



Union for the Mediterranean
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UfM TECHNICAL MEETING ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

12 DECEMBER 2024
ATHENS, GREECE

UfM Technical meeting on Women Empowerment: *roadmap for Implementation and monitoring mechanism*

Concept Note and Agenda

12 December 2024, Athens, Greece

Venue: Titania Athens Hotel (<https://www.titania.gr/titania-athens-hotel/>)

Background:

The UfM Technical Meeting on Women Empowerment provides an expert forum for addressing gender equality in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Grounded in the [5th UfM Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society](#), adopted in October 2022, this meeting aims to gather insights, foster exchange, and build data-driven approaches that support gender equality policies.

Since 2020, the UfM has maintained [the first-ever Intergovernmental Monitoring Mechanism on Gender Equality](#), an initiative launched at a Senior Official Meeting to allow for progress measurement on women's rights. The [inaugural report](#), published in March 2022, highlighted the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on women, setting a foundation for subsequent monitoring.

Throughout 2023 and 2024, regular online Working Group meetings and the High-Level Conference on Women for the Mediterranean (May 30-31, 2024) served to gather insights, review critical indicators, and prioritize recommendations to feed the Roadmap for Implementation (2024-2025) of the Ministerial Declaration. This December 12th meeting aims to further advance this work by gathering technical exchanges and inputs on the essential Ministerial Declaration's themes and collecting data to support future policy formulation.

As mentioned during the last meeting of the Regional Platform in 2023, in view of a more effective coordination between the drafting and implementation of the RoadMap of the Ministerial Declaration and the reporting exercise on the UfM Gender indicators¹, **you are kindly request to fill-in [the online survey](#) by November 25th.**

The results of the survey will be presented and discussed during the technical meeting on December 12th which will be focused on the two following items:

¹ The full list of indicators is available here [Intergovernmental Monitoring Mechanism on Gender Equality in the Euro-Mediterranean region](#)



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- Working on the Roadmap for implementation's themes: (i) Women Economic Empowerment, (ii) Gender Equality and Climate Change, (iii) Violence Against Women and Girls, and (v) Women, Peace, and Security where Women Leadership and Gender Stereotypes are considered as cross-cutting approaches.
- Launching of the second reporting exercise on the UfM Gender indicators

Thematic Focus Areas:

1. **Women's Economic Empowerment:** This segment will delve into the critical pathways for women's empowerment in labor markets, entrepreneurship, and leadership roles. It will explore strategies for creating more inclusive economies that support female-led businesses and professional advancement while identifying key barriers to achieving these goals across UfM countries.
2. **Gender-just Response to the Climate Crisis:** Recognizing the intersection of gender and environmental challenges, this session will address the urgent need for gender-sensitive climate policies and actions. Emphasis will be placed on resilience-building in sectors such as agriculture, energy, and environmental sustainability, along with discussions on gender-responsive financing and policy frameworks that support climate resilience for women.
3. **Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG):** This session will tackle the multidimensional impact of violence against women, particularly in crisis contexts. Discussions will focus on strategies for VAWG prevention, collaboration across legal systems, and support systems for survivors. Participants will highlight the roles of civil society, government, and regional organizations in advancing the safety and rights of women and girls.
4. **Women, Peace, and Security (WPS):** As part of the EU and MENA region's efforts to fulfill the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda, this segment will provide a forum to discuss the intersection of climate change, peace, and security which presents unique challenges for the MENA region, a region highly vulnerable to climate risks such as water scarcity, desertification, and extreme weather events. Climate-related shocks exacerbate social inequalities, displacement, and competition over resources, often leading to heightened tensions and insecurity. Women in the MENA region bear the brunt of these challenges due to existing gender inequalities, but they also play critical roles in fostering community resilience and sustainable resource management. Despite these contributions, women's leadership in addressing climate-related security risks remains limited, both at the policy and community levels.



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Specific Objectives:

The **UfM Technical Meeting on Women Empowerment** aims to:

1. Collaboratively develop the Roadmap draft by integrating insights and input from meeting discussions, ensuring a clear outline of strategic priorities, actionable steps, and key milestones.
2. Exchange good practices and experiences in gender equality focus topics
3. Discuss current data and identify needs for future Gender Monitoring Mechanism reporting.

The five panels that will take place throughout the technical meeting will serve as a forum for exchanging lessons learned and good practices, with contributions from country representatives, experts, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and stakeholders. Beyond the specific presentations by keynote speakers, each panel will facilitate concrete exchanges on the identified topics, making stakeholders' insights and contributions pivotal to further shaping the draft Roadmap document.

Draft Agenda:

Event Date: December 12, 2024

Venue: Titania Athens Hotel (<https://www.titania.gr/titania-athens-hotel/>)

Time	Session
08:30 - 09:00	Registration
09:00 - 09:30	Opening Remarks and Setting the scene
09:30 - 11:00	Session 1: <i>Thematic focus on Women Economic Empowerment</i>
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30:12:30	Session 2: <i>Thematic focus on Gender & Climate Change</i>
12:30 - 13:30	Session 3: <i>Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)</i>
13:30 - 14:30	Lunch
14:30 - 15:45	Session 4: <i>Thematic focus on Women, Peace, and Security Agenda</i>



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15:45 - 16:00	Coffee Break
16:30 - 17:30	Session 5: <i>Follow-up on the Gender Monitoring Mechanism and launching of the 2nd reporting exercise</i>
17:30 - 18:00	Wrap-up and next steps