to inform a resilient pandemic recovery and future action for regional commitment to gathering gender-disaggregated data. This working group agreed on the need to coordinate and capitalize on the impact of COVID-19, showing the strong support for action.

A Working Group was launched in March 2021 to select priority indicators by the UfM countries. The outcome was presented and discussed during the UfM Regional Dialogue meeting on Women’s Empowerment and Economic Participation, held on 27 November 2020 in Lisbon. The 20 indicators were endorsed on 30 July 2020, and then during the UfM Regional Dialogue meeting that took place in Barcelona in July 2021. This ongoing reporting validation by Member States, a set of indicators within the framework of the First-ever Intergovernmental Monitoring Mechanism on Gender Equality in the Euro-Mediterranean Region, will provide both qualitative and quantitative data on the 6 priority areas:

- Raising girls’ and women’s education level and enrollment rates,
- Raising women’s economic participation,
- Promoting women’s equal participation in decision-making,
- Combating violence against women and girls,
- Promoting legal frameworks to promote and monitor equality and non-discrimination, and
- Promoting women’s access to sexual and reproductive health care, information and services.

The 6 indicators are:

- Proportion of seats held by women in governments.
- National laws and policies in place to promote women’s economic participation.
- Progress made on women’s rights and to work collectively to accelerate women’s full 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.
- Achieving gender equality for the current generation of working-age women in MENA could add as much as 310 million to the GDP of the region by 2030. (Global Gender Gap Report 2020)
- Monitoring the progress report will allow monitoring of the gender gap and provide data for scientific-based policy recommendations to decision-makers, in particular those related to non-discrimination, violence against women and girls, education and media.

The UfM is coordinating with Member States as they make progress towards achieving the objectives of the Gender Equality Indicators in MENA and the UfM countries.

- Women’s Empowerment and Economic Participation
- Raising girls’ and women’s education level and enrollment rates
- Promoting women’s equal participation in decision-making
- Combating violence against women and girls
- Promoting legal frameworks to promote and monitor equality and non-discrimination
- Promoting women’s access to sexual and reproductive health care, information and services

After the overall validation, the Gender Indicators will be used to build the next Ministerial Declaration in 2022.