

## The Union Between two Congresses

Most important activities

March 2000/ March 2005

**“... The national Tunisian union of women also managed to make a move in its activities thanks to the development of its programs and the enrichment of its means of information and supervising. And we were always eager to give it our support and encouragement and to push its militants to persevere because we were always sure that this national organisation is an essential component of the civil society. It also represents the continuity between the social and reform movements. Indeed, it is a support of the program of civilisation that we are preparing for the coming generations..”**

**President Zin El Abidine Ben Ali's speech  
in the inauguration of the eleventh congress  
of the national union of Tunisian women  
Tunis 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2000**

## **Table of Contents**

### **1- Most important political activities of the organisation**

1.1 Municipal elections

1.2 Popular referendum

1.3 presidential and legislative elections

1.4 The celebration of the seventh of November

1.5 The celebration of the international day of women

1.6 The national feast of women

### **2- The structures of the organisation**

2.1 The meetings of the central committees

2.2 The meeting of the national committee

2.3 Creation of the leagues

2.4 Holding the regional congresses

2.5 Program of the national bureau of young women

### **3- Solidarity**

### **4- Information and communication**

4.1 women magazine

4.2 web site [www.unft.org.tn](http://www.unft.org.tn)

4.3 Information conference

4.4 Direct regional information

### **5. Training sessions**

## **6. New spaces**

6.1 Centre of accompaniment and orientation

6.2 centre of economic accompaniment

## **7- Signing contracts and agreements of partnership**

## **8- Involvement of the organisation in the human causes**

## **9. International meetings and activities abroad**

9.1 international meetings

9.2 activities abroad

## **10- The prizes won by the organisation**

## **1- Most important political activities of the organisation**

### **1.1 Municipal elections, April 2000**

The national union of Tunisian women concentrated its efforts in the participation to make the municipal election campaign succeed in:

- Basic movement and heightening women awareness about the importance of their role.
- Commanding the regional and local manifestations

### **1.2 Popular referendum – May 2000**

- Informing through meetings of awareness and explanation conferences about the constitutional reform.
- Holding 1740 meetings with the participation of 71203 beneficiaries.
- Visits to some subsidiaries abroad and holding information meetings in Nice, Grenoble and Lion...
- Issuing a special number of the women magazine under the headline of: “the national union of Tunisian women says yes to the constitutional reform... why?”

### **1.3 presidential and legislative elections, October 2004**

- Organising a round table about the subject of “women and public-spiritedness” with the participation of Tunisian and Belgian personalities.

- Organising a student party in the university student houses Al Omrane Supérieur.
- Organising a round table about: “the 16<sup>th</sup> point of President Zin El Abidin Ben Ali’s program from equality to partnership”.
- Holding different meetings of awareness.
- Issuing a special number of the women magazine.

### **1.3 The celebration of the seventh of November**

#### **November 2000**

- A maghrebean conference about “the role of women in building the magrebean union”.
- Participating in the craft industry fair
- Issuing a special number of the women magazine of the 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the seventh of November.

#### **November 2001**

- A national conference about professional training of girls, realities and perspectives.
- Ceremony for the militants of the organisation.
- Issuing a special number of the women magazine by the occasion of the seventh of November including President Zin El Abidin Ben Ali’s speech in the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of change.

## **November 2002**

- A national conference about “the integration of women in the economic life and the perspective of making its role concrete in the future republic.”
- Issuing a special number of the women magazine by the occasion of the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of change.

## **November 2003**

- Conference about the “perspectives of developing the gains of women through the congress of ambition.”
- A national conference about “women with private needs reality and perspectives.”
- Distribution of aids for poor families.
- Issuing a special number of the women magazine by the occasion of the 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of change.

## **November 2004**

- Organising a round table about the 16<sup>th</sup> point in president Zin El Abidin Ben Ali’s program ‘from equality to partnership.

## **1-5 The celebration of the international day of women**

### **8<sup>th</sup> of March 2000**

- Holding the eleventh congress of the national union of Tunisian women on the 8, 9 and 10 of March 2000 under the direction of President Zin

El Abidin Ben Ali and with the presence of Mrs Leila Ben Ali, the president's wife.

The congress was held under the heading of "a continuous effort to win future challenges" the number of participants was about 6 thousands and the number of congresses 1500 in addition to observers and guests.

- The issuing of a special number of the women magazine to cover the works of the congress which took place at the same time with the international day of women.
- Meeting of the committee supervising the image of women in the media.

### **8 March 2001**

\* President Ben Ali sends a letter to the president of the union by the occasion of the international day of women and as a response, the executive bureau and many structures of the union sent him letters of thanks.

\*A conference was organised under the headline of "a reading of Mr President's letter, its perspectives and contents."

\* Conference about "ownership sharing between husband and wife".

\* Participation of the organisation in the fair of work 4 under the headline "Tunisian woman and the 21<sup>st</sup> century."

\* Issuing a special number for the international day of women.

### **8 of March 2002**

\* President Zin El Abidin Ben Ali sends a letter to the director of the organisation.

\* President Zin El Abidin Ben Ali receives the president of the organization who gave him the organisation's medal.

\* A conference about "women media in Tunisia"

\* A conference about "liberation movements of women in the direction of the reform reasoning" under the direction of the President of the republic.

\* The occurrence of the international day of women with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the magazine and a special number was issued for the occasion.

### **8 of March 2003**

\* A round table about "the reality of women sports and the perspectives of improvement."

\* Participating in the exhibition of creation and craft industry.

\* Opening a centre of supervising and direction in order to receive the women with special needs.

\* Issuing a special number by the occasion of the international day of women.

### **8 of March 2004**

\* The president of republic sends a letter to the president of the organisation by the occasion of the international day of women.

\* organising solidarity trips under the headline of "continuous faithfulness to the man of change"

\* An information day about “the role of the new communication technologies in creating the society of knowledge”.

## **1.6 The celebration of the national feast of women**

### **13 of August 2000**

- \* A round table about “the fund of the divorce subsidy”
- \* A Mediterranean conference about “the arts of the past, the jobs of the future with the participation of Lebanon, France, Italy and Spain”.
- \* The participation of the organization to the fair of women creations.
- \* A party for the militants of the organization and the brilliant students.

### **13 of August 2001**

- \* Participation of the organization to the festival of women creation.
- \* Issuing of a special number of the women magazine.
- \* A party for the militants of the organization and the brilliant students.

### **13 of August 2002**

- \* The union expressed its pride of what has been achieved for Tunisian women in the era of change.
- \* A party for the militants of the organization.
- \* Participating to the cultural manifestation organised by the Ministry of women and family affairs with a presentation of what was achieved for women in the last decade.
- \* Conferences about Tunisian women, realities and perspectives.
- \* Solidarity trips with variable specialities.

\* Issuing a special number by the occasion of the national feast of Tunisian women.

### **13 of August 2003**

\* The inauguration of the centre of supervising and direction for women with special needs.

\* A party for the militants of the organisation and the brilliants in the program of the education for old people.

\* Holding the national congress of young women under the headline “the Tunisian girl, ambition and responsibility”.

\* Issuing a special number of the magazine by the occasion of the national feast of Tunisian women which editorial was written by Mrs Leila Ben Ali, the president’s wife.

## **2- The structures of the organisation**

### **2-1 Meetings of the central committee**

**June 2000** meeting of the national committee under the headline “in order to activate the structures and the activities of the national union of Tunisian women”.

**February 2001** meeting of the central committee.

**April 2003** meeting of the central committee under the headline “an ambition for the best and removal of the challenges”

**January 2004** meeting of the central committee under the headline “continuing the work in order to achieve success”

**April 2004** meeting of the central committee under the headline of “woman as a support to the new society of excellence.”

**September 2004** meeting of the central committee in the context of the preparation for the presidential and legislative elections.

## **2.2 Meeting of the national committee**

It was held on January 2004 in preparation for the twelfth congress with the presence of no less than 600 participants.

## **2.3 Creation of the leagues**

**February 2000** the league of women university teachers was created by Mrs Leila Ben Youssef.

**July 2000** the league of women and city was created by Mrs Samia Akrouit Yaich.

**January 2002** the league of women to improve the situation of town women was created with the presidency of Mrs Dalila Djaziri.

**March 2002** the league of secretaries was created with the presidency of Mrs Hayet Erayes.

**March 2004** the league of journalists was created with the presidency of Mrs Amel Khamary.

**December 2004** the league of expert accountants was created under the presidency of Mrs Leila Bchir.

#### **2.4 Holding the regional congresses**

**From June to July 2002** 28 congresses were held. Indeed, 2002 witnessed the birth of a new subsidiary, number 28, in the governorate of Mannouba and the renewing percentage ranged between 50 and 80 percent.

**December 2003** the national union of Tunisian women devotes 187 346 dinars to the improvement of the regional subsidiaries.

#### **2.5 Program of the national bureau of young women 2005**

##### **Training activities**

- Regional and district conferences
- Training session about internet and the new technologies
- Training session in administration and financial management for the regional bureaus.

##### **Environmental and benevolent activities**

- benevolent workshop for the painting of a primary school in a poor region
- Movement for the collection of plastic rubbish in all the governorates and the choice of an exemplar governorate in cooperation with the ministry of environment.
- An awareness campaign about protection from burning.

##### **The cultural, leisure and sport activities**

- a discussion about protection from accidents
- a theatrical presentation for students
- a conference about the importance of sports for girls
- A national conference for students headlined “the student and the associative activity”.
- A national summer holiday for the members of the organisation of young women for 800 girls.
- A training and leisure summer holiday in cooperation with the Ministry of Youth, sports and physical education.
- An exchange with Egypt.
- A presentation for the women painters.

### **Meetings with the structures**

- A national committee in March
- Meetings of the regional and local bureaus of young women in preparation of the municipal elections.

### **Social activity**

- A health and social trip to the governorate of Gasserine.
- Distribution of the Aiid aids.
- A health and social trip to the governorate of El Kef.
- Distribution of the aids by the occasion of the new academic year.

### **3- Solidarity by the occasion of the new academic year**

**The year 2000:** the creation of a day of solidarity and the participation of most of the structures of the organisation with about 100 thousand dinars for 600 families in the republic.

**The year 2001:** for the national bureau the amount of aids reached 3000 dinars

**The year 2002:** the national union of Tunisian women gave school aids of 2000 dinars in addition to aids given by the leagues of 3100 dinars.

**The year 2003:** the organization made interventions for 6000 pupils with aids that reached 135 thousand dinars.

**The year 2004:** a solidarity trip by the occasion of the Aiid and the international day of women and the mouled.

### **4- information and communication**

#### **4.1 Women magazine**

\* Issuing five special numbers by the occasion of the national feast of women every August.

\* Issuing three special numbers of the magazine by the occasion of the international day of women every March.

\* Issuing four special numbers of the magazine by the occasion of the seventh of November in November.

\* Issuing special editions about the eleventh congress of the union, the presidential and legislative elections, the popular referendum, and the international day of family and other editions about usual activities.

## **4.2 Web site**

The union created a web site since the year 2000: [unft.org.tn](http://unft.org.tn)

The union is working on renewing and updating this site since the year 2004 by introducing the main activities of the union and the most important preparations for the twelfth congress.

## **3-4 information conferences**

### **March 2000**

- Special meeting of the committee following women image in the media.

### **January 2002**

- A conference about the “women media in Tunisia”
- A fair about “ the history of women media”
- A fair presenting the different historical periods in which the women magazine was issued.

## **4.4 Local and direct information**

Preparing posters presenting the organisation and its subsidiaries.

### **2004**

supporting the publication of a book entitled “an introduction to the history of women media in Tunisia” by Mrs Amel Sammoud Khammari.

Preparing a CD-Rom entitled: “the woman in President Zin El Abidin Ben Ali’s government.”

### **5- Training sessions**

**April 2000:** a training session in financial direction of projects for the managers of the union.

**May 2000:** a training session about the associative activity and navigation on the net for 15 managers in cooperation with the Arab network of associations.

**October 2001:** training in accounting, computing and internet for the accountants and the treasurers.

**August 2001:** a training meeting about youth and birth health in cooperation with the national association of family and population and the UN fund for populations.

**February 2003:** a training session in Ifada centre for the managers of the organisation in management and financial, information and internet direction.

**October 2003:** organising an informing day about training in the centres of the organisation.

**February 2004:** organising training sessions concerning birth health.

**March 2004:** organising two training sessions for kinder garden animators.

**May 2004:** organising an evaluation conference after the training sessions done by the union for the animators of the kinder gardens and the responsables of children under the direction of the state secretary of the minister of women, family and childhood.

## **6- New spaces**

### **6.1 Centre of accompaniment and orientation**

#### **14<sup>th</sup> of August**

the creation of the **Centre of accompaniment and orientation** with an initiative of president Zin El Abidin Ben Ali and which is under the direction of national union of Tunisian women in the Kasba near the “sadiki” secondary school in the capital.

#### **The section of social activities**

This section receives the citizens living a personal or a family situation or problem and who need some advice or who are searching for solutions to some of their problems.

The contact can be done as follows:

- directly
- through the phone
- through written papers
- Through some institutions or structures of social character which directs them in order to look into their situation.

The intervening of the section does not concern women only but the family as a whole in order to make sure of its unity.

The intervening of the section of social activities can take the shape of

- advising and directing
- family reconciliation
- integration
- Taking care of people with particular needs like children without shelter who can become delinquent, aged people, and single mothers.

The number of new cases in the last five years reached 2888.

The number of cases in continuous contact with the social bureau is 4000 without considering the new cases that we mentioned above 2888.

The number of people contacting the bureau daily ranges between 5 and 12 people.

The section distributes aids in the Aids and special occasions and the number of those who benefit from them in the last five years is 1182.

## **6.2 centre of economic accompaniment**

### **14<sup>th</sup> of August 2004**

This was the date of inauguration of the **centre of economic accompaniment**. It aims at guiding women in the creation of economic activities and helping those who created small projects in order to increase their production abilities in addition to being an intermediate between them and the Tunisian bank of solidarity and the fund 21 21 and the different

sponsors of promotion and international cooperation and developing the marketing ability of the producing women.

Defining the programs of small loans:

Conditions:

- being a normal person
- able to make an activity
- does not get a salary and good in a profession or an activity

Aimed activities

- craft industry
- small professions
- trade
- service

Money given according to the activity

- producing activity: up to 4000 dinars
- non producing activity: up to 700 dinars with an interest of 5%.

The maximum period for paying is 3 years with a possibility to get an extension according to the following activities:

- craft industry: 3 months
- small activities: 3 months
- trade: one month
- service: 3 months

## **7- Signing contracts and agreements of partnership**

**February 2001:** signing an agreement between the national union of Tunisian women and the national program of the education of old people in order to strengthen the participation of the union in concretizing the objectives of the ambitious project.

**April 2004:** signing an agreement of partnership in cooperation between the ministry of agriculture, environment and water sources and the national union of Tunisian women in the context of environmental awareness and education.

**May 2004:** signing an agreement of partnership in cooperation between the ministry of women, family and childhood affairs and the national union of Tunisian women.

**August 2004:** signing an agreement of partnership between the national union of Tunisian women and the national bank of solidarity.

**2004:** signing an agreement of partnership between the national union of Tunisian women and the league of family and population about birth health.

## **8- Involvement of the organisation in the human causes**

**October 2000:** the participation of the managers of the organisation in the walk of solidarity with the Palestinian people after the Israeli aggressions.

**November 2000:** The national union of Tunisian women supports the decision of the president of closing the bureau of communication with Israel as an expression of solidarity with the Palestinian people. It also gave a financial aid to the Palestinian women through a launch organised by the wives of the ambassadors in Tunisia.

**April 2002:** the national union of women expresses its solidarity with the Palestinian people through its participation to a popular walk.

**August 2001:** the ministry of women, family and childhood affairs organises a festival of Arab creations in solidarity with the Palestinian women under the direction of President Ben Ali and with the participation of the national union of Tunisian women.

**February 2003:** the national union of Tunisian women participates in a walk as a sign of solidarity with the Iraqi people.

**January 2004:** participation in the organisation of an international conference about “the role of women in promoting the culture of peace”.

## **9. International meetings and activities abroad**

### **9.1 international meetings**

The national union of Tunisian women made many efforts according to the existing priorities and abilities in order to support its international actions and in this context, we can mention the following:

**April 2000:**

- Organising the international congress about women Beijing plus 5.
- Following the normal session about human rights in Geneva.
- Following the works of the Beijing plus 5 summit within the Arab league.
- Participation to the African meeting of the organisations of human rights in Algeria.

**May 2000:**

- Participation in the international gathering of the non governmental organisations.
- Participation in the yearly meeting of the international family organisation and having the membership in the executive bureau in the committee of international family organisations in Berlin.

**June 2000:**

- Participation of the organisation in the exceptional session of the general committee of the United Nations.

**January 2001:**

- Participation in a fair of craft products in Paris.
- Participation in the congress of the Arab local organisations Beijing plus 5.

### **February 2001**

- Presence in the works of the committee preparing the unifying congress on the Arab women union in Iraq.

### **April 2001**

- Representing the organisation in the conference about women and law in Bahrain.
- Representing the organisation in a discussion about the situation of women in the Arab Maghreb organised by Orpa centre in Paris.

### **May 2001**

- The president of the organisation visits the organisation women and social work in Kuwait after receiving an invitation.

### **August 2001**

- The president of the organisation represents the union in the second conference of the summit about Arab women, women and politics in Cairo.

### **November 2001**

- Participation of the president of the union to the works of the first exceptional summit of women in Cairo within a delegation led by Mrs Leila Ben Ali the president's wife.
- Participation of the organisation in the works of the subsidiary committee to promote human rights in its 57<sup>th</sup> session in Geneva.

### **February 2002**

- Making a speech about the journal of personal affairs in Tripoli in Libya.

### **April 2002**

- Participation of the organisation in the works of the subsidiary committee of promoting human rights in its 58<sup>th</sup> session in Geneva.

### **May 2002**

- Directing the awareness meetings by the occasion of the popular referendum about the program of constitutional reform in the subsidiaries of Lyon, Grenoble and Nice.

### **June 2002**

- The president of the organisation directs the cultural activity organised by the subsidiary in Nice by the occasion of the end of the academic year.
- Presence of the organisation in the magrebean Mediterranean women congress in Casa Blanca.
- Representing the organisation in the conference of the non governmental organisation in Rome.

### **July 2002**

- Participation of the organisation in a conference about civilisations in Paris.

## **September 2002**

- Representing the organisation in a training session about caring for animals and protecting them in Syria.

From the 26<sup>th</sup> of August till the 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2002

- Participation of the union in the Earth summit in Johannesburg in South Africa.

## **October 2002**

- Representing the organisation in the congress of solidarity with Palestinian and Iraqi women organised by the Lebanese council of women under the headline of challenges confronting Arab women present and future.
- Representing the organisation in the conference of north south of the non governmental organisation.
- Participation in the conference about the role of women in the administration in Arab gulf region which took place in Doha.
- Representing the organisation in the euro-Mediterranean congress of youth in Algeria.
- Participation of the national union of Tunisian women in the conference of the responsables of women institutions organised by the francophone agency.

### **October 2003**

- In response to the demand of the president Zin El Abidin Ben Ali, the president of the organisation participated to the works of the second exceptional meeting of the executive bureau of the organisation of Arab women in Cairo.

### **February 2004**

- Representing the organisation in the congress of the Lebanese women council about the participation of women in the political life headlined women in the Lebanese women council, membership and ambitions in a meeting of the preparing commission of the unifying congress of the Arab general union of women.
- The president of the union participates to the international congress about women and politics, experiences, achievements and challenges which was organised by the international academy of the local administrations of local governing and democracy.

### **April 2004**

- Representing the organisation in the 60<sup>th</sup> session of the committee of human rights held in Geneva.

### **June 2004**

- Representing the organisation in the congress of Cairo about populations and development plus 10 which took place in Dakar.

- Participation of the organisation in the second meeting of the African human rights organisation presidents which ended with the election of the president of the league of women having law professions vice president of the network of the law francophone organisations.

#### **September 2004**

- Participation of the organisation in the works of a conference organised by the Finland ministry of foreign affairs.

#### **December 2004**

- Representing the organisation in the international congress of family in China.

### **9.2 activities abroad**

The organisation was keen on activating its subsidiaries abroad by intensifying the communication with them either by phone or directly.

#### **December 2000**

- Visit of the subsidiaries of Paris, Strasbourg and Toulouse and renewing Tripoli subsidiary.

#### **March 2001**

- Visit of Toulouse subsidiary for following and supervising. Visit of Nice subsidiary and making a round table in the headquarters of the space of women and the second generation about the role of immigrant women in strengthening the Tunisian identity.

- Directing the achievement of the presidential program of educating old people by supervising the creation of a centre of education in the space of women and the second generation in Nice.

### **August 2001**

Direction of the president of the union of the evaluation meeting with a group of presidents of subsidiaries abroad where they discussed the situation of the subsidiaries and their future programs. The presidents of Tripoli, Nice, Lyon, Toulouse, Marseille and Grenoble subsidiaries were present in the meeting.

### **December 2001**

The subsidiary of Toulouse in France organises a trip to Paris with the participation of women and girls from the second generation.

Strasbourg subsidiary organises a religious ceremony in the youth house in Strasbourg, with the participation of a religious man sent from Tunisia.

### **January 2002**

Creating a new subsidiary in New York

### **June 2002**

The president of the union visits Nice subsidiary.

### **November 2002**

Directing the activities of Tripoli.

### **October 2003**

Organising a ceremony of information in order to increase the number of memberships in the Brussels cultural centre.

### **June 2004**

The president of the union visits the subsidiaries of the organisation in Nice, Marseille, Lyon, Belgium and Monaco.

## **10- The prizes won by the organisation**

### **30<sup>th</sup> of June 2001**

The sport association of young women in Tunis wins the third prize of the president for fair play in 2001.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2001**

The national union of Tunisian women gets the presidential prize for the education of old people in 2001.

### **January 2002**

The national union of Tunisian women gets the prize of the economic and social council of the United Nations in New York after a meeting of the economic and social council.

### **2003**

The local subsidiary of Kairouan wins the local prize of family promotion, the second type of the silver medal.

### **2004**

The Lyon subsidiary wins the prize of family promotion.









