



Union for the Mediterranean  
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الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط

## UfM Regional dialogue on women Empowerment

Lisbon, Portugal the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Working languages: Arabic, English, French

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### Background

- In 2015, the UfM has launched the Regional Dialogue process on women empowerment, involving the UfM countries and the concerned stakeholders in the Euro-Mediterranean region with the objective to review with partner countries the progress made in implementing the 2013 Ministerial commitments and provide recommendations for the 4<sup>th</sup> ministerial meeting. Four priority areas were identified and four working groups were constituted one for each priority field:
  - Raise women's participation in economic life, moderated by Italy and UNIDO.
  - Improve women's access to leadership and decision making positions, moderated by France and OECD.
  - Change stereotypes through education and culture, Moderated by Morocco and Anna Lindh Foundation.
  - Combat violence against women and gender-based-violence, moderated by Egypt and UN Women.
- 4 working groups meetings were held in 2016-2017 respectively on 25-26 April 2016 in Barcelona, July 12, 2016 in Paris; July 19, 2016 in Amman, 20-21, 2016 September in Rabat, and 2 ad-hoc SOM: October 10, 2016 in Barcelona and July 4, 2017 in Madrid.
- A progress report<sup>1</sup> on the implementation of the third ministerial declaration has been produced on the basis of the individual country reports provided by UfM countries, Beijing+20 reports and supplementary literature produced by other key organisations operating in the region. 14 country reports were received from Algeria, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Monaco, Morocco, Palestine, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia, and Turkey. The report has been endorsed by the Cairo Ministerial meeting.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on strengthening the role of women in society was held on 27<sup>th</sup> of November 2017 in Cairo, Egypt and Ministers from the 43 UfM members adopted a strong ministerial Declaration<sup>2</sup> that has been drafted based on the regional dialogue and countries recommendations.
- The fourth UfM ministerial Declaration constitutes an ambitious road map toward achieving gender equality and women empowerment in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The 43 UfM countries have taken very strong commitments in the four identified priority areas and agreed to establish a follow-up mechanism baked-up with indicators to monitor progress, to evaluate the gender gap and to provide recommendations to policy makers and stakeholders, in order to improve the impact. They recommended that the mechanism should be implemented in complementarity and co-ordination with the existing gender-mechanisms in the region.

<sup>1</sup> [http://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/UfM\\_progress\\_report2016.pdf](http://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/UfM_progress_report2016.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <http://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/womenfinaldeclaration.pdf>

## Meeting's objectives & outcomes

The meeting has two main objectives:

1. Agreed with countries the methodology that will be followed in monitoring the ministerial declaration:
  - **Validate the origin/framework to be used** as inspiration for indicators (SDGs indicators or identify different ones for the UfM Declaration).
  - As the Declaration is very ambitious, **decide for each priority areas** (violence, economic participation, leadership and stereotypes) **the urgent/priority issue** that will be monitored. **The UfM Secretariat, will propose, for validation by countries, a set of indicators for the selected issues.**
  - Validate the reporting mechanism as provided by the Ministerial Declaration. **The UfM Secretariat will propose, for validation by countries, a report template.** Do countries agree to use questionnaires?
  - **Data and statistics:** Which national sources of data and statistics that should be used? How to mobilise/work with the concerned institutions? What needs of capacity development at this regards?
2. Updating on regional and national initiatives, good practices and policies regarding three of the ministerial priorities: "Violence against women", "Women economic participation" and "Women in peace and security agenda" and exploring opportunities of synergies, collaborations and partnership.

## The meeting format

The meeting will follow a roundtable discussion format where all participants are invited to react to speakers' presentations and to present their experience and provide their recommendations. Each panel will start with short presentations (**between 7 to maximum 10 minutes**) from speakers from different backgrounds and organisations who will give an overview of the discussed issue by presenting their experience, methodology of work and approaches, good practices and initiatives in the field of gender equality and women empowerment. The use PPT presentations is possible. Speakers need to provide us with their presentations before the beginning of the meeting.

Speakers presentations will be followed by a group discussion and recommendations/conclusions on the foreseen discussion points for each session.

## Agenda

### 09:00-09:15 Opening remarks

- H.E. Hala LATTOUF, Minister of Social Development, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- Ms. Maria Jose ROSA MENDES, Deputy head of the representation of the European Commission in Portugal

### 09:15–13:00 UfM Ministerial Follow-up mechanism on strengthening the role of women in society: indicators and methodology

**Moderation:** UfM Co-presidency and UfM Secretariat

#### **Discussion points:**

- **Validate the origin/framework to be used** as inspiration for indicators (SDGs indicators or identify different ones for the UfM Declaration).
- **Decide for each priority areas** (violence, economic participation, leadership and stereotypes) **the urgent/priority issue** that will be monitored.
- **Validate the reporting mechanism** as provided by the Ministerial Declaration. Do countries agree to use questionnaires?

- **Data and statistics:** Which national sources of data and statistics that should be used? How to mobilise/work with the concerned institutions? What needs of capacity development at this regards?

- Presentation of the existing mechanisms in the region: SDGs Indicators and their Monitoring Framework; OECD mechanism; EU mechanism, LAS mechanism...
  - EU Gender Equality index, Dr. Lina Salanauskaite, European Institute for Gender Equality
  - Gender equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: TURNING PROMISES INTO ACTION, Ms. Blerta Aliko, UN Women Country Representative in Egypt.
  - The OECD gender monitoring mechanism, Ms. Nicola Ehlermann, Head, Middle East and North Africa – OECD Competitiveness Programme
  - The OECD Development Centre’s Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI): experience in monitoring SDG 5 on Gender Equality, Ms. Gaëlle Ferrant, Gender Programme Coordinator, OECD Development Centre
  - Civil Society Follow-up Processes in the region
- Discussion & recommendations for the Ministerial Declaration mechanism based on the discussion points above.

Coffee break at 11:00

Lunch break 13:00-14:00

#### 14:00 -17:00 Updates implementation of the Ministerial Declaration

**Moderation:** Ahmad Abu Haidar, Director of Policies and Strategies, Jordanian Ministry of Social Development (UfM Co-Presidency)

#### **Discussion points:**

- Updating on regional and national initiatives, good practices and policies regarding three of the ministerial priorities: “Violence against women”, “Women economic participation” and “Women in peace and security agenda”.
- Exploring opportunities of synergies, collaborations and partnership.

#### • **Violence against women**

- The regional campaign on preventing violence against women in southern Mediterranean countries, European Commission - DG Near
- The WHO tools to support countries in preventing violence against women, Aasa Nihlen, EURO regional office - World Health Organisation.
- Presentation of the project “*Assistance to and empowerment of Syrian refugee women and girls and vulnerable women and girls in host communities in Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon*” Maria Pia Dradi, Gender and Gender Equality Coordinator, Italian Agency for Development Co-operation – AICS
- Updates on Countries’ experiences.

#### • **Women economic participation**

- Debrief Brussels meeting with DG Employment on women access to labour, in preparation of the UfM Ministerial meeting on Labour & Employment, Nathalie Creste, Head of Unit, DG Employment, European Commission.

- OECD MENA Women Business Forum- OECD
- Presentation of the joint UNIDO-UN Women-FAO project: *“Promoting women empowerment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development in the MENA region”*.
- Behavioural Insights for Young Women Entrepreneurship, UNDP.
- Updates on Countries’ experiences.
- **Role of women in peace and security agenda**
  - The Regional study on the role of women and youth in preventing extremism (UfM Secretariat).
  - UfM Labelled Project *“Enhancing the civic and social engagement of women and youth in preventing violence and extremism”*, Gillian Cowel, head of Gender and Inclusion, British Council Amman
  - Updates on Countries’ experiences.

**Coffee break 15:30 -16:00**

**17:00-17:30    Next steps and Conclusions**