



## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

## The EU and UN Women celebrates International Women's Day through the Citizenship Initiative

Cairo-Egypt, 7 March 2013 - On the occasion of International Women's Day on the 8th of March, the European Union (EU) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) are screening the documentary film, "Your ID, Your Rights", which demonstrates how a single ID card can go a long way in empowering women and helping them become fully active citizens within their society.

Through the "Citizenship Initiative" (part of UN Women's Political Empowerment Programme in Egypt) which received a portion of the four Million Euros grant to UN Women, the project aims to issue two million ID cards for Egyptian women; particularly for those living in rural and marginalized areas. The project does not only consist of providing IDs for women, but also creates awareness about the benefits and importance of having an ID; such as obtaining a loan, receiving a ration card, voting in elections and much more. The initiative is currently operating in four Governorates: Qalyoubia, Giza, Sohag and Assuit; where more than 150,000 women filled out registration forms and 117,000 women completed ID forms to date.

The film highlights the Citizenship Initiative's immediate impact; profiling how women in the villages of Qalyoubeya governorate, the pilot governorate of the project, become aware of its benefits and line up to have their ID photos taken.

It is worth noting that in a special event on 19<sup>th</sup> of July 2012 entitled "Egyptian Women: The Way Forward", in the presence of H.E. Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission; the four million Euro EU grants were announced to support UN Women projects; Citizenship Initiative; Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women and Girls, and Women's Economic Empowerment Programme.

The main purpose of the grants and collaboration is to support women's rights and ensure, through the projects of UN Women, women's economic empowerment and political representation in decision – making as well as better access to opportunities and services.

"This project will boost the EU and UN Women's collaboration, affirming our joint commitment to promoting women's rights, Egyptian women's full citizenship rights, a safe environment for girls and women, and to facilitating their access to job opportunities" declared Ambassador James Moran, Head of the EU Delegation to Egypt.

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For further details about the EU's work with women, go to:

[http://eeas.europa.eu/special-features/features\\_working\\_women\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/special-features/features_working_women_en.htm)

[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news/documents/factsheet\\_womensday\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news/documents/factsheet_womensday_en.pdf)

To find out more about UN Women, go to:

<http://www.unwomen.org/>