

**Mr. Taoufik BACCAR, Governor of the Central Bank of Tunisia (BCT) opened up on Thursday 11 November 2010, works of a seminar organized by the National Union of Tunisian women (UNFT) on « the economic role of the woman».**

**In this respect, Mr. BACCAR evoked the recent presidential measures for the woman, of which those encouraging women to launch micro-projects.**

**He added that in 2009, women represented 25.4% of the working population, 40% of civil servants, 57% of the medical and para-medical professions and 60% of students.**

**As for women access to loans in order to finance projects, the Governor of the BCT declared that no less than 40 thousand women benefited from funding by the Tunisian Solidarity Bank (BTS), as of its creation. This corresponds to 30.7% of overall loans given by the Bank.**

**He noted that this rate rose by 32.4% over the first ten months of 2010 and that 43% of given loans, over this period, benefited higher-education graduates.**

**Overall, BTS approved 172 projects for women with a total amount of 33 million dinars. On the other hand, women enjoyed 43% of loans given by development associations. Special mention was given here to women solvency.**

**In her intervention, Mrs. Saloua Terzi Ben Attia, president of UNFT indicated that the 18 thousand women head of businesses in our country reveal eloquently women participation in the economic activity of the country, focusing in this framework on emergence of a new generation of businesswomen, whose average age is 40 as per a survey conducted by "Centrale patronale". She focused also on higher-education graduate women orientation towards the launching of high-added value/technological-content projects such as information and communication technologies, logistics conception and services.**