COP31 Mediterranean Pavilion
From Fragmentation to Integration: Advancing Gender-Responsive Climate Action through the Climate-Women, Peace and Security Nexus in the Mediterranean

Day: 1/11/2026
Time: 11:30 - 12:30 (Türkiye local time, GMT+3)
Place: Mediterranean Pavilion, Blue Zone
Organised by: Union for the Mediterranean

Background and Rationale

The Mediterranean is increasingly recognized as one of the world's climate change hotspots, facing rising temperatures, chronic water scarcity, drought, environmental degradation and growing displacement pressures. At the same time, several parts of the region continue to experience fragility, conflict and social inequalities that undermine resilience and sustainable development. Our UfM Regional Policy Report *From Fragmentation to Integration: Climate, Women, Peace and Security in the Euro-Mediterranean Region*, stated that climate change rarely acts in isolation. Rather, it functions as a "risk multiplier", intensifying existing vulnerabilities, deepening inequalities and exacerbating pressures on communities and institutions.

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by climate-related insecurity due to unequal access to land, water, finance, protection mechanisms and decision-making spaces. However, evidence gathered through the UfM Climate-WPS Network demonstrates that women and youth are not only among the most affected groups but are also essential agents of adaptation, peacebuilding and resilience. Yet their contributions remain insufficiently recognized and systematically excluded from policy design, implementation and financing mechanisms.

Despite growing international recognition of the Climate-WPS nexus, significant governance gaps persist across the Mediterranean. National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), climate adaptation plans and disaster risk reduction frameworks continue to be developed and implemented in parallel rather than through integrated approaches. The UfM Policy Report reveals that only 13% of surveyed stakeholders consider WPS and climate frameworks to be fully aligned, while 70% report weak or non-existent coordination mechanisms between gender, climate and security institutions.

COP31 presents a unique political opportunity to move beyond awareness-raising and towards implementation. Building on the findings and recommendations of the UfM Policy Report, this session will convene policy makers, international organizations, civil society representatives and regional experts to discuss practical pathways for integrating climate action, gender equality, peacebuilding and resilience efforts across the Mediterranean.

The Union for the Mediterranean remains firmly committed to advancing women 'rights in a regional context of climate risks and human insecurity as reaffirmed by the 5th UfM Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society.

Objectives

The session seeks to:

1. **Present the key findings and recommendations** of the UfM Regional Policy Report on Climate Change and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in the Mediterranean.

2. **Foster dialogue among governments, UN agencies, financial institutions, civil society organizations and women-led networks** on how to scale gender-responsive and peace-sensitive climate action.
3. **Identify concrete actions and partnerships** to strengthen policy coherence, accountability systems, women's leadership, access to climate finance, and monitoring frameworks.
4. **Contribute to COP31 discussions on inclusive climate governance**, emphasizing the role of women and youth as drivers of resilience, conflict prevention and sustainable adaptation.

Key Messages

The session will promote five core messages:

- **Climate Action Must Be Gender-Responsive and Peace-Sensitive:** Climate adaptation and resilience policies cannot succeed if they overlook the differentiated impacts of climate change on women and girls, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected settings.
- **Policy Coherence Is Now a Governance Imperative:** Greater alignment between climate policies, NDCs, WPS National Action Plans and disaster risk reduction frameworks is essential to address interconnected risks effectively.
- **Women and Youth Are Agents of Change:** Women and youth should be recognized not only as beneficiaries but also as leaders, mediators, innovators and decision-makers in climate action and peacebuilding processes.
- **Better Evidence Enables Better Decisions:** Gender-disaggregated, conflict-sensitive and locally generated data are critical for designing effective policies and tracking progress.
- **Climate Finance Must Reach Local Actors:** Women-led organizations and local communities require more direct, flexible and accessible financing mechanisms to implement climate and resilience initiatives.

Guiding Questions

The discussion will explore the following questions:

- How can Mediterranean countries better integrate WPS commitments within climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience frameworks?
- What institutional arrangements are needed to bridge gender, climate and security policy silos? How can governments move from consultation towards meaningful participation and leadership of women and youth in climate governance?
- What evidence and data systems are required to support more effective Climate-WPS policymaking?
- What partnerships are required to translate regional commitments into national and local implementation?

Agenda

- ***Day: 18/11/2026***
- ***Time: 11:30 - 12:30 (Türkiye local time, GMT+3)***
- ***Place: Mediterranean Pavilion, Blue Zone***

Time	Item
11:30 – 11:40	**Opening and Presentation of the UfM Policy Report** ***Anna Dorangricchia, Programme Manager Gender equality, UfM* Secretariat** • Welcome and introduction to the Climate-WPS nexus • Key highlights from the UfM Policy Report on Climate WPS
11:40 – 11:20	**Panel Discussion** Moderator: *Anna Dorangricchia, Programme Manager Gender equality, UfM* • UNDP, Rania Tarazi, Gender Team Leader, Amman Regional Hub, Regional Bureau for Arab States *(video message)* • OSCE - Lara Scarpitta, OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender Issues and Head of the Gender Issues Programme • UN Women- Maryse Guimond, Country Director, UN Women Türkiye, • Egypt's National Council for Women (NCW), H.E. Counsellor Amal Ammar, President *(video message)* • NCLW Lebanon-Dr. Roula Jaafar, Board Member and Head of the Environment Committee at the National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW). • Nour Mohamed, Member of Climate Reality Project (CSO)
11:20 – 11:30	**Interactive Discussion and Closing Messages** • Audience interventions • Reflections from panelists • Summary of policy messages and next steps