

Union of Palestinian Women was thoroughly discussed. There was overall consensus in favor of working to increase the union's activities and consolidate democracy.

Four days of discussions resulted in a new work program for the coming four years. The program was inspired by the congress' slogan: «Developing the role of Palestinian women in exile to complement the role of their sisters in the occupied territories, in order to achieve freedom and independence.»

One session was devoted to approving amendments to the internal charter of rules and regulations. These amendments were proposed in response to new demands that have arisen over the organization's four years of experience and expansion.

Parallel to the congress, the Palestinian Women's Committees conducted seven seminars on the following topics:

- Women in the uprising, by Rasmieh Odeh;

- The Jordanian women's movement, the reality and the future, by Dr. Hanan Bouderi;

- The General Union of Palestinian Women, by Nihaya Mohamed;

- The Palestinian declaration of independence, by attorney Thafer Khadra;

- The Syrian women's movement from a historical view, by Nawal Yaziji of the Syrian Women's League for the Protection of Motherhood and Childhood;

- The Lebanese woman's role in the revolutionary process, by Azza Mruweh;

- The influence of the uprising on children's literature, by the writer Nahed Al Rayes.

Preparing for the future

The final statement issued at the end of the congress commended the uprising and emphasized the role of all sectors of the Palestinian masses in the struggle for achieving their national rights. The statement called on the PLO to upgrade its practice in order to fulfill the demands of the uprising. The statement summarized the discussions that took place at the congress and the content of the reports adopted.

A new general council of 36 members was democratically elected. The new council includes young, qualified women cadres representing the different branches of the Palestinian Women's Committees.

The convening of the second general congress of the Palestinian Women's Committees was a turning point in the experience of this relatively new mass organization, and testified to the success of its work so far. ●

Japan

Palestinian Culture on Display

Two events highlighting Palestinian culture took place this summer in Japan. In June, the International Union of Fashion presented a seminar in Tokyo on Palestinian national costumes, and in particular women's dresses (*thoab*). The seminar was followed by a fashion show of Palestinian *thoab* from various parts of Palestine, worn by Japanese models.

In July, an art exhibition was sponsored by the Union of Asia, Africa and Latin America for Japanese

Artists, in the Metropolitan Art Gallery in Tokyo. More than 30 Palestinian artists were among the third world participants, most of whom were from the occupied territories. They included Ismail Shamout, Suleiman Mansour, Fathi Ghabin and Kamal Boullata. Most of the works on exhibition dealt with the intifada. The guest of honor at the exhibition was Tayseer Sharaf, a Palestinian artist from the occupied territories.

