

# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Exploring the Gender,  
Climate Change, and  
Security Nexus within the  
Euro-Mediterranean Region

**7 MARCH 2025**  
10:00 - 12:00 CET [ONLINE]



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

**IEMed.**  
European Institute of the Mediterranean



The UfM Secretariat  
is co-funded by the  
EUROPEAN UNION

With the financial support of:



# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Exploring the Gender,  
Climate Change, and  
Security Nexus within the  
Euro-Mediterranean Region

7 MARCH 2025  
10:00 - 12:00 CET [ONLINE]

## Concept Note

REGISTRATION LINK HERE



The Euro-Mediterranean region is increasingly recognized as a climate change hotspot, facing rising temperatures, prolonged droughts, and an escalation in extreme weather events. These climatic changes, above all in the context of rising conflicts such as those around the Mediterranean in recent years, worsen existing vulnerabilities, especially for women, who are disproportionately affected by deeply entrenched gender inequalities. Indeed, women face barriers in land ownership, healthcare access, securing agricultural inputs, and decision-making, which hampers their resilience to climate change and limits their ability to adapt to its adverse consequences.

In conflict-prone areas, climate change acts as a stress multiplier for displacement and instability. “Ecomigration,” or climate-induced migration, has been identified by researchers as a significant cause of both psychological and physical strain, with women being more vulnerable to its effects. Additionally, when communities migrate due to droughts or sea level rise, the potential for intergroup tensions and violence increases. This is particularly true in vulnerable regions where the journey of forced migration is marked by social and economic losses, including the disruption of communities, livelihoods, and safety, which can expose migrants—especially women—to trauma and violence.

As climate change exacerbates displacement and intensifies competition for scarce resources and livelihoods, the risk of violent clashes is in turn heightened, threatening human security, and hindering conflict recovery and peacebuilding in various contexts. Women, who frequently bear the brunt of these challenges due to gender inequalities and their important positions in their communities, are further marginalized by systemic neglect and inadequate policy responses. The gendered impact of climate change is therefore strictly connected to the United Nation’s Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Agenda.

Despite these challenges, the narrative of women as mere victims of climate change oversimplifies their role. Across the region, women have emerged as agents of resilience and leaders in climate adaptation. Concrete examples from MENA countries highlight women’s transformative contributions to resource management, especially in situations of conflict and occupation, local enterprise development, and sustainable practices. Moreover, in the context of migration, when households are headed by women because men are obliged to leave in search of new livelihoods due to climate change or their



# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Exploring the Gender,  
Climate Change, and  
Security Nexus within the  
Euro-Mediterranean Region

**7 MARCH 2025**  
10:00 - 12:00 CET [ONLINE]

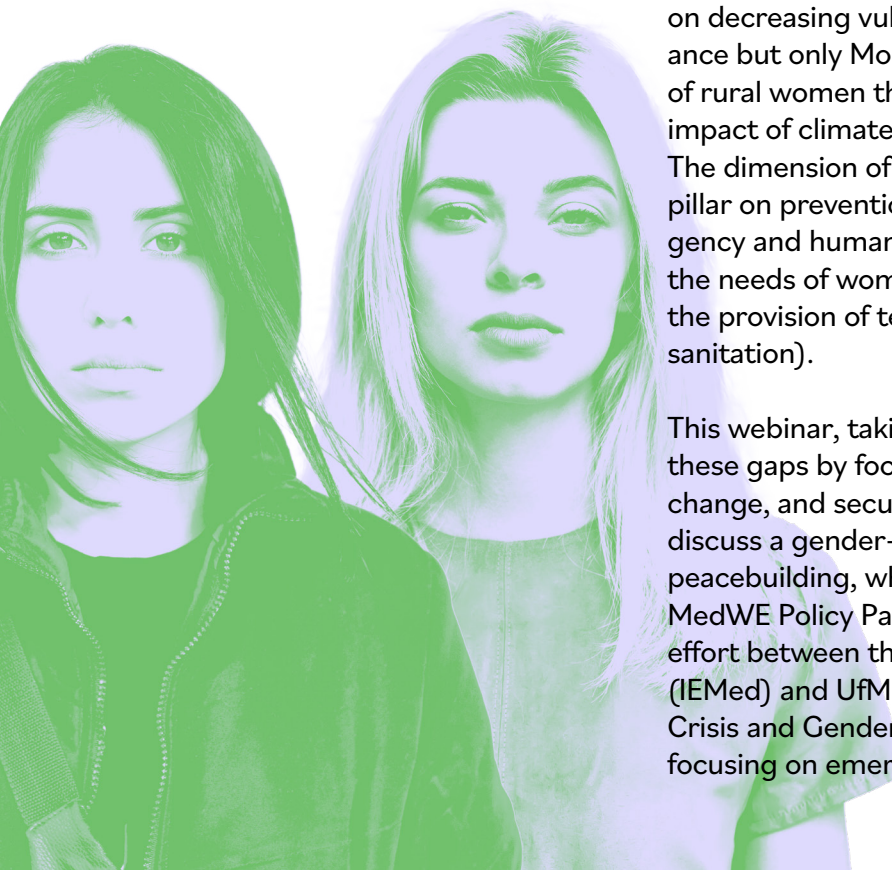
<sup>1</sup> UNWOMEN, *Facts and figures: Women, peace, and security* <https://www.unwomen.org/en/articles/facts-and-figures/facts-and-figures-women-peace-and-security>

involvement in armed war, women often have to negotiate with local leaders to secure their roles in society and the economy as well as their safety. This places them in leadership positions but also increases their risk of gender-based violence. Yet, according to UNWomen, women have only accounted for 9.6% of negotiators, 13.7% of mediators, and 26.6% of signatories to peace and ceasefire agreements in 2023. This underlines a flagrant female underrepresentation in key decision-making spaces, including peacebuilding, disaster risk reduction (DRR), and climate governance frameworks<sup>1</sup>.

Indeed in the last Report on WS of the SG of the UN (September 2024) it was acknowledged that country and regional-level implementation of the WPSA is a proactive measure against climate-related security risks. Only recently regional and national action plans are integrating climate considerations. The report stressed as well the pivotal role of young women to addressing the intergenerational challenges: the commitment to enhancing their leadership on climate and peace and security must be supported by resources in relation to development opportunities and access to debate and decision-making.

The 2023 Regional Report Implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda in the Arab region (ESCWA) highlighted the under the Pillar of Prevention of the NAPs, one the focus is on decreasing vulnerability to shocks and promoting self-reliance but only Morocco refers to strengthening the resilience of rural women through targeted measures to mitigate the impact of climate change on their livelihoods and well-being. The dimension of natural disasters is present under both the pillar on prevention and relief and reconstructions (e.g Emergency and humanitarian actions requiring consideration of the needs of women and girls include (but are not limited to) the provision of temporary shelter; access to food, water and sanitation).

This webinar, taking place on 7 March 2025, will address these gaps by focusing on the intersection of gender, climate change, and security. It will provide a platform to promote and discuss a gender-responsive approach to climate change and peacebuilding, while also launching the second UfM-IEMed MedWE Policy Paper. This year's edition of the collaborative effort between the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) and UfM explores indeed the links between Climate Crisis and Gender Equality in the Euro-Mediterranean Region, focusing on emerging security risks.



# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Exploring the Gender,  
Climate Change, and  
Security Nexus within the  
Euro-Mediterranean Region

**7 MARCH 2025**  
10:00 - 12:00 CET [ONLINE]

## Possible discussion topics

Some of the following identified gaps and recommendations stem from the Report of the Second meeting of the Women, Peace and Security Working Group in the Arab States/MENA that took place in Geneva, Switzerland, in September-October 2024, and from the different contributing articles constituting the second MedWE Policy Paper.

### **1. Including the Gender dimension in Climate adaptation and displacement & Gender mainstreaming:**

- Addressing the gaps in policy and legal frameworks as they often neglect women's roles in the fight against climate change. It is necessary to embed women's needs and contributions into national climate strategies, DRR plans, and legal frameworks.
- Reforming laws and policies to promote women's leadership in climate adaptation and green economies.

### **2. Promoting Women's leadership and knowledge exchange:**

- Fostering inclusive professional environments at systemic level that enable women to lead DRR and resilience initiatives. – How can systemic barriers be addressed?
- Highlighting successful women-led projects, such as resource management practices in the region – which can serve as replication models to be used.

### **3. Advancing Women's participation in security and peacebuilding:**

- Supporting regional coalitions to foster collaboration, solidarity, and the inclusion of local voices in global WPS discussions.
- Examining grassroots and community engagement of women in peace and security processes, as a parallel phenomenon to negotiations at higher levels.

### **4. Long-Term Sustainability of WPS Initiatives:**

- Studying women's involvement in climate challenges, including reforestation, water sanitation, rehabilitation of farmland, and the use of climate-friendly materials and methods in reconstruction.
- Enhancing multi-year funding and coordination for WPS projects, particularly in conflict-affected regions, to ensure sustainable impact.
- Embracing AI as a tool to support inclusive peacebuilding and mitigate threats, with a particular focus on gender-related risks.



# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Exploring the Gender,  
Climate Change, and  
Security Nexus within the  
Euro-Mediterranean Region

**7 MARCH 2025**  
10:00 - 12:00 CET [ONLINE]

## Specific Objectives of the Webinar

**1. Raise awareness:** highlight the intersection of climate change, gender equality, and peacebuilding, by showcasing examples of how climate change exacerbates gender disparities. The objective will focus on raising awareness of women's unique challenges and their opportunities to contribute to this framework.

**2. Promote and exchange good practices:** share examples of successful women-led initiatives in climate adaptation and peacebuilding, fostering knowledge exchange among stakeholders.

**3. Encourage multi-stakeholders' collaboration:** facilitate dialogue among international organizations, regional think tanks, and gender equality advocates to build synergies in addressing shared challenges and avoid selective engagement.

**4. Official launch of the second UfM-IEMed MedWE Policy Paper "Climate Crisis and Gender Equality in the Euro-Mediterranean Region - emerging security risks":** present the findings and policy recommendations from the UfM-IEMed collaboration.

**5. Identify key next steps for advancing Women's role in Climate Change Governance and Peacebuilding Processes** and explore strategies to make resolutions more accessible and actionable for all stakeholders.



# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Exploring the Gender,  
Climate Change, and  
Security Nexus within the  
Euro-Mediterranean Region

**7 MARCH 2025**  
10:00 - 12:00 CET [ONLINE]

## Agenda

**10:00 - 10:10**

### Welcome and Opening Remarks

- **Stephen Borg**, Deputy Secretary General, Social and Civil Affairs Division, UfM

**10:10 - 10:30**

### Launch of the second UfM-IEMed MedWE Policy Paper **“Climate Crisis and Gender Equality: Emerging Security Risks in the Euro-Mediterranean Region.”**

- **Gemma Aubarell**, Director of Culture, Gender, and Civil Society at the IEMed
- **Sarine Karajerjian**, Programme Director, Arab Reform Initiative
- **Zeina Moneer**, Expert of international environmental politics and climate practitioner

**10:30 - 11:45**

- **Rania Tarazi**, Gender Team Leader, UNDP
- **Saira Ahmed**, Focal Gender point, UNDRR Arb States
- **Sarah Rabie**, Climate, Peace and Security Specialist, CGIAR
- **Anthi Brouma**, Deputy Regional Director, Global Water Partnership-Med
- **Sarra Messaoudi**, Regional Lead, MENA Coalition On Youth, Peace and Security
- **Khouloud Ben Mansour**, African Union Youth Ambassador of Peace to North Africa (Tunisia)

Moderator: **Anna Dorangricchia**

**11:45 - 11:55**

### Q&A

- Open discussion with Q&A from the audience

**11:55 - 12:00**

### Closing Remarks