

First-ever Intergovernmental Monitoring Mechanism on Gender Equality in the Euro-Mediterranean Region

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In 2020, the UfM launched the first-ever Intergovernmental Monitoring Mechanism on Gender Equality in one of the Senior Official Meetings of the UfM Member States. This ongoing reporting exercise will allow measuring and reporting of the progress made on women's rights and provide policy recommendations to close the gender gap in the region.

- **Within the Euro-Mediterranean region, gender parity in Western Europe is estimated at 76.7% (54 years to achieve gender parity) and in MENA region at 61.2% (140 years), according to the [Global Gender Gap Report 2020](#).**
- **Achieving gender equality for the current generation of working-age women in MENA could add as much as USD 3.1 trillion to regional wealth, according to the World Bank.**


Member States agreed to establish a follow-up mechanism backed up with indicators to monitor progress, evaluate the gender gap and provide data for scientific-based policy recommendations to decision-makers, in order to monitor women's quality of life and role in society. This supports the implementation of gender-related Sustainable Development Goals to ultimately tap into the full potential of women in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The lack of gender-specific data can hide a lot of inequalities: the progress report will allow monitoring of the progress achieved at country level in terms of gender equality, and at the same time the formulation of concrete recommendations to build gender-based policies at country and regional level.


After extensive consultation with Member States, a set of 20 indicators across 4 priority areas were agreed.

20 GENDER INDICATORS IN 4 PRIORITY AREAS


<p>3 indicators on women's access to leadership and decision-making</p>	<p>4 indicators on women's economic participation</p>
<p>10 indicators on combating violence against women and girls</p>	<p>3 indicators on combating gender-based stereotypes, analysing:</p>




Overarching legal frameworks




Marriage and family



Participation in public life



Violence against women including access to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education



Employment and economic participation

A specific indicator about perceptions and stereotypes is proposed for each priority area.

6 of these indicators were selected for the first initial assessment, based as much as possible on the availability of a minimum of data and statistics, generally through the existence of global databases: UN Women, World Bank, ILO Stats, EIGE Stats, OECD Gender Stats, Eurostats, MEDSTAT, the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor, the global Database Doing Business, Global database on violence against women (UN Women) and national surveys and statistics.

“We must build new inclusive societies that ensure young girls and women can fulfil their potential as agents of change and contributors to the region's socio-economic development. This follow-up mechanism will offer an effective means to monitor the progress made on women's rights and to work collectively to accelerate women's full participation in the region.” - Nasser Kamel, UfM Secretary General.

Next Steps

The UfM is coordinating with Member States as they cooperate with National Statistic Offices and regional and national stakeholders to build a country progress report that will provide both qualitative and quantitative data on the 6 indicators and the associated sub-indicators. The UfM will be in charge of drafting the regional progress report, expected by the end of 2021, that will help to build the next Ministerial Declaration in 2022.

The 6 indicators are:

- **Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of gender.**

- **Proportion of seats held by women in governments.**
- **Proportion of women in managerial positions in public and private sector compared to men.**
- **Proportion of women compared to men in formal and informal work.**
- **Proportion of women entrepreneurs compared to men.**
- **Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to domestic violence by an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age, disability and migration status.**

Policy Timeline

In the **4th Ministerial Conference on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society, held on 27 November 2017 in Cairo**, UfM Member States adopted a strong Ministerial Declaration based on the UfM Regional Dialogue recommendations.

The Declaration constitutes an ambitious roadmap towards achieving gender equality and women's empowerment in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The Member States committed to promoting women's equal participation in four priority areas:



Raising women's participation in public life and decision-making



Raising women's economic participation



Combatting all forms of violence against women and girls



Challenging cultural and social norms and eliminating gender stereotypes, particularly in education and media

During the **UfM Regional Dialogue meeting on Women's Empowerment** held in Lisbon on **9 October 2018**, the UfM Secretariat was mandated to propose, for validation by Member States, a set of indicators within the 4 priority areas, in addition to a proposal of tools to be used in monitoring and reporting.

Following consultation with Member States, these indicators were presented and discussed during the UfM Regional Dialogue meeting that took place in **Barcelona in July 2019**. They were endorsed on 30 July 2020, and then discussed at the UfM Regional Dialogue Meeting on Women's Empowerment in **November 2020**, within the framework of the **UfM High-Level Conference "Accelerating Gender Equality in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic"**. This meeting also launched the preparation of the first monitoring and reporting exercise on the implementation of the six selected priority indicators by the UfM countries.

A Working Group was launched in March 2021 to coordinate data gathering, analysis and subsequent policy recommendations. Experts participating in the working group agreed on the need to coordinate and capitalize on the region's good practices on women empowerment, and to take on board the impact of COVID-19, showing the strong regional commitment to gathering gender-disaggregated data to inform a resilient pandemic recovery and future action for the region.

COVID-19 & WOMEN IN THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN REGION

LABOUR MARKET

20% The Female labour force participation rate in the region is the lowest worldwide and unemployment is as high as **43%** for female youth

WOMEN IN THE ARAB WORLD will lose +700,000 JOBS as a result of the pandemic

FINANCIAL INCLUSION

Around the world **435 million women & girls** will be living on less than... **\$1.90 A DAY** by 2021 ...including **47 million** people in **POVERTY**

Across the region, women have lower rates of financial inclusion than men

Only 38% of women have a bank account compared to **57%** of men

HEALTHCARE LEADERSHIP


Women account for **70%** of the health and social care workforce

Women are under-represented in leadership and decision-making processes: **30%** of executive directors of global health organizations are women

Women4Mediterranean Conference 2020


Accelerating gender equality in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic 16-20 November 2020 | Online

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More information


Download the Validated Indicators for the Establishment of the UfM Ministerial Follow-up Mechanism on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society, available in [English](#)

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[Infographic on the Intergovernmental Monitoring Mechanism](#)




[Infographic on Women & COVID-19 Pandemic](#)



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- 05.03.2021. RFI. Union pour la Méditerranée: un mécanisme en faveur des droits des femmes
- 07.03.2021. L'Economiste Maghrebin. UPM : nouveaux projets d'appui à l'autonomisation de la femme
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- 7.11.2020. Agence Europe. Union for Mediterranean strengthens cooperation in fight against gender inequality

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