



Union pour la Méditerranée
Union for the Mediterranean
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WOMEN4MEDITERRANEAN 2018

WOMEN BUILD INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

LISBON, PORTUGAL

10-11 October 2018

ABOUT THE EVENT

The high level UfM Women4Mediterranean conferences constitute the major regional platform to discuss, exchange experiences and promote women's participation in the public, economic and civil life for bringing solutions to regional challenges. They create impact by gathering the most relevant stakeholders and leaders from the Euro-Mediterranean region - governments, parliaments, private sector, international organizations, academia, media, civil society, young women and men - to strengthen regional cooperation and identify best ways to drive positive change toward gender equality and women's empowerment. The conferences focus on women's roles as change makers and leaders in the region, and explore how women and men can overcome cultural and social barriers for driving forward the Euro-Mediterranean action agenda for women's empowerment and the achievement of the SDGs. For almost 5 years, the conferences have been a catalyst for policy advocacy, regional initiatives and projects, new ideas, collaborations and partnerships.

The 2018 edition of Women4Mediterranean comes at a time when the 43 UfM countries adopted a strong Declaration with an ambitious action plan where UfM Ministers committed to take the necessary and relevant measures and create policies to promote the equality between women and men, in rights and opportunities, in all spheres of society: political, economic and civil life. It will constitute the first opportunity to take stock, almost a year after the ministerial meeting, of progress achieved.

The choice of Portugal as a location of the 2018 conference – a country that continues to promote gender equality – sends a positive message that investing in girls and women is fundamental and key for progress for all.

ABOUT THE VENUE:

Women4Mediterranean 2018 takes place at the Champalimaud Foundation's Centre for the Unknown, a unique landmark facing the river Tejo in the city of Lisbon, Portugal.

WHO PARTICIPATES

The conference will gather more than 300 high level stakeholders from all sectors involved in gender equality and women's empowerment in the Euro-Mediterranean region, including country representatives, ministers (ministers from Portugal, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, France, Spain, Italy, Sweden, Norway, the High Representative of the EU have been invited), local authorities (such as the new mayor of Tunis) and institutions, parliamentarians, international organizations, civil society platforms, academics, private sector actors, project promoters, personalities with an outstanding commitment towards gender equality, media and youth.

HOW TO REGISTER

Registration is free of charge and can be made online via the conference website: <http://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-women-conference-2018-2/>

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

We are working with experts and partners to offer an exciting agenda with a variety of formats to learn, discuss, share experiences and network.

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

PLENARY SESSIONS

Plenaries with high level keynote speakers, policy makers, experts, practitioners and youth representatives will explore the most recent developments, initiatives and innovative thinking around the main conference topics through engaging presentations and discussions with the audience.

WORKSHOPS

Parallel workshop sessions lead by key experts offer spaces to learn more in depth about the most pressing issues and to co-create ideas, recommendations and solutions to drive the agenda on gender equality and women's empowerment forward.

SIDE EVENTS

A number of exciting side events will engage special audiences in working groups and regional dialogue meetings for sharing experiences, insights and progress towards achieving concrete goals for improving women's rights and participation.

B2B CORNER

People and organizations engaged in advancing progress for women and girls can connect in this informal space, have 1:1 discussions and exchange ideas, building partnerships and collaborations, news on latest projects and research.

EXHIBITIONS & ARTS

The conference will feature an arts and exhibitions space that will be organized by youth representatives and show pictures, videos, short documentaries, and much more on gender equality and women's empowerment in the region.

YOUTH SPACE

Young people will be an important part of this conference and will have their own space to get together, connect and engage in discussions, or just take a break from all the great events going on.

PUBLICATIONS CORNER

A dedicated space will showcase the latest research and publications on gender equality and women's empowerment from participating organizations.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

10 OCTOBER

8:00-9:00 Registration

9:00-10:00 Opening ceremony

High-level keynote speakers will give a warm welcome to conference participants and speak about key opportunities and challenges for women in the Mediterranean region today in the context of recent economic and political developments. They will explore the important role of the young generations for tackling challenges, and the role of women and men for bringing positive change through social innovation and leadership.

Key speakers:

- UfM Secretary General
- Ministers/Secretary of State
- High-level EU Representative
- High-level Representatives of international organizations (level Secretary General, General Director)

10:00-10:30 Coffee/ networking break

10:30 -12:30 Plenary session 1: Mediterranean women leading for change

This session will explore the positive contribution of women to create change and build inclusive societies in the Mediterranean region through leadership and innovative initiatives in the private and public sectors and in civil society. In two panel discussions, experts and outstanding women and men who engage in the cause for gender equality and women empowerment will discuss key challenges and opportunities, strategies and achievements for leading positive change by women.

- Panel 1: Women leaders in business and social changes
- Panel 2: Driving women's participation in public life and decision making

12:30-13:30: Lunch break

13:30-16:00: Plenary session 2: Shifting stereotypes and social barriers

Gender roles are social roles. However, just like we do not speak about racial roles or class roles, we should not think about gender roles as "given" or as "fair" or "natural". This plenary session explores what are ways to question and deconstruct gender roles in order to achieve more equality between men and women. Three panel discussions embark on discussing the role of men and private sector including media to shift stereotypes and create more equal and inclusive societies.

- Panel 3: The role of men
- Panel 4: The role of private sector and Media
- Panel 5: Combating violence against women and girls

16:00-16:30 Coffee/Networking break

16:30-18:30 Parallel workshops

1: Empowering women in rural and agriculture areas

2: Women in Sciences and innovation (STEM)

3: Investing in sexual and reproductive health

20:00 Dinner hosted by the Portuguese government

11 OCTOBER

9:00-10:30 Tomorrow's change makers – Youth for women's empowerment

This session will give the stage to young leaders engaged in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment: the first part features the outcomes of the Youth Forum held on October 9th in which representatives from youth organizations discuss and develop innovative solutions and recommendations for women's empowerment. In the second part of the session, outstanding young change makers from the Euro-Mediterranean region will present their projects and initiatives.

10:30-11:30 Wrap up of workshop outcomes

11:30-12:00 Coffee/Networking break

12:00-13:00 Closing ceremony

13:00 Lunch break

SIDE EVENTS

- **REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT, 9 OCTOBER 2018**

The UfM dialogue on women empowerment, between governments and the concerned stakeholders, has started in 2015 with the objective to review countries and stakeholders' engagements in the Euro-Mediterranean and to provide recommendations for the policy makers to advance gender equality agenda in the region. "Women Economic Participation", "Combating violence against women" and "the role of women in peace and security agenda" are three of the four priority areas agreed with countries to be topics of the dialogue.

The event will be the first review meeting after the adoption of the UfM fourth Ministerial Declaration on strengthening the role of women in society, adopted during the Ministerial meeting held in Cairo, Egypt on 27 November 2017 and we expect it to validate the indicators for the follow-up mechanism foreseen in the Declaration.

- **WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS' FORUM: PROMOTING WOMEN BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, 9-11 OCTOBER 2018**

Organized in partnership with UNIDO, The Forum will be the business window of the Conference. The 2018 edition aims at building skills, connecting and empowering female entrepreneurs to start, grow and sustain their enterprises in a competitive environment that will lead towards a direct impact on the economy as well as the entrepreneurial ecosystem. The forum's agenda will include B2B networking, product and business concept exhibition and specific panels and keynote addresses with participation of high-level business experts and policy makers that will offer knowledge and advice on various business opportunities, good practices and success stories in doing business in the areas of ICT and food sector applying innovative technologies.

- **EURO-MEDITERRANEAN YOUTH FORUM SHAPING THE DIGITAL FUTURE, 9-11 OCTOBER 2018**

After the success of last year's youth forum co-organized by Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung's and UfM, the Euro-Mediterranean Youth Forum 2018 aims at providing young participants, coming from the Euro-Mediterranean countries, with a platform to present and discuss their perceptions and ideas, innovative practices and experiences with Digital Transformation. The overall objective of the forum is to provide recommendations to the UfM women conference's participants regarding Digital Transformation and how young women and men can become involved and engaged in shaping our digital future. Youth forum participants will have the opportunity to attend the 4th UfM women conference and present the youth's recommendations to the conference participants at the final plenary session on the 11th October. The forum's report and final recommendations will be published in the conference report.

- **WOMED – WOMEN OF THE MEDITERRANEAN: NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS, 9 OCTOBER 2018**

WoMED is an innovative high-level training program on women empowerment and gender equality conducted by Sciences Po Paris from 2015-2017 with the support of the French Ministry of European and Foreign affairs, the French Ministry for Women Rights and the Interministerial delegation for the Mediterranean. The WoMED project was labelled by the UfM in 2015 and is part of the UfM Secretariat's global strategy to promote concrete projects for women empowerment and gender equality in the Euro-Mediterranean region. For three successive years, 62 women aged 25 to 35 years old, coming from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Turkey or Tunisia, pursued an intensive training program on leadership and gender equality, with a twofold objective: how to disseminate gender equality principles in the Mediterranean region and how to be part of a lively leading women network.

For the first time Sciences Po will gather all the WoMED participants for an in person one-day event to share their field experiences, reflect upon the impact of the training and brainstorm on their role in building inclusive societies for the Mediterranean. It will be the occasion for them to consolidate their network and launch an internet platform.

- COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE UFM

The committee will hold its meeting and the agenda is currently being elaborated.

Co-organised by:



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