

HIGH-LEVEL  
CONFERENCE ON

# WOMEN FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

30–31 MAY 2024 /  
NICOSIA, CYPRUS

#WOMEN4  
MEDITERRANEAN



Union for the Mediterranean  
Union pour la Méditerranée  
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط



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# AGENDA

## BACKGROUND

Building upon the discussions of its last [High-Level Conference “Women for the Mediterranean”](#), which took place on 26-27 October 2022 in Madrid, Spain, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the Commissioner for gender equality of the Republic of Cyprus will co-organise the **High-Level Conference on May 30-31 2024, in Cyprus.**

This strategic gathering aligns with the Republic of Cyprus' commitment to positive societal change and comes at a crucial juncture, as the country prepares to assume the EU Council Presidency in the first semester of 2026.

The 2024 UfM High-Level Conference “Women for the Mediterranean” represents an opportunity to discuss **the Roadmap for implementation 2024-2025**, aiming at operationalising the [5<sup>th</sup> UfM Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society](#), adopted in October 2022 in Madrid.

The Roadmap for implementation 2024-2025 is the outcome of a process initiated with the adoption of the 5<sup>th</sup> UfM Ministerial Declaration and culminated within the [UfM Regional Dialogue Platform on Women Empowerment](#) which took place on 14 December 2023 in Barcelona, Spain. The Platform serves as a critical forum for advancing gender equality in the Euro-Mediterranean region and for emphasizing concrete steps to empower women and address gender disparities in society.

Moreover, the UfM launched the first-ever Intergovernmental Monitoring Mechanism on Gender Equality in one of the Senior Official Meetings of the UfM Member States in 2020. This ongoing reporting exercise allows measuring the progress made on women's rights and providing policy recommendations to close the gender gap in the region. The first exercise was conducted during the Covid pandemic and was published in March 2022 showing the impact this crisis had on women.

The High-Level Conference of 30-31 May 2024 in Cyprus will enable a concrete discussion, exchange of lessons learned, and presentation of good practices from all over the region on the concrete actions that need to be undertaken to effectively improve gender equality in the Euro-Mediterranean context.

The main topics of the Ministerial Declaration, namely (i) Women Economic Empowerment, (ii) Women and Climate Change, and (iii) Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), will be tackled and discussed during each one of the three sessions within the 2-day conference. Moreover, a specific panel on Gender stereotypes and media will allow to showcase Cyprus' and other countries' good practices on this specific issue. The ideas generated during the High-Level Conference on Women's discussions will directly shape the concrete initiatives and actions to operationalize the RoadMap for Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration 2024-2025.

## OBJECTIVES

The overarching objective of the conference is to advance the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration's roadmap, addressing critical areas crucial for gender equality in the region. The specific goals include:

- 1. Roadmap Implementation:** Delve into the roadmap for implementation of the 5th UfM Ministerial Declaration, emphasizing its key pillars: women's economic empowerment, gender and climate change, violence against women and girls, and media and gender stereotypes.
- 2. Good Practices Exchange:** Facilitate the exchange of successful practices, with a particular emphasis on UfM countries' achievements, providing a platform for dialogue between regional stakeholders and fostering collaborative efforts.
- 3. Thematic Focus Areas:**
  - **Women Economic Empowerment:** Explore inclusive labor markets, successful practices for female entrepreneurship, and leadership roles for women, identifying challenges and strategies for progress.
  - **Gender-just Response to the Climate Crisis:** Address the intersection of gender equality and climate change, focusing on policy actions, finance, and resilience-building in agriculture, energy, and environmental sectors.
  - **Violence Against Women and Girls:** Examine the multidimensional impacts of crises, emphasizing prevention strategies, collaboration between legal systems and civil society, and support for survivors.

- **Media and Gender Equality:** Investigate media's role in shaping gender norms, discussing challenges, and proposing strategies for fostering gender-sensitive content.

This conference stands as a pivotal moment to translate commitments into tangible initiatives, amplifying UfM countries' contributions and fostering collaborative efforts for lasting gender equality in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

# AGENDA

## High-Level Conference on Women for the Mediterranean Royal Hall, Nicosia, Cyprus, 30-31 May 2024 Conference Room: Grand Hall Constanza

*As general approach for the two days, the panelists will be requested to focus on solutions, good practices, and commitments for the future*

### Day 1: May 30, 2024

#### Roundtable: 10:30-12:15 (Cyprus time) Media and Gender Equality - Shifting Narratives:

Journalists from EU and Non-EU countries will be gathered in Cyprus to exchange on challenges and good practices on the Media narration on Gender Equality. A rapporteur for each thematic area will intervene in the Thematic Panel of Day 2 to bring the Media perspective in the debates.

#### Opening Ceremony 15:00-15:30 (Cyprus time)

- H.E. **Costantinos Kombos**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Cyprus
- H.E. **Josie Christodolou**, Commissioner for Gender Equality, Republic of Cyprus
- H.E. **Nasser Kamel**, Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean
- H.E. **Basheer Zoubi**, Jordanian Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus
- European Commission (TBC), UfM co-presidency

#### UfM Co-presidency: Focus on the RoadMap for Implementation 2023-2025 of the Ministerial Declaration :15:45-16:00 (Cyprus time)

#### Roundtable 1: Women Economic Empowerment - 16:00-17:00 (Cyprus time)

##### Enabling conditions and supporting ecosystem for Inclusive economies

- **Simbarashe Sibanda** - Regional Advisor, Women's Economic Empowerment, UN Women Regional Office for Arab States
- **Wendy Teleki** - Head, Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (WE-FI)
- **Rania Tarazi** - Gender Team Leader, UNDP
- **Micheline Massaad** - Executive Director, National Commission for Lebanese Women (Lebanon)

#### Regional and National Programmes for women financial and digital inclusion in the region

- **Anne-France Wittman** - Programme Officer, DG NEAR
- **Amr Soliman** - Board Member, National Council for Women (Egypt)

#### Roundtable 2: Gender Equality and Climate Change - 17:00-18:00 (Cyprus time)

##### National good practices

- **Cristiana Carletti** - Roma Tre University, Seconded at Italian MFA and International Cooperation
- **Fedoua Deroiche** - UfM Gender Focal point (Tunisia)

##### Nexus on Gender Equality and Climate Change and Inclusive Food systems

- **Antonella Autino** - Coordinator of the Future4prima project, PRIMA
- **Chiraz Bensemmane** - Founder of Pitch World Fast (Algeria)

#### Roundtable 3: Violence Against Women and Girls - 18:00-19:00 (Cyprus time)

##### Regional Perspective

- **Simone Briony Louise Oluoch-Olunya** - Regional Governance adviser, UNWOMEN

##### National good practices

- **Sakina Yabouri** - UfM Gender Focal Point (Morocco)
- **Cordialina Coppola** - Department for Equal Opportunities, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Italy)
- **Hanna Nakhleh** - UfM Gender Focal Point (Palestine)
- **Laia Rosich Solé** - Director General for Eradication of Gender-based Violence, Ministry for Equality and Feminisms, Government of Catalonia, (Spain)

#### Networking Cocktail - 19:00-20:00 (Cyprus time) (at the conference venue)

## Day 2: May 31, 2024

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### Key note speech “Gender Justice” - 9:15-9:30 (Cyprus time)

**Ms Clara Magahani**, Governance Public Sector Specialist, World Bank Group (Egypt)

### Session I: Women Economic Empowerment in the Regional Crisis Context - 9:30-10:30 (Cyprus time)

**Moderator: Giulia Maria Ferraresi**, Project Analyst, Social and Civil Affairs Division, UfM

#### Inclusive labour market policies

- **Outi Karkkainen** – Gender Focal Point, European Training Foundation ETF
- **Meriem Chehah** - Chair & Founder of Algerian Women Foundation (Algeria)

#### Women in Leadership and Decision-making

- **Rana Boulos** – Global Women Forum
- **Kenza Benmoussa** - WeCaN Network (Morocco)
- **Anna Kyprianou** - Legal Counsel, Board Secretary of Business and Professional Women (Cyprus)

### Presentation of UfM-IEMed MedWE policies studies publications “Towards More Inclusive Economies: Advancing Women’s Economic Empowerment in the Mediterranean Region”

**10:30 - 11:00 (Cyprus time)**

**Gemma Aubarell**, Director of Culture, Gender, and Social Affairs Department of IEMed

**Coffee/Networking Break - 11:00-11:30 (Cyprus time)**

### Session II: Female Entrepreneurship 11:30-12:30 (Cyprus time)

**Moderator: Anna Dorangricchia**, UfM Project Manager Social and Civil Affairs

#### Successful tools to promote female entrepreneurship and access to finance

- **Ayah El Arief** - MENA Women Business Club (Egypt)
- **Hala Barakat** - AUC CEI (Egypt)
- **Hiba Abulibdeh** - Woman entrepreneur Sunergy (Palestine)
- **Raouia Kheder** – Journalist, RTCI (Tunisia)
- **Ana Lite** - Assistant-Deputy Director for female entrepreneurship, gender equality in companies and collective bargaining, Institute of Women (Spain)

### Session III: Climate Crisis and Gender Equality in the Euro Mediterranean Region: emerging security risks- 12:30-13:30 (Cyprus time)

**Moderator: Gemma Aubarell**, Director of Culture, Gender, and Social Affairs Department of IEMed

- **Sarine Karajerjian** – Arab Reform Initiative ARI (Lebanon)
- **Noura Abdelwahab** – Lead Gender Expert – IWMI (Egypt)
- **Manale Abou Dagher** - Lebanese American University
- **Suzanne Baaklini** – Journalist, L'Orient le Jour (Lebanon)

### Lunch Break - 13:30-15:00

### Session IV: Violence Against Women and Girls - 15:00-16:30 (Cyprus time)

**Moderator: Cristina Mas**, Journalist, Diari Ara

#### VAWG: multidimensional impact

- **Thaker Alzghool** - EuroMed Feminist Initiative (EFI)
- **Jahda Aboul Kalil** - Arab Women Forum Disability
- **Rana Hussein** – Journalist, Jordan Times (Jordan)
- **Andri Andronikou** - Executive Director of the Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family (Cyprus)

### Takeaway session 16:30-17:00 (Cyprus time)

Different representatives of the various thematic panels which took place during the day, will gather for 30 minutes debrief session in which the main takeaway messages and recommendations from each panel will be highlighted.

### Closing Remarks 17:00-17:15 (Cyprus time)

**Amb. John Paul Grech**, Deputy Secretary General, Social and Civil Affairs, UfM

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