



Union for the Mediterranean
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UfM NETWORK OF CLIMATE, WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

19-20 November 2025
Amman

OUTCOME
DOCUMENT



BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The **Regional Workshop and Stakeholders Dialogue on the nexus on Climate and Women, Peace, and Security (WPS)** organized by the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) in Amman, Jordan, on 19–20 November 2025, convened around 80 stakeholders among National Women's Machineries, environment ministries, climate focal points, UN agencies, regional organizations, civil society, and think tanks academia.

The event, held in partnership with the **Jordanian National Commission for Women (JNCW)**, and **UNDP**, marked an important milestone for regional cooperation with the **launch of the UfM Climate and WPS Network**.

This new mechanism aims to strengthen coordinated action across the Mediterranean to address the interconnected challenges of climate change, gender inequality and peace, and security.

Sessions during the two-days event (1 full day and a half of Capacity Building Workshop and half day of Stakeholder Dialogue) provided evidence on how climate impacts exacerbate insecurity, conflict, and gender inequalities, while highlighting pathways to integrate climate and WPS mandates across national and regional policies. A new conceptual framework on how to make the nexus Climate and WPS actionable in

the planning, implementation and monitoring of Climate and WPS Policy Frameworks and Action Plans was provided by UNDP Arab Office Gender team: the framework will inform the development of a guidance note that can guide the future work of network members. The participants, through working group interactive sessions, were requested to reflect and contribute to the main pillars of the guidance note. During the Stakeholder Dialogue, the UfM officially launched the **Climate-WPS Network**, outlining its vision, governance and work priorities for 2026. The Regional Network, with its Knowledge Hub and Guidance Note, forms an interconnected system where the Network drives action, the Hub provides expertise, and the Note serves as a practical tool.

The Network is built on three thematic pillars, **data and evidence, capacity building and skills, policy advocacy and the Knowledge Hub**, which will deliver its first **Regional Policy Report in 2026**, mapping the climate-WPS landscape, identifying gaps, and offering actionable recommendations. This report will explicitly promote the UNDP Guidance Note, creating synergy between evidence generation and implementation. Governance of the Network will involve a Steering Committee and thematic working groups, with membership drawn from governments, UN agencies, civil society, youth, academia, and regional organizations via an Expression of Interest process.

The event represented a milestone in moving from fragmented initiatives to a unified regional platform capable of generating actionable knowledge, strengthening institutional coordination, and promoting women's leadership across climate-security governance.



SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS: CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP

Session 1: Building a Network on Climate and Women, Peace, Security: Resources Mapping Consultations and Knowledge Hub

The session opened by identifying a major gap in the MENA region: the lack of structured initiatives that connected the Women, Peace and Security agenda with climate change action, resulting in siloed policies and missed opportunities for integrated responses. The

gaps on the WPS–climate nexus. The session emphasized that the network’s development was being driven through collaborative stakeholder consultations, positioning the Amman event as a milestone in building a unified regional agenda from the ground up.

Session 2: Status of the Nexus of Climate Change and WPS in the Southern Mediterranean

This session - with interventions from UN Women Regional Office for Arab State, ESCWA, and FAO experts - underscored how climate change acted as a threat multiplier across the region, complicating recovery and peacebuilding efforts in conflict-affected contexts such as Gaza and Syria. While several Arab states have adopted WPS National Action Plans (NAPs), speakers highlighted the significant gap between policy development and implementation, particularly the weak integration of climate considerations. Women’s cooperatives emerged as essential local stabilizers, yet policies such as WPS NAPs and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) continued to be developed in isolation, limiting their effectiveness.

Across the UfM MENA region, only two National Action Plans (NAPs)—those of Palestine and

Jordan—make any reference to climate issues. Among them, Jordan’s plan stands out for explicitly addressing how climate-related insecurities affect peace and stability. This gap highlights a broader opportunity: weaving climate and environmental concerns into the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda could help governments tackle the deeper causes of insecurity while also strengthening women’s leadership in areas such as natural resource management, climate adaptation, and disaster response.

A similar pattern appears in the region’s Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Only five countries—Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia—refer

to gender in a substantive way. This underscores the need for institutional strengthening to ensure that NDCs incorporate a genuinely gender-responsive perspective.

Because both WPS frameworks and NDCs are nationally owned policy instruments, they offer governments an important avenue to address

proposed UfM Network was presented as a necessary solution to bridge these divides and “connect the dots” between fragmented communities. A central focus was the introduction of the Knowledge Hub as the network’s operational engine, envisioned not as a static repository but as a dynamic mechanism to consolidate regional evidence and address data



climate-related security challenges through a gender lens. Linking women's roles in resource mediation, peacebuilding, and adaptation could help integrate climate security more meaningfully into national strategies.

Discussions pointed to compounded vulnerabilities facing women, major policy and data gaps, and the need to move from conceptual frameworks toward coordinated, actionable guidance, climate-responsive financing, and meaningful recognition of women as agents of climate-resilient peace.

Session 3: Arab States Conceptual Framework on the Nexus between Climate change and WPS: Laying the foundations for the guidance note

This session introduced a comprehensive, region-specific conceptual framework illustrating the vicious cycle linking climate stressors, conflict dynamics, and gender dimensions of human

fragmentation between WPS, climate action, and disaster risk reduction (DRR) agendas. The session stressed that climate interventions not designed with gender- and conflict-sensitive analysis could unintentionally fuel tensions, reinforcing the need for a practical Guidance Note to support policymakers and promote coordinated, multi-level, context-responsive solutions across sectors and institutions

Session 4: Case studies from Central Asia, Africa, and Balkans on gender-climate-security responses

The session provided a comparative perspective, showcasing how the gender-climate-security nexus manifests and is addressed in different regions. Presenters from OSCE, Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med), SIPRI, and CGIAR, showed how the underrepresentation of women in climate decision-making and persistent gender-disaggregated data gaps produced policies that overlooked gendered

vulnerabilities. Examples from Africa and Central Asia illustrated institutional fragmentation and the “homelessness” of the nexus within governments, as well as the risks of climate interventions that ignored local power dynamics. The discussion also highlighted the need for holistic capacity building, noting that women required not only technical expertise but also diplomatic and leadership skills to navigate male-dominated spaces. Successful models from the OSCE and grassroots cooperatives underscored the importance of regional networks, long-term localized training, and flexible funding to support women-led resilience and peacebuilding efforts.



insecurity, with state fragility highlighted as a core factor undermining resilience, adaptability and mitigation. The framework detailed how climate pressures and conflict mutually reinforce one another, deepening existing structural inequalities and eroding coping capacities. It also underscored the severe gendered impacts from this nexus—from collapsing livelihoods and rising care burdens to increased risks of gender-based violence—while showing that women's knowledge and agency remained largely untapped. The expert underscored the disconnect between global commitments and national implementation, noting that only two WPS NAPs in the region had integrated climate considerations, and reflected on the broader

Session 5: Thematic Working Groups: consultations on the guidance note for the conceptualization of the Nexus Climate and WPS framework aligned with the agenda 2026 of the UfM Network on Climate-WPS. The key inputs are structured around the key stakeholder groups involved in the exercise

National Women's Machineries (NWMs)

They emphasized the need to create a systemic foundation for data and policy coherence, standardize terminology and develop consistent indicators to accurately measure the gender-climate-conflict nexus. Their central concern was establishing integrated national frameworks that

could not only collect this crucial data but also use it to directly inform and reform national policies and action plans and their implementation.

Environmental Ministries

They identified a critical technical and capacity deficit within their own institutions and explicitly called for more technical data on climate change's differentiated impact on women and clearer conceptual definitions of the nexus. They highlighted that current climate policies (NDCs, NAPs) are insufficiently gendered and stressed the urgent need for enhanced skills in gender-climate analysis, policy-writing, and budgeting to effectively mainstream the nexus into their core work. They also emphasized the need for interministerial committees as well as

break down silos and better connect grassroots work with national frameworks.

Session 6: Initial proposals for structure, goals, secretariat, thematic working groups of the Network

The UfM presented initial proposals for the structure and goals of the new Climate-WPS Network, framing it as the central mechanism for advancing coordinated regional action. The model outlined a participatory governance system to be launched through a call for Expressions of Interest, with the UfM serving as the initial secretariat responsible for coordination and financial sustainability. The network's work would be organized around thematic working groups supported by the Knowledge Hub designed to generate evidence and drive implementation.

The session highlighted the interlinked architecture between the Network, the Knowledge Hub, and the Guidance Note, with the 2026 Regional Policy Report positioned as a foundational output that would map regional needs and provide actionable recommendations for member states.



Session 7: Presentation of the Knowledge Hub and Designing the structure of the first regional report on the Nexus of Climate Change and WPS (2026)

This session outlined the strategic vision for the Knowledge Hub as the central component of the Climate-WPS Network, designed to bridge gaps between climate resilience, peacebuilding, and gender equality. It introduced an innovative cluster-based model intended to avoid traditional silos and ensure

the engagement of the parliamentarians through relevant parliamentary committees such as water and energy commissions.

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

They pointed out the disconnection between policy and grassroots reality and the persistent barrier, where data they collect is not recognized or valued by public institutions. Their focus was on the need for localized, context-specific definitions and knowledge, emphasizing that most research is in English and inaccessible from the Arab region. They advocated for mapping the existing ecosystem of actors, upskilling the public sector on the nexus and initiatives to

integrated, nexus-focused analysis. The Hub was presented as a dynamic platform combining research, tools, dashboards, capacity-building activities, and joint advocacy. A major highlight was the design of the first Regional Policy Report for 2026, envisioned as a cornerstone publication that would map the current state of the nexus in the Euro-Mediterranean region, conduct a regional needs assessment, and propose actionable recommendations to guide policy-making and inform the strategic direction of the Climate-WPS Network.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS: DAY 2 - STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE - LAUNCHING THE UfM CLIMATE- WPS NETWORK

Session 1: Opening and High-Level Remarks

The high-level remarks underscored the urgent need for a coordinated regional response to the intersecting crises of climate change, conflict, and gender inequality. Keynote speakers emphasized that women and girls disproportionately

bear the impacts of both climate shocks and violent conflict, yet their leadership as agents of change remains critically under-recognized and under-resourced. The launch of the Network was framed as a foundational step to create a structural space for regional cooperation,

uniting national women's machineries, environment ministries, and civil society to bridge policy silos.

The Sendai Framework's Gender Action Plan (Sendai GAP) was presented as a critical tool for the UfM Climate-WPS Network, providing a structured pathway to integrate gender equality into disaster risk reduction and climate adapta-

tion. The presentation underscored that gender-responsive disaster risk reduction is foundational to climate security and peacebuilding, and outlined how the Sendai GAP's objectives—from enhancing gender-responsive data and governance to directing investments and ensuring “Build Back Better” in recovery—offer concrete mechanisms to strengthen women's leadership, close data gaps, and mobilize financing for more resilient and secure communities.

Session 2: Official Launch of the UfM Climate-WPS Network

The presentation introduced the UfM Network on Climate, Women, Peace, and Security as a cohesive ecosystem for action, built upon three deeply interconnected components: a multi-stakeholder Regional Network that serves as the action community, a dynamic Knowledge Hub that acts as the strategic brain for evidence and learning, and a practical UNDP Guidance Note that provides the operational “how-to” toolkit for integrating climate and WPS agendas into national policies. This triad is designed to work synergistically to break down silos and drive meaningful change.

Session 3: Interactive Dialogue I: Gaps in Policy Coherence on Gender-Climate-Security Nexus : Good practices from the National Gender Machineries (WPS)

The dialogue was framed by the symbolic significance of the 30th anniversaries of the Beijing Declaration and the Barcelona Process, which together offered a strong legacy and mandate for advancing gender equality and regional cooperation. Throughout the discussion, participants from Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, and Palestine stressed that while women were disproportionately affected by the combined pressures of climate change and conflict, they also played a central role as active and effective agents of resilience and inclusive policymaking. The session concluded with a strong call to overcome entrenched silos and reinforce collaboration between national women's machineries, environment ministries, and climate focal points to build coherent and impactful policies.

Session 3: Interactive Dialogue I: Gaps and Solutions in Policy Coherence on Gender-Climate-Security Nexus : Good practices from the Climate Focal Points (NDCs)

The dialogue brought the perspectives of environmental ministries and climate focal points from Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Morocco, underscoring their essential role in integrating gender and security considerations into core climate policies such as Nationally Determined

A strong call to overcome entrenched silos and reinforce collaboration between national women's machineries, environment ministries, and climate focal points to build coherent and impactful policies.



Contributions. A recurring theme was the persistent institutional silos separating environment ministries from national women's machineries, which has contributed to fragmented policies and missed opportunities for synergy. The discussion moved from acknowledging this gap to identifying concrete entry points for integration, including embedding gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive analyses directly into climate adaptation plans, resource management strategies, and national energy policies. Participants emphasized the importance of strengthening existing national coordination mechanisms—particularly inter-ministerial committees on climate change—as practical and efficient platforms for fostering the necessary cross-sectoral collaboration, rather than creating new structures.

Session 4: Interactive Dialogue II: Data gap, Collaborative governance and Monitoring Mechanisms on the Nexus

The session moved beyond simply noting a “data gap” to diagnose a critical “mismatch” between the data being collected and the lived realities of women. The call was for a fundamental shift from purely quantitative data to qualitative, narrative evidence that captures women's stories, perceptions, and community-level expertise as valid and crucial forms of knowledge. The concept of collaborative governance was elevated from simple inter-ministerial cooperation to building an entire “ecosystem” of collaboration. This ecosystem must include national ministries, municipalities, think tanks, scientific bodies, CSOs, and community actors—all working from a shared evidence base to make the nexus operational. The discussion framed indicators not just as monitoring tools, but as mechanisms to force institutional coherence. Proposed indica-

tors, such as tracking gender-mainstreaming in knowledge production and the inclusivity of reconstruction planning, are designed to reveal and address systemic gaps in how institutions approach the nexus.

- The envisioned role of the **UfM Knowledge Hub** was proposed as a regional “dashboard” or safe space for sharing sensitive data, translating community evidence into policy frameworks, and aligning technical data with political realities to build legitimacy for action.

Session 5: Interactive Dialogue III: Boosting Women & Youth Leadership in Climate-Security Planning

The session powerfully highlighted that women and youth are often invited to the table too late in the process, their inputs are devalued, and they are excluded from formal decision-making spaces. Nevertheless, the dialogue showcased powerful examples of women creating their own spaces and reimagining solutions—from local food production initiatives and women-led peace tables to regional feminist advocacy at COPs and pan-African climate academies.

Success stories demonstrated that when provided with targeted training, resources, and platforms, women and youth become powerful leaders in climate adaptation and community resilience. Speakers criticized a funding system that creates competition among grassroots groups, forces them into “silos,” and prioritizes short-term political cycles over the long-term strategies required for sustainable peace and climate security.

CONSOLIDATED MAIN TAKEAWAYS OF THE EVENT

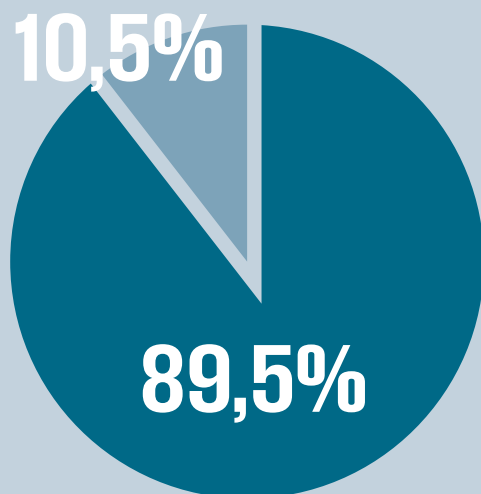
- The new **UfM Climate-WPS Network** fills a unique gap by connecting fragmented actors and enabling coherent, integrated action.
- There is a critical lack of gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive data, **requiring strengthened disaggregated data systems, shared indicators, and a mix of quantitative and qualitative evidence.**
- Policy frameworks remain fragmented (WPS NAPs, NDCs, NAPs, DRR strategies), highlighting the **need for coordinated governance and inter-ministerial mechanisms.**
- Effective climate-WPS action requires **moving from theory to practice**, with practical tools such as guidance notes, shared frameworks, and actionable policy recommendations.
- The **Knowledge Hub is essential to provide evidence, map gaps, curate research, and support policy coherence** across the region.
- Women's leadership is under-recognized and under-resourced, requiring **sustained investment in skills (diplomacy, negotiation, mediation), capacity building, and representation in decision-making. Long-term, regionally aligned capacity-building and networking initiatives are crucial** to sustain momentum and embed gender and conflict sensitivity in climate action.
- **Local actors and community knowledge**—especially women's cooperatives and grassroots organizations—**must be recognized, supported, and funded** as key agents of resilience and peace.
- **Climate finance must be more accessible**, flexible, and directed to women-led and local organisations rather than only to large infrastructure projects.
- **Collaboration and trust-building between institutions**, sectors, and data holders is essential for effective governance of the nexus.
- A **multi-level and inclusive approach** is needed, ensuring top-down policies align with local realities and that women and youth are engaged from the earliest stages of planning.



FEEDBACK & RECOMMENDATIONS

Following the event, a feedback survey was circulated among participants in order to assess the overall quality of the workshop, the relevance of the content delivered, and the extent to which the event met participants' expectations, as well as to collect qualitative insights to inform future activities. The survey collected feedback from 19 respondents, representing mainly civil society organisations, UN agencies, think tanks and research institutions, with a strong geographical focus on the **Southern and Eastern Mediterranean**, particularly **Jordan (around 47%)**, followed by **Egypt (15,8%)**, **Lebanon (10,5%)** and several other UfM member countries (Greece, Italy, Tunisia, Spain, and Sweden). Overall appreciation of the workshop was very high: **89.5% of respondents rated the extent to which their expectations were met as high or very high** (scores 4 or 5).

OVERALL WORKSHOP'S APPRECIATION



Participants consistently highlighted the **practical relevance of the knowledge and methodological tools acquired**, stressing that these can be directly applied within their organisations' work and policy activities. Another recurring theme across written responses was the **quality of the workshop design and facilitation**, which was described as enabling effective learning, constructive exchanges and meaningful discussions. Several respondents also emphasised the **value of networking**

opportunities, noting that the workshop helped them establish useful contacts and partnerships and strengthened their professional skills and competencies. In addition, participants widely recognised the **role of the UfM as a well-placed platform to facilitate dialogue and cooperation on the WPS-climate nexus**, underlining the importance of maintaining and further developing such a forum in the future. In their responses, participants highlighted challenges related mainly to the need for sustained follow-up beyond the event, deeper engagement with national and local stakeholders, and further opportunities to operationalise the knowledge and tools discussed.

Furthermore, during the two-days event, participants and experts noted persistent policy silos between climate, gender, and security fields, compounded by major gaps in gender-disaggregated, conflict-sensitive, and qualitative data that capture local dynamics, informal governance systems, and emerging sources of risk. The workshop emphasized that women and youth are central actors in resilience and peacebuilding but remain under-recognized and insufficiently included in decision-making, leadership pathways, and climate finance access.

In this context, participants recommended:

- the **new Knowledge Hub must move beyond being a static repository and instead provide structured, two-way information flows** that elevate local knowledge to inform national policymaking;
- the **need to integrate conflict-sensitivity and gender-responsive risk scans** into climate and WPS policies and to make **informal governance systems visible**;
- the urgency to translate **policies into practical implications** for peripheral communities and to
- generate behavioural insights that **explain why certain measures succeed or fail in different contexts**.

Overall, participants' recommendations underscored the need for **coordinated regional mechanisms**, stronger **inter-ministerial collaboration**, **improved data systems**, **accessible finance** for women-led initiatives, and a **dynamic Knowledge Hub capable of bridging systemic gaps** to support climate action that reinforces social cohesion, inclusion, and peace.

NEXT STEPS & CONCLUSIONS

This dialogue successfully diagnosed the interlinked challenges of climate change, conflict, and gender inequality in the Mediterranean, identifying critical gaps such as a shortage of gender-disaggregated data, policy silos, and insufficient financing. Most significantly, the workshop officially launched the pioneering Union for the Mediterranean Regional Network on Climate, Women, Peace, and Security (Climate-WPS Network), establishing

a vital engine for collective action. Furthermore, participants co-created the foundations for solutions, providing concrete input for a future Knowledge Hub, collaborative governance models, and a practical Guidance Note to integrate climate and gender perspectives into national policies.

Upcoming next steps include:

- launching a formal Expression of Interest to expand the Network's membership;
- consolidating all inputs into a co-created roadmap and action plan for 2026;
- actively beginning the work of structuring the Knowledge Hub and finalizing the practical Guidance Note to ensure a swift transition from dialogue to tangible impact.
- Co-designing Regional Capacity-Building Programmes within this context for 2026.





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is co-funded by the
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