



**Women's Leadership Board
John F. Kennedy School of Government
Harvard University**

**Study Trip to Egypt
January 2006**

Report to First Lady Suzanne Mubarak

**Women's Leadership Board
Report on the Study Trip to Egypt**

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I. Background

The Women's Leadership Board (WLB) at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government is an international group of women, comprised of members with substantive experience in government and finance, international business, and non-profit leadership. The Board includes some 135 women leaders who use their influence, power, energy, and resources, in collaboration with the Kennedy School, to develop and empower women worldwide. Members of the Board engage in dialogues with senior faculty and the Dean of the Kennedy School to provide advice and counsel on women's initiatives and issues related to women and leadership. This elite group gives real world perspectives on the activities and plans of the School, and has the responsibility of advising on new initiatives in the realms of women's leadership in politics and policy.

In 2003, members of the Women's Leadership Board proposed the development of an international study and outreach trip in order to facilitate greater knowledge and understanding between women leaders in the Harvard community and those in other countries. Purposes for such trips would be to expand and create new opportunities for collaborations for Harvard students and faculty with leading universities and NGOs in the host country, and would provide a space in which Board members would be able to build new collaborations with women who have shared similar experiences.

The initial WLB International Study Trip was to South Africa in 2004. It was organized by WLB member Wendy Appelbaum, was co-hosted by WLB Members Anne Cointreau and Pam Golding and included 15 members of the Women's Leadership Board in addition to 10 women leaders from across the Kennedy School community. It was during this trip that new members Michele Boutros-Ghali and Hoda Sarofim-Sawaris proposed organizing and hosting a study trip to Egypt.

II. Objectives of the Trip

The Women's Leadership Board collaborated with the Suzanne Mubarak International Peace Movement to execute a study trip and exchange in Egypt. The purposes of this endeavor were to facilitate greater knowledge and understanding between women leaders in Egypt and those on the Women's Leadership Board; to explore opportunities for continued collaboration for students and faculty of Harvard with leading Egyptian universities and NGOs. The Kennedy School is proud to have students from more than 70 countries and the Board is growing to be more representative of this global reach. Embarking on international study trips such as the proposed trip to Egypt provides the opportunity to bring the Kennedy School and Harvard to different parts of the world and foster a special exchange between women from many different backgrounds.

In particular, the objective of the study trip was to provide the following:

- To collaborate with the Suzanne Mubarak International Peace Movement to commence a serious, substantial conference on issues of concern and consequence to women in Egypt and around the world (Towards Peace and Prosperity, Women: Engines of Change);
- To connect women from the Women's Leadership Board delegation to Egyptian women leaders in business, academia and the non-profit sectors for purposes of joint collaboration;
- To create opportunities for Egyptian students to participate in fellowship programs at Harvard University and the Kennedy School, and for Harvard students to study in Egypt.

III. Academic Conference Report

The Women's Leadership Board co-hosted an academic conference in collaboration with First Lady Suzanne Mubarak and her International Peace Movement. The conference, "Towards Peace and Prosperity, Women: Engines of Change," convened women leaders from the United States and the Middle East, including faculty members from Harvard University and the American University of Cairo.

Day One

Introductory Remarks

The conference commenced with a welcome by Mrs. Mubarak, who thanked Hoda Sarofim-Sawiris and Michele Boutros-Ghali for their central role in making the gathering happen. "This event is about building partnerships, opening avenues, and creating dialogue," she said. "It will inspire us to work together in harmony. That is the key to the future."

Roxanne Mankin Cason, Chair of the Women's Leadership Board, thanked Mrs. Mubarak for co-hosting the important conference, and reflected on the ancient women pharaoh's of Egypt, under whose leadership the country thrived. "Women can be brilliant in crafting a path to change, and when women lead, society thrives," she said.

Holly Taylor Sargent, Harvard's Senior Associate Dean for Advancement and Senior Advisor for University Women's Initiatives, stressed that this conference needed to be one of a different kind. "There is a real sense that Egypt is and must be a beacon for the Middle East and Africa because it is positioned to play a major role in decades ahead." She went on to say that women in the world are reaching a tipping point, and that the election of multiple women as leaders of different countries at the same time has created a momentum that must be seized. This creates an environment where young girls have the opportunity to see leaders who look like they do, and can imagine a very different future for themselves, she said. She paid tribute to Mrs. Mubarak, who has become a leading role model for young women and who, in a land of ancient wonders, "is a wonder of the modern world herself."

Dean Sargent announced that the establishment of fellowships between Harvard and the American University of Cairo to make concrete the collaborations embodied in the conference.

Panel One : Women as Instruments of Peace

Dr. Nadia Makram Ebeid, Executive Director of the Center for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe, spoke about the current environment in which our fear of each other has reached unprecedented heights. She suggested that humanity's greatness is challenged every day, and "we need to learn to listen, learn, support and unite one another." Ebeid exclaimed, "It is wonderful to be a woman and the best is yet to come."

Dr. Ismail Sergeldin, Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina began addressing the group by stressing that women are far more than instruments, architects and builders of peace. "There is ample evidence that women are the glue that holds society together," he said. Dr. Sergeldin cited that some of the world's most successful social development programs have become women dominated, and this is partly because women help to maintain a semblance of community in situations where it might otherwise be lost.

Barbara Bodine, former Ambassador to Yemen and current Kennedy School faculty member, also stressed that women are not passive recipients in the world, but are active players in setting the agenda for the future. Historically, she argued, women have been strategic thinkers, not just nurturers. She went on to argue that it is critical for women to play at all tables, especially those where national security issues are being discussed and decided. In order for women to gain a seat at these tables, the most important thing is for them is to receive the education and skills to compete. “Well behaved women rarely make history,” she said.

Panel Two: Human Rights

Dr. Leila Takla, current Chairperson of the United Nations Voluntary Fund, was the first woman elected President of the “Foreign Relations Committee” of the Egyptian Parliament and the Executive Board of the Union of the World's Parliament. She is a professor of law and management and is currently serving as a member of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Relations. Dr. Takla spoke about the essential right for individuals to be different, but remain equal. She was followed by Dr. Mona Zulficar, Managing Partner and Chairperson Executive Committee of the Shalakany Law Office in Cairo. She agreed with Dr. Takla’s assessment and explained that in her many years of experience she has come to realize that even though peace and development were issues not originally recognized as a right, they are goals that each of us must strive for. With the new kind of world war that we are facing, she argued, there are a number of dangerous threats and it is critical for us to bring women to the table to create new solutions to new problems.

Jessica Stern, lecturer at the Kennedy School and one of the world’s leading experts on terrorism, complimented her colleagues’ arguments by stressing that peace is more than the absence of conflict. It is, she said, “the freedom from inner conflict and anxiety.” She argued that it is essential to promote peace in the broad sense of the word. Stern described risk factors for terrorism. On the global level, she explained that globalization has become an easy target of those who are threatened by widespread change and angry with the west. She also stressed that the lack of a broad education of tolerance is a sky risk factor in the world today. In closing, she also pointed to the fact that the trafficking of women and children had become a \$38 billion business, and must be an issue that all women around stand committed to eradicating.

Luncheon and Keynote Discussion

Dr. Youssef Boutros-Ghali, Egypt’s Minister of Finance, delivered an eloquent speech on the afternoon of the first day of the conference. He began addressing the group by quoting a Chinese proverb that says “women hold up half of the sky.” Boutros-Ghali commented that society and the economy are growing every day and women are – and must be – part of the equation. He stressed that societies that discriminate against women are likely to make decisions that are bad for all parts of society. Men and women do not have an equal impact on economic growth, he said, arguing the women have a greater impact on economies. Because of their traditional and historical role in the rearing of children, said Boutros-Ghali, women have the ability to instill in children innovative and critical thinking that will affect the way they participate in society.

Panel Three: Engendering the Political Stage (Women in the Parliament and Political Parties)

Dr. Farkhouna Hassan, current Secretary General of the National Council for Women, and member of Parliament, began moderating the panel by providing a historical overview of women’s political parties in Egypt, which were established in 1942 and 1949, respectively. Dr. Hassan stressed that the current period is a critical one for Egypt and women can play a critical role at the local and national

level in the transition process. And while women's political will is higher now than ever, she argued, women still face daunting challenges that need to be addressed.

Dr. Zeinab Safar is Chairman of Mechanical Engineering Department at Cairo University, and a Member of the Consultative Council (Shoura Council). She is also the technical advisor to the Secretary General of Egypt's National Council for Women. Dr. Safar reviewed the ranking of countries in terms of women's representation in government, with Rwanda and the Nordic countries being on the top of the list. She pointed out that in the Arab world, the average participation of women has increased over the past two years, with Iraq and Tunisia having between 20 to 31.5 percent women's representation. Dr. Safar proudly reported that women were 38 percent of the voters in Egypt's recent election. However, she continued, they represent only 8 to 10 percent of political party membership and face many obstacles. Such obstacles include education levels, cultural barriers, access to technology, and a parliamentary process that can at times be violent and also very difficult for those with limited finances. She concluded by arguing that there should be more women in the political process not only for equality purposes, but because women can help bring justice and their presence alone will improve the status of women and will provide role models for young women.

Dr. Abdel Monem Said Aly is former fellow at the Kennedy School's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs and is currently the Director of Al Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies in Cairo. Dr. Said reviewed that in Egypt's 2005 election, only 120 women ran for over 5,500 available seats and they represent less than 3 percent of all parliamentarians elected. He cited a recent study that showed that the participation of women is still weak and is usually restricted to internal political parties. The study also showed that 64 percent of participants thought that Egyptian culture is one of the biggest barriers to women.

Holly Taylor Sargent cited the World Economic Forum's (WEF) competitiveness ranking and Gender Gap Index, and explained that countries that rate highest in terms of status of women also ranked as most competitive economically. She stressed that it is critical for countries to keep track of the number of women in different spaces, because "what is measured can be addressed." Sargent commended the First Lady for her important work that values and promotes the education of young women who will someday be active participants in their country's political process. "We must continue to challenge the status quo until laws have been changed to secure greater equity" she said.

Dr. Hassan wrapped up the session and addressed the issue of Egypt's placement at the bottom of the WEF's Gender Gap Index. She said that the gender gap is shrinking in Egypt and explained that after the last election, more writers, thinkers and public figures spoke out in favor of women. She and Sargent agreed that in the U.S. as well as in Egypt, the world of politics is a very difficult one and the electorate must demand different behavior from their elected officials.

Panel Four: Responding to Human Needs (Women in Civil Society)

Hoda Sarofim-Sawiris, Executive Director of the Sawiris Foundation, began addressing the group by quoting Ghandi, who said "There is no way to peace. Peace is the way." She made three propositions: 1) The millennium development goals must guide how we move forward in regards to women and children; 2) job creation must be at the center of the development of civil societies; and 3) women must play a key role and be at the heart of all decisions regarding child rearing. "Only with the full participation of women can we maximize our human resources," she said. Sarofim-Sawiris explained that the Suzanne Mubarak International Peace Movement is promoting environmental awareness, children's health and youth literacy and that the women and children working with this organization and are being empowered, feeling appreciated, and are able to live more fulfilled lives. This kind of

development also leads to the advancement of peace. She quoted a young woman, who after working with the Peace Movement, said “To have peace I have to have peace inside of me.”

Betsy Myers, Executive Director of the Kennedy School’s Center for Public Leadership, shared with the group her experiences as a pioneer of the Office of Women’s Initiatives during the Clinton Administration. She stressed the success of women hinges on building partnerships and alliances, and creating mentoring and informal networks that will carry them forward. Myers cited a recent study that showed that 70 percent of Americans feel that the United States would be better off if there were more women in higher positions. She encouraged women to take risks and quoted, “To risk nothing is to risk everything.”

Day Two

Panel One: Enhancing the Role of Women in the Business World

Anissa E. Hassouna, Assistant General Manager, Misr Iran Development Bank, opened this session by explaining that women in the Arab world are 49 percent of the population, but only 28 percent of the labor force. “The unemployment rate for women in this region is four times higher than that of men,” she stated. She further reported that in Egypt, women are the heads of 70 percent of all households, and that their activity in public life is indispensable. Hassouna urged that women begin to fight for women’s rights on a “rights-based” approach, not needs-based where people view it as a handout. “We cannot afford to have one half of society watching the other half,” she said. “If we do not become part of the solution, we will always be part of the problem.”

Masuda Sultan, Kennedy School graduate and recipient of the Women’s Leadership Board Blue Ribbon of Peace Award, shared the story of her mother, an Afghan woman who was illiterate and was denied work. After moving to the United States, her mother used to tell her, “If you hold the purse strings, you are in control.” Sultan stressed that when women have control of economics, they control the agenda and can really create change. She explained that on each of her visits to Afghanistan, she finds more and more men being given government contracts. “My dream is to help women get into the mainstream economy.” Sultan explained that while microfinance projects are critical to the economic development of women in Afghanistan and other parts of the world, those who are above the micro credit level are not being targeted. She argued that if women were also given government contracts, they would be able to start larger businesses that employ hundreds, and in some cases, thousands of people. Sultan also stressed that perhaps what is most important is for women interested in business to have mentors who can guide them along the way.

Mr. Amr Badr, Regional Managing Director of Egypt and the Middle East for Abercrombie & Kent Group of Companies, and Vice Chairman for Africa & the Middle East of People to People International, reflected that women in ancient Egypt enjoy greater stature than women of modern Egypt. They were able to own land, build wells, and make decisions about inheritance. He stressed that an increased and equal role of women in businesses is not an option, but a need. “Productivity is the key to global growth, and global growth is not the responsibility of one gender,” he said.

Panel Two: Knowledge as an Instrument of Power

Dr. Iman El Kaffass is Lecturer at the American University in Cairo, Head of the Gender Equality Unit at the AUC, and the Associate Dean and Executive Director AUC’s Lead Program. Dr. Kaffass described the enormous success that AUC was having with their Lead Program – an initiative that gives two students from each governorate of Egypt an opportunity to study at the University. This

program opens doors to students who would otherwise not be afforded a chance to further their education.

Dr. Erma Manoncourt, Egyptian Representative to UNICEF, explained that 65 million girls in the world are out of school and they will never receive the attention that war receives every day. “Their plight is a silent emergency.” She explained that the education of girls has a transformative power, and that the return on girl’s education is high – for every extra year of maternal education, the death rate of children is 5 to 10 percent lower. “Gender equality in education will lead to gender equality in society,” she stressed. “It is not only important to do things right, but also to do the right things.”

Dr. Janice Weinman Shorenstein, President of Kids in Distressed Situations and former chair of the Women’s Leadership Board, shared the view of her fellow panelists that knowledge is the key to the future. However, she argued, the rhetoric of the past few decades has not resulted in enough accomplishments. Girls are not the same as boys, she argued, and therefore “need to celebrate their strengths so they don’t continue to operate in the deficit model.” Shorenstein cited studies that show that while girls start out ahead of boys in school, as the progress through the years, they fall behind. She explained that a set of patterns has emerged as a result of reforms: girls are now taking more classes that boys used to take, but are not taking the trilogy of classes needed to fully succeed; boys are not taking more classes that girls used to take; and technology is the biggest signifier between success and productivity. While boys use computers as intellectual resources to explore, she explained, girls use them as tools and typewriters, not as a venue to deepen their knowledge. Shorenstein pointed to the enormous impact that sports has had on young women in the United States, and urged that girls also need to participate in more debate clubs with boys so they can learn to prioritize what they have to say.

Conclusion

The conference was closed by Dean Sargent who extended gratitude and appreciation to Michele Boutros-Ghali and Hoda Sarofim-Sawiris, and restated the commitment to continued collaboration and inquiry. “This is just the beginning, not an end,” she said.

IV. Activities Undertaken

A. Events with Political and Business Leaders

Members of the WLB delegation were tremendously grateful to have the opportunity to meet with **Dr. Zahi Hawass**, Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities. Dr. Hawass is the world’s foremost expert on Egyptian archaeology and manages all of Egypt’s archaeological digs, discoveries and maintenance projects. He is frequently featured on such mainstream media outlets as *National Geographic*, *Dateline*, *Good Morning America*, the *Learning Channel* and the *Discovery Channel*. He shared with the group his immense passion and excitement for the historical treasures – both those that have been unearthed and those yet to be discovered – that Egypt holds. He explained some of his most recent excavations and discoveries, including his recent experience of administering the CT scan of King Tut. Dr. Hawass gave each delegate a beautiful and signed book entitled *Women of Pharaonic Egypt*, and granted the group permission to see some of Egypt’s most exciting historical sites close up. Meeting with Dr. Hawass was the perfect introduction into the immense historical and cultural treasures that Egypt holds.

Dr. Taher Helmy, President of the **American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt**, hosted a dinner for WLB delegates, members of the Chamber’s community in Egypt, and leaders of

Egypt's social, economic and academic sectors. Dr. Helmy explained that the American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt is the largest American business organization in the Middle East, and has supported women's social and economic development and empowerment for many years, and is proud to have a women's organization within the Chamber that has been functioning for ten years. Roxanne Cason, Chair of the Women's Leadership Board, also had a chance to speak at this event. She told of the group's inspirational experience at APE and suggested that it be a model for what can happen for women and girls in the future. She commended the Chamber for its critical work around the world, and stressed that when women share the leadership, all people thrive. "What we have in common is greatly better than our differences," she said. "Let us work together to build bridges to the future."

The highlight of the Board's study trip to Egypt was the conference co-sponsored by **Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak's International Peace Movement**. The theme of the conference was "Towards Peace and Prosperity: Women's as Engines of Economic Change" and more than 300 of the countries most influential minds convened to share their thoughts and ideas. The WLB delegation had the opportunity to meet privately with Mrs. Mubarak and congratulate her on the revolutionary work she has been doing on behalf of women and children in Egypt (see attached separate report for details on conference).

Dr. Yousef Boutros-Ghali, Egypt's Minister of Finance, hosted a dinner with various members of the ministry and the WLB delegation. This provided a unique opportunity for delegates to meet with newly inaugurated Egyptian cabinet members, leaders of government and business, and members of the media. This special dinner was held at the **El Manesterly Palace** on the banks of the Nile.

Mr. M. Shafik Gabr, Chairman of the Executive Board of Egypt's International Economic Forum hosted a lunch for the WLB delegation and a number of Egyptian dignitaries at the **Mohamed Ali Palace**. During the luncheon, EIEF organized a panel conversation on "The Role of Women in a Changing World." Participants included H.E. Ambassador Naela Gabr, Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Egypt; Dr. Hoda Badran, Head of the Arab Alliance for Women in Egypt; Holly Taylor Sargent, Senior Associate Dean for Advancement and Senior Director for University Women's Initiatives at Harvard University; and Ellen McLaughlin, Senior Vice President and General Counsel for the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston. Panelists discussed ways in which women are able to confront the challenges of today's world and focused on the roles for women in managing change and setting foundations for peace and prosperity.

The Women's Leadership Board delegation had the privilege of spending a day in Alexandria with **Dr. Ismail Sergeldin** at the **Bibliotheca Alexandrina** – a state-of-the-art center of academic, cultural and scientific excellence built to commemorate the ancient library of Alexandria. Dr. Sergeldin, former Vice President of the World Bank, shared with the delegation his incredible knowledge of and passion for the treasures held within this modern architectural and intellectual masterpiece – ancient manuscripts and maps, an on-line website database, a planetarium, children's library and museum, first class meeting facilities, and many more riches that each give a window into the amazing history of Egypt.

B. Social and Economic Development Projects Visited

The Women's Leadership Board delegation visited one of Egypt's well-recognized **Girl Friendly School's** outside of Cairo. The particular school that welcomed the WLB group was just one of 455 that have been created over the past two years under the leadership of Mrs. Mubarak. These schools are different than others in Egypt in that they focus on empowering the girl child and help

families to understand the value of girls. Students are taught to be leaders of the classroom and they are given the opportunity to discuss personal and family issues in their classroom, where their peers give them suggestions on how to resolve their problems. The delegation was honored to spend time with these students, hearing about their dreams for the future and watching them excel in the classroom. They left each student with a pen and pencil from Harvard. **Ambassador Moushira Khattab, Secretary General for Egypt's National Council for Childhood and Motherhood** and the Egyptian Ambassador to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, shared her hope that Egypt's girl-friendly schools become a model for what is possible across Africa.

The delegation was invited by former Egyptian Parliament member **Youssriya Loza Sawiris** to visit Egypt's **Association for the Protection of the Environment (APE)**, of which she is the founding and current president. The WLB group visited the Moqattam site of APE, an area occupied a community of trash collectors (zabbaleen). Under Mrs. Sawiris' leadership, APE developed a compost plant so that trash could be sorted outside of the homes, created a rug weaving and paper-recycling program targeted to young women in the community, and developed schools for children in the community. The WLB delegation was able to spend time with some of the young women in Moqattam, and were given the opportunity to purchase many of their products in order to support their work.

Representatives from **Save the Children** met with the WLB delegation to discuss the **INJAZ** project, an initiative allows for young women and working at companies throughout Egypt to mentor young people in Egypt's schools. Participants heard from representatives from Citibank, Exxon-Mobil, Pepsi, and Barclays – companies that are all sponsoring the INJAZ project and whose employees are making the difference in the lives of young people in Egypt.

The delegation also had the opportunity to visit the newly constructed **Cancer Hospital for Children**, a remarkable health care facility that will provide free treatment to children with cancer. The delegation met with the development team and medical staff of the hospital, and learned about their plans for the future. Two to three million children in Egypt suffer from cancer each year, a rate four times higher than in the west. The hospital will be home to Egypt's first bone marrow transplant unit, a full service teaching facility for the treatment of pediatric oncology, and is a state of the art facility providing a U.S. standard of care while implementing local standards and practices. The hospital will be opened in July 2006 and will treat at least 100 patients per day.

C. Historical Sites

Members of the Women's Leadership Board delegation to Egypt were privileged to experience a number of Egypt's most sacred historical and cultural sights in unique, personal and unforgettable manner. The trip began with a tour of **Memphis and Sakkara**, allowing delegates to get a taste of Egypt by viewing the **Colossus of Ramses II**, and by visiting the first pyramid (a "step" pyramid) built in Egypt. This pyramid dates back to 2600 B.C. and is the first stone building in the world.

Dr. Zahi Hawass granted the WLB delegation permission to view the **great pyramids of Giza** after traditional visiting hours so that participants could experience an uninterrupted sunset view of the last great wonder of the world. Dr. Hawass also granted permission for delegates to touch the feet of the **Sphinx** – a privilege enjoyed by few. To complete its first full-day in Egypt, hosts Michele Boutros-Ghali and Hoda Sarofim-Sawaris arranged for a private sound and light show of

the pyramids and Sphinx – providing the opportunity for delegates to take in the full landscape of Giza while listening to a detailed history of Pharaonic times.

The following day the WLB delegation traveled to Luxor to experience the Valley of the Kings and Valley of the Queens. After viewing the tomb of King Tutankhamen, the delegation was told that Dr. Hawass had also granted permission to enter the **tomb of Seti I**, otherwise closed to the public. The delegation also visited the **Temple of Hatshepsut** and the **Colossi of Memnon**.

The evening in Luxor continued to impress. Delegates were able to experience the vast and open-aired **Karnak Temple**, by walking through it to a sound and light show that provided a historical introduction of the city of Thebes and the building of the temple. The group then proceeded to **Luxor Temple**, where they had a private dinner and tour of the ancient ruins.

The delegation also had the opportunity to spend time in Islamic, Coptic, and Jewish Cairo. Participants visited Cairo's home of medieval warfare – the **Citadel**, which is also the home of **Tomb Mohammad Ali** - the great former Egyptian ruler. In addition, the group toured the **Sultan Hassan Mosque**, built in the 1200s as a mosque and madrasa for all sects of Islam.

The delegation spent an afternoon at the Al Azhar Park, a new 74-acre park in the heart of Cairo with breathtaking views of the **Sultan Hassan Mosque** and the **Citadel**. Tours of Coptic Cairo included a visit to the famous Hanging Church, the Church of St. Barbara, and the Church of St. Sergius, which is Cairo's oldest Christian church. The group also visited the Synagogue of Ben Ezra, built in 882 AD.

V. Ongoing Projects and Collaborations

1. Discussion on the development of fellowships for talented Egyptian women students to study at Harvard and then return to Egypt to strengthen government capacity.
2. Harvard University and the American University of Cairo have agreed to establish a summer fellowship to bring a young Egyptian woman to the Harvard Summer School.
3. The Women's Leadership Board sponsorship of two fellowships for two Egyptian women graduate students from the American University of Cairo to study during the winter 2007 semester at the John F. Kennedy School of Government.
4. A research initiative with the Egyptian International Economic Forum has been proposed to assist with regional benchmarking for the World Economic Forum Gender Index.
5. Linkages will be developed between Dr. Ismail Sergeldin of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and Vartan Gregorian of the Carnegie Corporation, to assist with establishing a "Friends of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina." Additional links to the U.S. Library of Congress and National Geographic will be made. A connection between Dr. Sergeldin and the Peace Center at Notre Dame University will also be facilitated.
6. A commitment to build and support a girl friendly school has been secured and will be facilitated by the WLB delegate and Apache Corporation.
7. Exchanges between Egyptian and American teachers will be explored.

8. Connections will be established between Egypt's Children's Cancer Hospital and the Los Angeles Children's Hospital, the LA Women's Clinic, and the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative for advice, training and exchange.
9. Analysis of the newly developed Egyptian tax code is being facilitated between a delegate and the Egyptian Minister of Finance.
10. Collaboration on the development of new USAID housing loans in Egypt.
11. A newly developed relationship between a delegate and the Egyptian National Council for Women has resulted in additional support and training for women entrepreneurs, e-commerce projects, capacity building for conflict resolution.
12. Channels will be activated to expand the sales opportunities for retail items produced by women in the Moqattam.

VI. Acknowledgements

This extraordinary experience would not have been possible without the energy, passion, and commitment of Michele Boutros-Ghali and Hoda Sarofim-Sawiris. Together, they crafted a once-in-a-lifetime journey through Egypt that allowed our delegates to deeply experience the history, culture, and people of the country. Because of the dedication of these two Board members, each delegate returned to the United States new understandings of the ancient and modern world, new ideas for connecting and collaborating across nations, and new relationships that will forever connect them to Egypt.