



Union for the Mediterranean Third Ministerial Conference on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society

11-12 September, Paris

The Third Ministerial Conference on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society took place on 11 and 12 September 2013 in Paris, France. The Conference gathered ministers of the 43 Member States of the Union for the Mediterranean responsible for women affairs and gender equality.

Barcelona, 12 September, 2013. The Third Ministerial Conference on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society was co-chaired by the Union for the Mediterranean's co-presidency: the European External Action Service and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and hosted by Najat Vallaud-Belkacem, Minister of Women's Rights of the Republic of France.

Following the commitments from the 2006 Istanbul and 2009 Marrakech Ministerial Conferences on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society, the Paris Ministerial Conference aims to further support women and girls of the Euro-Mediterranean region in their quest for empowerment and equality. Acknowledging the important role women have played in the on-going changes in the region, the Ministers aim to effectively contribute to their stronger participation in the political, economic, civil and social development of the region. The Paris Conference is expected to further contribute to a positive change in attitude and behaviour towards women and girls in the region, strongly condemning all forms of violence and discrimination against them.

[Download the speech of the Secretary General of the UfM, Fathallah Sijilmassi \(in French\)](#)

Note to editors: The final Declaration will be available soon in the [website of the Union for the Mediterranean](#)

CALL FOR PROJECTS

With a view to further empowering women and girls of the region through concrete and tangible projects, civil society organisations, national, regional and local authorities and all other interested stakeholders are invited to submit projects to the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean project, which are in line with the Paris Ministerial Conference's three main priorities:

- I. Equal rights for women and men to participate in the political, economic, civil and social life;
- II. Combating all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls;
- III. Changing attitudes and behaviour to attain gender equality with a view to promote women empowerment not only in rights but also in reality.

The received project proposals will be appraised by the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean, in line with the project criteria of the Union for the Mediterranean, which can



be consulted on the Secretariat's webpage: <http://ufmsecretariat.org/how-to-submit-a-project/>. If deemed appropriate, the project proposals will be submitted to the Member States for the Union for the Mediterranean label. The e-mail for the submission of project proposals for the Union for the Mediterranean is info@ufmsecretariat.org.

About the UfM

The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) is a unique Mediterranean institution bringing together 43 countries (28 EU member states and 15 Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries). It constitutes a platform for political dialogue, coordination and consensus building.

The Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean, established in Barcelona in 2010, focuses on implementing regional cooperation projects and initiatives in areas such as energy, environment, education, transport, business development and social affairs. The Secretariat works in close collaboration with governments and with an active network of Euro-Mediterranean partners to assist project promoters throughout the entire project cycle: from technical assistance to project implementation, including financial planning and fundraising.

Contact UfM

Moez Sinaoui

communication@ufmsecretariat.org

T. +34 652 99 22 56

www.ufmsecretariat.org