealing with ICT’s: “Femmes et TIC”, and a Co-Founder of the Arab American Business Women Council.
Arab Women
Achievements in the Past Decade

H.E. Professor Rowaida Al Maaitah

Her Excellency is the Minister of State for Government Performance, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and is Advisor to HRH Princess Muna El-Hussein.

Professor Al Maaitah was a former Senator at the Upper House of Parliament. She was also former Minister of Social Development and Former Vice President and Secretary General of the National Council for Family Affairs.

Her Excellency has a Doctorate degree in Public Health from Tulane University, USA. Professor Al Maaitah was the first Jordanian woman to be appointed as University President, University Vice-President, Director General of a Teaching Hospital, and Dean at the University. She is Member of the Executive Council of the Arab Women Organization.


Arab Women:
Challenges and Future Plan of Action

Professor Fadia N. Kiwan

Prof. Kiwan is a professor of political science, Faculty of Law & Political Science St. Joseph University of Beirut and the Director of the Institute of Political Science. She is also a prominent researcher and activist in the field of human rights and advocacy activities in building democracy.

Prof. Kiwan is a Member of the Executive Council of the National Commission for Lebanese women and is the Acting Representative of Lebanon in the Executive Council of the Arab Women Organization.
Dr. Sally-Ann Ashton

Sally-Ann Ashton is Senior Assistant Keeper at the Department of Antiquities Fitzwilliam Museum. Her research interests include Ptolemaic and Romano-Egyptian sculpture (Ptolemaic royal sculpture from Egypt 2001); royal cults and the presentation of royal women in the Ptolemaic period (The Last Queens of Egypt 2003); religion, especially the dissemination of Egyptian deities in Italy and Imperial Egypt (Roman Egyptomania 2004) and Hellenistic and Romano-Egyptian pottery, plaster, faience and terracotta (Petrie's Ptolemaic and Roman Memphis 2003).
Farhan Nizami is the Prince of Wales Fellow in the study of the Islamic World, Magdalen College, Oxford University and the Founder Director of the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies. He read Modern History at Wadham College. From 1983 he was a Fellow of St Cross College, Oxford: Rothman's Fellow in Muslim History and subsequently Fellow in Islamic Studies. He is an Emeritus Fellow of St Cross College and a member of the Faculties of Modern History and Oriental Studies at the University of Oxford. He is Founder Editor of the *Journal of Islamic Studies* (OUP, 1990-); Series Editor, Makers of Islamic Civilization (OUP, 2004-). He specializes in Muslim social and intellectual history.

Dr. Nizami is the Chairman of the Academic Council of Wilton Park, U.K; Member, Academic Committee, Cumberland Lodge, U.K; Member, Steering Committee C-100, World Economic Forum, Davos; Member, International Advisory Panel, OIC Business Forum, Malaysia; Member, Council of the Al-Falah Programme, University of California, Berkeley; Member of the Court of Oxford Brookes University; Member, Advisory Board, Dialogues Project, Remarque Institute, New York University, New York; Member, Archbishop of Canterbury's Reference Group for Christian-Muslim Relations; Patron, Oxford Amnesty Lectures; Director, Oxford Inspires, (2002-3).

In 1995 he laid down the principles of the “Movement of The New Arab”. Focusing on promoting Arab women’s rights, education and economics, and aiming at linking international hi-tech industry with the Arab world. His research focuses on Arab and Middle Eastern media, and includes New Media, Media History and Media and Literature, with special reference to political communications. His most recent publication is: Propaganda and Arab Audiences’, in R. Berenger (ed.) Global Media Go to War.
Dr. Kate Daniels took her PhD in modern Arabic literature from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) at the University of London, where she taught Arabic literature and managed the Centre of Islamic Studies.

She has been teaching at the University of Cambridge since 2002, where she is Mellon Fellow in Modern Arabic Studies. She is a member of Newnham College. Her specialisations include the modern Arabic short story, Arab women's literature, migration, and theories of nationalism and identity.

Arab Women
Achievements in the Past Decade

Julia Boyd

Was born in 1948. Before marriage to John Boyd, former diplomat and current Master of Churchill College, she worked in London at the Victoria and Albert Museum. She writes about nineteenth century women who have achieved professional success. While living in Tokyo she published “Hannah Riddell, an Englishwoman in Japan”, and her biography of the first woman doctor, Elizabeth Blackwell, is out next month. She is president of the Churchill College Boat Club.
Arab Women: 
Challenges and Future Plan of Action

Dr. Kate Pretty

Is a Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, and is Principal of Homerton College. She is an archaeologist by profession and still teaches archaeology. She was formerly senior tutor at New Hall, one of the University's three colleges for women and has been raising the profile of women at Cambridge for over thirty years. Dr. Pretty is responsible for the University's museums, libraries, life-long learning, international strategy and student services among other things.
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<th>Time</th>
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<td>8:30 - 9:30</td>
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<td>9:30 am - 10:30 am</td>
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| 11:00 am - 1:00 pm | Women in Ancient Civilizations                                        | **Moderator:** Dr. Sally-Ann Ashton  
Senior Assistant Keeper, Department of Antiquities  
Fitzwilliam Museum  

"Women in Pharaonic Egypt"  
**Speaker:** H.E. Dr. Zahi Hawass  
Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities (Arab Republic of Egypt)  

"Women in Ancient Syrian Civilization"  
**Speaker:** Professor Nagah Mohammed  
Professor of History, Damascus University  
(Arab Republic of Syria) |
| 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm | Lunch                                                                 |                                                                                           |
| 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm | Women in Islam                                                          | **Moderator:** Professor Farhan Nizami  
Founder Director, Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies  

**Speaker:** H.E. Professor Ahmed Kamal Aboulmagd  
Professor of International Law, Cairo University,  
Vice President, The National Council for Human Rights (Arab Republic of Egypt) |
| 3:30 pm - 3:45 pm | Break                                                                  |                                                                                           |
| 3:45 pm - 5:15 pm | Women in Arab Legislation                                               | **Moderator:** Dr. Makram Khoury-Machool  
Lecturer and Researcher,  
Universities of Cambridge and Luton  

**Speaker:** H.E. Mrs. Lulwa Al Awadi  
Secretary General, Supreme Council for Women (Kingdom of Bahrain) |
### Programme

20th of September 2005

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<td>9:00 am - 10:15 am</td>
<td><strong>Arab Women in Science and Technology</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Moderator:</strong> Dr. Kate Daniels</td>
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<td>Mellon Fellow in Modern Arabic Studies, University of Cambridge</td>
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<td><strong>Speaker:</strong> Ms. Sana Fathallah Gnenima</td>
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<td>CEO of Sanabil Med (Republic of Tunisia)</td>
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<td>10:15 am - 11:45 am</td>
<td><strong>Arab Women Achievements in the Past Decade</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Speaker:</strong> H.E. Professor Rowaida Al Maaitah</td>
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<td>Minister of State for Government Performance (The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan)</td>
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<td>11:45 am - 12:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
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<td>12:00 pm - 1:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Arab Women: Challenges and Future Plan of Action</strong></td>
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<td>Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, Principal of Homerton College</td>
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<td><strong>Speaker:</strong> Professor Fadia Kiwan</td>
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<td>Professor of Political Science, St. Joseph University, Member of the National Committee of Lebanese Women's Affairs (Republic of Lebanon)</td>
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