

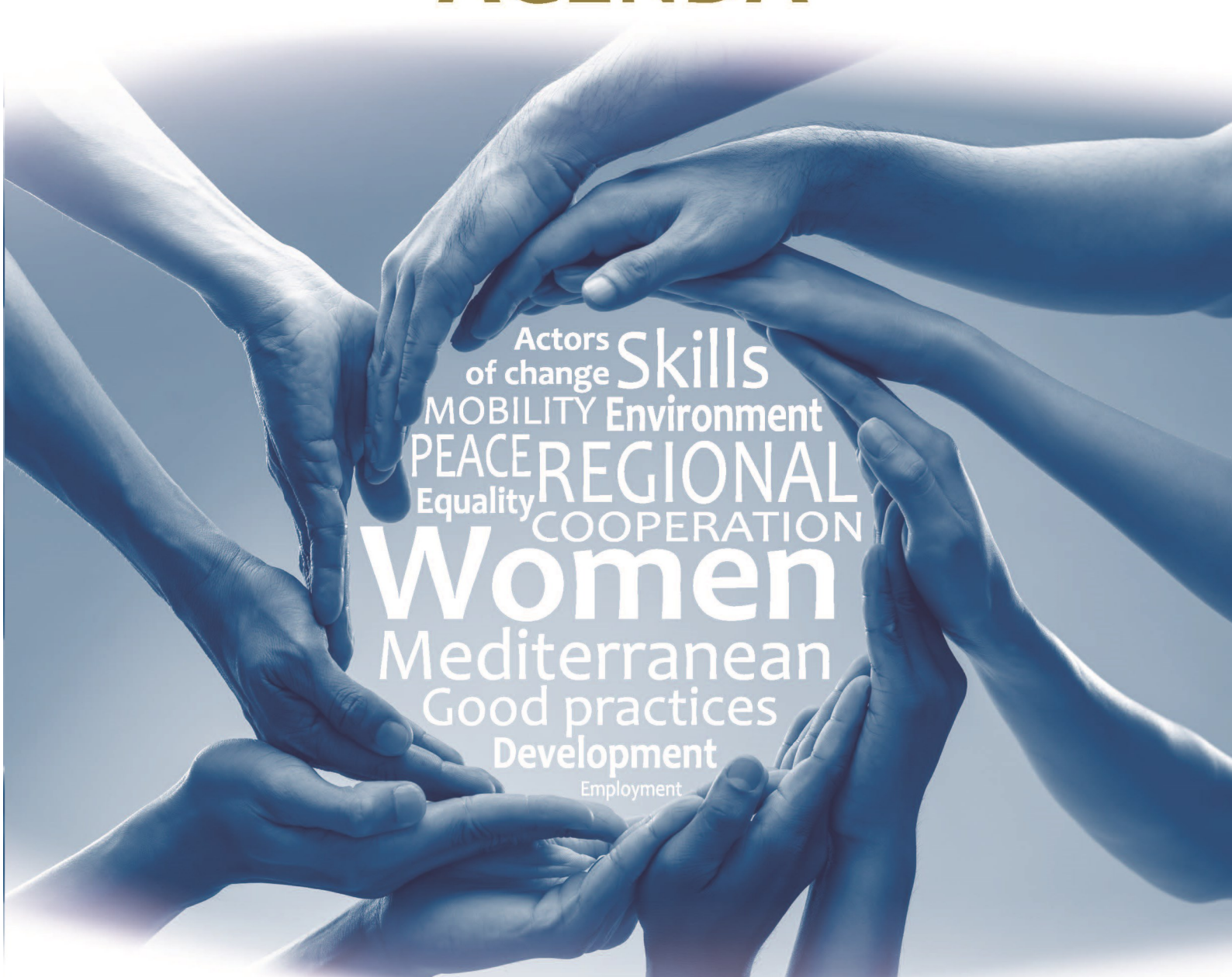
Union For The Mediterranean Third High-Level Conference On Women Empowerment

WOMEN FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

Driving force for development and stability

Barcelona, 10-11 October 2016

AGENDA



Actors of change
Skills
MOBILITY Environment
PEACE REGIONAL
Equality COOPERATION
Women
Mediterranean
Good practices
Development
Employment



Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط

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CONTEXT

The 2016 Euro-Mediterranean context and increasing challenges lead more than ever to address cultural, security and development issues in an integrated manner. First affected by economic crisis, climate change, as well as conflicts, violence and discriminations, women are also enablers and actors for positive changes. They foster sustainable development and inclusive economic growth, they nurture education and health and they promote mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence.

OBJECTIVES

1. Think about **women as actors of change and solutions to the regional challenges**.
2. Examine how to strengthen their positive contribution to **development and stability**.
3. Highlight women's role in **enhancing sustainable development and inclusive growth, in promoting tolerance** and mutual understanding and address the issue of women and migrations.
4. Get inspired from **testimonies and concrete experiences**.
5. Formulate recommendations in terms of **policy decisions, exchange of experiences and good practices** from the field and identify regional projects and initiatives.
6. Explore how **strengthening regional cooperation** contributes to improving women's situation and living conditions.

CONTENT

4 different plenary sessions dealing with current and critical issues in the Mediterranean region:

- ◇ Women as drivers for sustainable development and inclusive growth
- ◇ Women as key actors against extremism and radicalization
- ◇ Women, mobility and migration
- ◇ Preparation of the Ministerial Conference On Strengthening The Role Of Women In Society: A Gap To Close

PARTICIPANTS

250 key stakeholders involved in gender equality and women's empowerment in the Mediterranean region: representatives from governments, international organisations and development agencies, private sector, projects promoters, personalities with an outstanding commitment towards gender equality.

AGENDA

Monday 10th October

15:00-15:30 *Registration*

15:30-17:00 **Official Opening**

⇒ *Special guest– Key note address:*

- **Ms. Catherine Samba Panza**, former President of the Central African Republic

⇒ *Opening:*

- **Ms. Delphine Borione**, Senior Deputy Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean
- Video Message from **H.E. Federica Mogherini**, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission.
- **H.E. Wajih Azaizeh**, Minister of Social Development, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.
- **Ms. Marina del Corral**, Secretary General of Immigration and Emigration, Ministry of Employment and Social Security of Spain

⇒ *Women Can – Inspiring testimonies from women and men engaged towards gender equality*

- **Ms. Mariya Gabriel**, Member of the European Parliament, Vice-Chair of the EPP Group, coordinator of the Euromed group of the EPP.
- **Dr. Hend El Sherbini**, Chief Executive Officer, Integrated Diagnostics Holdings.
- **Ms. Sarra Arbaoui**, Scientist and beneficiary of the UfM Labelled project WOMED: the “next generation of leaders”.

Moderator:

- **Ms. Aurélie Salvaire**, Founder of The A Factor and Shiftbalance, Former curator of TEDxBarcelonaWomen.



17:00-17:30 *Coffee Break - Networking*

17:30-19:00 TOWARDS THE 4th MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY: CLOSING THE EQUALITY GAP

This session will present the state of play of the implementation of the UfM Ministerial commitments on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society, and the ongoing work in the framework of the UfM regional dialogue on women empowerment. It will focus especially on the following issues: participation of women in economic life, fight against gender-based violence and discrimination, women's access to leadership and the change of stereotypes through education and the media.

Moderator:

- **Ms. Delphine Borione**, Senior Deputy Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean.

Panellists:

- **H.E Wajih Azaizeh**, Minister of Social Development, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.
- **H.E. Néziha Labidi**, Minister of Women's Affairs, Family and Children, Republic of Tunisia.
- **Ms. Maya Morsy**, President of The National Council for Women (NCW), Egypt.
- **Ms. Irène Mingasson**, Head of Unit, Regional Programmes Neighbourhood South, European Commission.
- **Mr. Alexis Rinckenbach**, Head of the European and international affairs unit, Social Cohesion General Directorate, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, France.
- **Ms. Serena Romano**, Gender Focal Point on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Intl Cooperation, Italy.
- **Ms. Boriana Jönsson**, Executive Director, Euro-Mediterranean Feminist Initiative.

⇒ *Special guest– Key note address:*

- **Ms. María Teresa Fernández de la Vega**, President, *Mujeres por África* and former vice-president of Spain.

Tuesday 11th October

09:00-11:00 Thematic Session 1 - Women as a driver for sustainable development and inclusive growth.

As small business owners or CEOs, employees, business school professors or association heads, members of boards of directors, shareholders, advocates for investment climate reform or consumers, women play an increasingly important role in the economy and help drive business success and development impact. Women also demonstrate a huge potential to improve resource productivity, enhance ecosystem conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, and create more sustainable, low-carbon food, energy, water and health systems.

Progress is being made in increasing women's participation in the economy and recognising their key role in achieving sustainable development. But there is still a considerable gap in women's participation. Women remain a largely untapped resource in addressing the pressing challenges faced by the Euro-Mediterranean region, and it is more than time to harness their great potential.

The session will address the following questions:

What is the contribution of women to the region's inclusive growth and sustainable development? How to make it more visible? How to harness women's full potential and overcome barriers that still hinder equal participation? How could regional dialogue and cooperation help to achieve these goals?

Moderators:

- **Ms. Karina Chabour**, Journalist, France 24.

Panellists:

- **Ms. Jihen Boutiba Mrad**, Secretary General, Business Med.
- **Dr. Marianne Azer**, Parliamentarian, Egyptian Parliament.
- **Ms. Sanem Oktar**, President, KAGIDER, Turkey
- **Ms. Sita Vanbinst**, Legal Policy Advisor to the State Secretary for Equal Opportunities & Poverty Reduction, Kingdom of Belgium.
- **Ms. Nabila Hamza**, Member of the Civicus Gender Working Group Advisory Board.
- **Ms. Begoña Suarez**, Deputy General Director for Women Empowerment and career advancement, *Instituto de la Mujer y para la igualdad de oportunidades* of Spain.

Testimonies:

- **Ms. Imene Bouchair**, Women's earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN) and Arab Youth Climate Movement (AYCM).
- **Ms. Fatima Zahra Beraich**, Founder, Biodome du Maroc, and beneficiary of the UfM Labelled project WOMED: the "next generation of leaders".

11:00-11:30 *Coffee Break*

11:30-13:30 Parallel Thematic Session 2 - Women as key actors against extremism and radicalisation

Throughout history, women have been both the vehicles and the drivers of positive change as peace-builders and mediators, and they have a key role in counter extremism and radicalisation.

Women are often the first to observe the early warning signs of extremism in families and at the community level. They can be voices of tolerance and provide a strong counter narrative message to extremism. Educated and empowered women, as teachers, mentors, journalists, faith leaders, civil society actors and political and community leaders, can act as role models to build resilience to the influence and spread of extremism. At the regional level, women's networks and women leaders can play a critical role by voicing their position to counter extremism and radicalisation and to influence strategies and programmes locally, nationally and regionally.

The session will address the following questions:

Is there a specific contribution by women to prevent extremism and radicalisation? How can we develop their full potential as peace builders and mediators, promoting mutual understanding and inter-cultural dialogue? What is the role of women leaders and women's regional networks in fighting against extremism? What are the capacity-building needs to support their efforts and to develop their knowledge and skills to reject the influence of extremism and to prevent radicalisation?

Moderator:

- **Ms. Zeina El Tibi**, Journalist, *Observatoire d'études geo-politiques* and President of the *Association des Femmes arabes de la presse et de la communication*.

Panellists:

- **Ms. Belen Alfaro Hernández**, Ambassador at large of the Alliance of Civilizations and for interreligious and intercultural dialogue, Spain.
- **Ms. Inès Safi**, researcher, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique.
- **Ms. Suzanne Jabbour**, Restart Center Director and Member of the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, Tunisia.
- **Ms. Hafida Benchehida**, Member of the National Council, Algeria.
- **Mr. Mohammad Naciri**, Regional Director Arab States, UN Women.
- **Dr. Mohammed Belkebir**, Director, Centre d'Etude et de Recherche sur les valeurs auprès de la Rabita Mohammedia des Oulémas.

Testimonies:

- **Ms. Samia Essabaa**, teacher
- **Ms. Sabra Bano**, Director, Gender Concerns International.

11:30-13:30 Parallel Thematic Session 3 YouMatch: Job orientation and access to jobs for young women

Unemployment rates among women in the MENA region are considerably higher than those among men and the ILO World Employment and Social Outlook (WESO) 2015 even states an overall negative trend for women over the last decade. Across the region, the employment-to-population ratio for women is far below that of men and despite their participation in higher education, many young women drop out of the transition process from school to work and do not find their way into decent jobs.

An integrated approach is needed to empower (young) women and to enhance their access to decent jobs: at the beginning there is a particular need for awareness raising and job orientation for girls (and their families) while they are still at school. After graduation, school-to-work-transition schemes including job preparation must address the particular challenges young women are facing. Specific job matching tools for young women need to be developed. Moreover, the promotion of female entrepreneurship and self-employment can play an important role.

The session will address the following questions:

How can the school-to-work-transition of young women be improved? Are there good practices of employment services geared to the specific needs of young women? Are there successful strategies for young women to gain access to the labour market? What role can online media / social media play in this process? Do cultural values have an influence on labour market access of young women? What impact can regional exchange, for instance in the frame of the YouMatch network, have on the improvement of labour market access for young women?

Moderator:

- **Ms. Nadine El Asmar**, Founding partner, Beyond reform & development IRADA.

Panellists:

- **Ms. Emanuela Pozzan**, Senior Specialist on Gender Equality Director, Arab States Office, International Labour Organisation (ILO). (TBC)
- **Mr. Sherif El Tokali**, Assistant Resident Representative, Egypt Country Office, United National Development Programme (UNDP).
- **Mr. Wedjen Ben Ayed**, Deputy Director in the Cabinet of the Minister, Ministry of Vocational Training and Employment, Tunisia.
- **Ms. Mais Gousous**, Vice-President, "Akhtabout Cares Initiative" Champion.
- **Ms. Helena Simas**, Regional Director of English Language Programmes, AMIDEAST.
- **Ms. Nour Moghrabi**, National Project Manager, Economic Integration of Women-MENA, GIZ Office Amman.
- **Ms. Eman Qaraeen**, Technical Advisor TWEED – Promotion of Training to Improve Efficiency in the Water and Energy Sector II, giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

14:30-16:00 Thematic Session 4 - Women, mobility and migration

Women have always played an important role in international migration. International organisations estimate that women are half of the global migrant population, peaking as high as 70 to 80 percent of migrant populations in certain countries.

Along the migration route and on arrival in the country of destination, women and girl migrants face specific challenges as they are particularly vulnerable to situations of trafficking in human beings, exploitation, violence and discrimination. This is primarily due to their status as women, reflecting gender inequalities existing in both origin and destination societies, as well as their condition as foreigners. It is important to recognise the particular vulnerabilities of women migrants to afford them full respect for their human rights.

Once established in the host countries, women migrants can be an important factor for positive integration within their family unit and communities. Women have a growing role in the economic development of both the host country and their countries of origin.

The positive contributions of women and migration can be enhanced and the risks decreased in many ways. A consistent, comprehensive long-term strategy that maximises the benefits of women's migration and mobility is necessary. Partnerships, cooperation and synergies should be strengthened and multilateral and regional dialogues should be promoted with the involvement of all stakeholders including women migrants themselves.

The session will address the following questions:

What is the scope of women's migration and mobility in the Mediterranean region? How can we better take into account the specific needs of women refugees? What practical solutions and pathways are there to overcome identified threats and ensure full respect for women's rights? How does the gender perspective on migration relate to policy responses on education, health and the environment? How can we maximise the benefits of women's migration and mobility? What role can regional partnerships and regional cooperation play?

Moderators:

- **Mr. Javier Parrondo**, Head of Department of Cooperation with the Arab world and Asia, Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID).

Panellists:

- **Ms. Laura Thompson**, Deputy Director General, International Organization for Migration (IOM) (TBC).
- **Ms. Carolina Barrio Peña**, district attorney in Santa Cruz de Tenerife designated to International Cooperation, Spain.
- **Ms. Haifa Haidar**, Independent Researcher, beneficiary of AECID's programmes.
- Representative of the European Asylum Support Office.
- **Dr. Sawsan Majali**, former Secretary General of Higher Population Council, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Testimonies:

- **Ms. Maryam Chahidi**, beneficiary of the UfM Labelled project HOMERe (High Opportunity for Mediterranean Executives Recruitment)
- **Ms. Teresa Maria Pitarch i Albós**, President, Catalan Institute for Women.
- **Ms. Hala Jadid Al Kash**, Suriyat sin Fronteras (TBC).

16:00-16:30

Coffee break - Networking

16:30-17:15**COMMITMENTS TO GENDER EQUALITY: ANNOUNCEMENTS, AGREEMENTS, PLEDGES BY REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS**

- **Ms. Neila Amara**, Expert, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).
- **Ms. Khadija Idrissi Janati**, Gemed - Network for gender equality in the Mediterranean.
- Representative of Monaco
- **Ambassador Helge Skaara**, Ambassador of Norway to Spain.
- **Ms. Leila Chettaoui**, Chair of the Women's Rights Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean.

17:15-18:00**WRAP-UP SESSION AND WAY FORWARD**

- **Ambassador Hatem Atallah**, Executive Director, Anna Lindh Foundation.
- **Mr. Luís Tejada**, Director, *Agencia Española de Cooperación al Desarrollo* (AECID).
- **Mr. Fathallah Sijilmassi**, Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean.

REGISTRATION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Language

The conference will be simultaneously translated into English, French, Arabic and Spanish.

Venue and logistics

The conference “Women for the Mediterranean | Driving force for development & stability” will be held on October 10-11, 2016, at the UfM premises, in the Palau de Pedralbes, Avinguda Diagonal 686, 08034, Barcelona.

Detailed information on logistical arrangements will be communicated upon registration.



Confirmation of participation

The registration will open shortly at:

<http://ufmsecretariat.org/third-ufm-high-level-conference-on-women-empowerment/>

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