



ARAB INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S FORUM
المنتدى العربي الدولي للمرأة



CENTER for MEDITERRANEAN
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AIWF and the Center for Mediterranean Integration to host a joint high-level conference on 'Women, Water & Youth: Perspectives from the MENA Region' in Amman, Jordan in September 2018

MEDIA ADVISORY

XX August 2018 – The **Arab International Women's Forum (AIWF)** and the **Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI)** are proud to announce that they will jointly host a high-level conference on *Women, Water & Youth* in Amman, Jordan on 26-27 September 2018.

Women, Water & Youth takes a unique intersectional approach in that it will explore how economic losses arising from water scarcity and food insecurity are further compounded by two other critical development challenges that the MENA region faces - the first of these is the extraordinarily low rate of female participation in the Arab labour force overall, and the second is the high rate of youth unemployment in the Arab world.

The programme directly addresses the role of women in water governance in the region, examines the potential of entrepreneurship, social enterprise, 'smart' technology and 'edtech' innovation in building youth capacity in the Arab water sector, as well as the critical challenge of refugee empowerment in the context of water scarcity and food insecurity in the region. The conference ultimately aims to deliver actionable solutions to mitigate all identified challenges through multi-level engagement, dialogue, innovation and collaboration.

Women, Water & Youth is a milestone in AIWF's 17-year advocacy for sustainable empowerment, economic opportunity, education, mobility and prosperity for women and young people in the Arab world. Addressing key development challenges as well as opportunities for economic growth and progress benefitting women and young people in the Arab world, the conference objectives and programme have been designed in collaboration with world leading subject matter specialists at the CMI who have extensive and unparalleled expertise in the MENA region and beyond, in helping countries achieve transformative reforms, advancing refugee inclusion, promoting labour mobility, building economic and social cohesion, cross-border trade, investment, and scientific and cultural exchange to enhance Mediterranean integration.

In Amman this September, AIWF and the CMI will jointly deliver a high-impact programme of sessions in a 2-day, uniquely interactive format and in a supportive environment, to nurture connectivity and develop the next generation of global business and sustainability leaders and innovators. AIWF and CMI will bring government representatives, the private sector, civil society, women and youth together to innovate new solutions for the food and water crises in the MENA and better understand how these challenges impact the lives of women and young people.

Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani, Founder & Chairman of the Arab International Women's Forum, said: "In its 17-year history as one of the Arab world's leading development organisations, the Arab International Women's Forum has long been at the forefront of action in the region on critical development and sustainability challenges. Our collaboration with the Center for Mediterranean Integration follows a long history of partnership with the World Bank Group in both Washington DC and across the MENA region on high-level international initiatives to support and empower women's leadership and youth outreach."

Mrs Al Kaylani continued: "This September's *Women, Water & Youth* joint conference with the CMI comes at a pivotal time in which regional and international attention is turning to the key challenges that our conference programme will bring to light in Amman - namely, water scarcity and food security challenges which have been compounded by the unprecedented refugee and displacement crisis; women's economic participation in the region which remains low despite the significant advancements made in education, entrepreneurship and gender diversity across most of the Arab world over the last decade; and the ongoing challenge of youth unemployment in the MENA States. AIWF has long been committed to raising these and other critical issues that impact women and youth in the Arab world and we are exceptionally proud to be working once again with world class conference partners including the CMI, the Union of Arab Chambers, and our AIWF Global Partners PepsiCo and PwC, to bring key sustainability issues to the top of the Arab development agenda and to facilitate the necessary collaboration and connectivity to find viable, long-term and equitable solutions for these challenges."

Blanca Moreno-Dodson, Head of the Center for Mediterranean Integration, said: "Achieving water security in MENA requires an all of society engagement. The Center for Mediterranean Integration has recognized this and spearheaded multiple regional initiatives aiming at supporting and empowering youth to tackle water challenges in the Mediterranean including the launching and facilitation of the Mediterranean Water Youth Network (MedYWat)."

The conference programme for 'Women, Water & Youth' has been carefully designed to align closely with the core priority policy areas of AIWF and the CMI, and includes sessions on:

Women and water governance in the MENA

Gender equity in sustainable agriculture and food production

Building youth capacity to address water scarcity challenges in the Arab water sector through entrepreneurship and social enterprise

Building capacity for women and youth in the Arab water sector through 'smart' technology and edtech innovation

Impact of water scarcity in the MENA refugee and internal displacement crisis

Reflections of women leaders and young innovators addressing water scarcity, sustainability, environmental and development challenges in the MENA region

The conference Opening Sessions will be addressed by **Her Excellency Hala Bseiso Lattouf**, Minister of Social Development, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and **Tessa Terpstra**, MENA Regional Envoy for Water and Energy Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands in Jordan. AIWF is honoured to have their valued presence and to hear their distinguished keynote addresses elaborating on innovative Jordanian and European initiatives in the areas of water governance, resource management, and gender equity in sustainable agriculture, as well as the impact of the refugee crisis on Jordan's water scarcity challenges and social development programmes.

The Arab International Women's Forum is proud to welcome Distinguished Guest Speakers addressing the AIWF conference 'Women, Water & Youth: A MENA Perspective', representing conference partners the CMI, the World Bank and the Union of Arab Chambers, as well as the following global organisations: The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; the International Labour Organisation; the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; the United Nations Development Programme; the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA); CIHEAM Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari; the Arab Women Organisation; Harvard University; and the Water Authority of Jordan, among others.

AIWF and the CMI are proud to welcome PepsiCo and PwC Middle East as Conference Supporting Partners for 'Women, Water & Youth'. PepsiCo, as AIWF Benefactor Partner, has long supported and endorsed the AIWF mission and has helped AIWF to activate its agenda for enhanced economic participation and opportunities for women and young people in the MENA region and beyond. AIWF is proud to have the confidence of PepsiCo as Conference Supporting Partner for 'Women, Water & Youth', and to have the valued support of PwC Middle East, which as a valued AIWF Global Partner has worked in longstanding partnership with AIWF on initiatives to promote and nurture Arab and international women in business and the professions so that they may share in the economic growth and development of the MENA region, most notably the *Young Arab Women Leaders* conference series which AIWF and PwC jointly launched in 2011 to support the next generation of young women in business, academia and public service.

AIWF and the CMI look forward to working closely with all Conference Supporting Partners, distinguished Speakers and valued delegates and participants to deliver a unique and exceptional opportunity for global and emerging leaders alike to network and learn from each other whilst examining key environmental, empowerment and development challenges in the MENA region and internationally.

To register your interest in attending this conference in Amman, please visit <https://womenwater youth.eventbrite.co.uk>.



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Confirmed speakers for 'Women, Water & Youth'

Confirmed speakers for the AIWF / CMI *Women, Water & Youth* Conference in Amman in September include:

Opening Session Keynote Speakers

Haifa Al Kaylani, Founder & Chairman of the Arab International Women's Forum

Blanca Moreno-Dodson, Manager of the Center for Mediterranean Integration

HE Hala Bseiso Lattouf, Minister of Social Development, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

HE Mr Nael Al Kabariti, Chairman of the General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture for Arab Countries and the Chairman of Jordan Chamber of Commerce and Aqaba Chamber of Commerce

Tessa Terpstra, MENA Regional Envoy for Water and Energy Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, Jordan

Professor Fadia Kiwan, Director General, Arab Women Organization

PANEL 1

Women and water governance in the MENA

Janet Heckman, Managing Director SEMED, European Bank for Reconstruction & Development, Egypt

Susan Kilani, Assistant Secretary General for Laboratories & Quality Affairs, Water Authority of Jordan

Lara Nassar, Regional SuSanA Coordinator (WANA Region), Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association, Jordan

Israa Alassa, Deputy Coordinator of the Palestinian Water Authority Youth Committee, Palestine

PANEL 2

Gender equity in sustainable agriculture and food production

Moderator, Roula Khadra, Senior Researcher / International Officer, Land & Water Resources Management, CIHEAM-Bari, Italy

Wafaa Al Dika Hamze, Former Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, CIHEAM Board Member, National Commission for Lebanese Women, Agriculture and Rural Development Specialist, Lebanon

Laurent Debroux, Program Coordinator for AG, ENV, NRM and Climate Change, The World Bank, Lebanon

Wafaa Ramadneh, Programme Officer Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition, FAO Jordan

Juan Antonio Sagardoy, Former FAO Officer, International Consultant, Co-author of Passport to mainstreaming gender in water programmes, Spain

Souha Gamri, PhD Water Irrigation Systems, Member of the Mediterranean Youth for Water Network (MedYWat), Tunis

PANEL 3

Building youth capacity to address water scarcity challenges in the Arab water sector through entrepreneurship and social enterprise

Amal Talbi, Lead Water Resource Management Specialist, The World Bank, Lebanon

Montgomery Simus, Co-Founder AquaShares Inc, Senior Fellow, Harvard Advanced Leadership Initiative 2015 – 2017, Board Member, Bayat Foundation Afghanistan

Lamis Qdemat, Social Entrepreneur & Founder of Water Heroes app, Palestine

PANEL 4

Building capacity for women and youth in the Arab water sector through 'smart' technology and edtech innovation

Reem Najdawi, Executive Director, ESCWA Technology Centre, Lebanon

Dr Rana Dajani, Rita Hauser Fellow, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University; Associate Professor Molecular Cell Biology, Biology Department, Hashemite University; Founder of We Love Reading, Jordan

Dr Lahbib Latrach, young water entrepreneur and winner of the CMI 2018 Water Heroes contest, Morocco

PANEL 5

Impact of water scarcity in the MENA refugee and internal displacement crisis

Dr Samuel Rizk, Manager, Sub-Regional Response Facility (Syria Crisis), United Nations Development Programme

Dr Fawwaz Ayoub Momani, Associate Professor of Psychological Counselling, Director of the Refugees, Displaced Persons, and Forced Migration Studies Centre, Yarmouk University, Jordan

Patrick Daru, Senior Skills and Employability Specialist & Coordinator for Amman Decent Work Country Programme, International Labour Organization, Jordan

Kholoud Al Ajarma, Programs Manager, Lajee Center, Palestine

PANEL 6

Reflections of women leaders and young innovators addressing water scarcity, sustainability, environmental and development challenges in the MENA region

Moderator, **Asma Bachikh**, Former President, Water Youth World Parliament

Malak Issa, Head of Design Review Section / Technical Affairs Directorate, Palestinian Water Authority, Palestine

Dr Hussam Hussein, Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Kassel (Germany), Vice-Coordinator of the Mediterranean Youth Water Network, Jordan

Maha Al Salehi, Water professional (EMWIS, MedYWat Member) and Youth Activist, Yemen



THE ARAB INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FORUM: A DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION LEADING THE WAY FORWARD FOR WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE ARAB WORLD AND INTERNATIONALLY

The Arab International Women's Forum (AIWF) is a non-profit development organisation that has members and contacts in more than 45 countries and links Arab business and thought leaders with each other and their counterparts in the international community to exchange knowledge, experience and develop their business potential.

Founded in London in 2001, AIWF is today recognised in the international development community as a powerful advocate for women in business, entrepreneurship, academia and public service. AIWF's growing role to promote and advance legislative rights for the participation of Arab women has been distinguished by collaboration with, among others, the League of Arab States, the European Commission and European Parliament, UN organisations and agencies, the MENA-OECD Investment Programme, women's business councils in the Arab States, the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, International Chambers of Commerce and globally recognised institutes of higher and further education.

International conferences have been held in London, Paris, Dubai, Doha, Damascus, Washington DC, Madrid, Brussels, Sharjah, Cairo, Amman, Beirut, Palestine, Kuwait and Morocco, examining strategies for job creation, inclusive sustainable growth, economic competitiveness, development of human capital, increased innovation and collaboration through public-private partnership and multi-stakeholder engagement and dialogue.

AIWF's keystone initiative, the *Young Arab Women Leaders Conference Series* launched in 2011 by AIWF in partnership with Global Partner PwC, provides a platform for young aspiring Arab women to support, engage and network with mentors in political, economic and social leadership roles in the Arab world. AIWF is also pleased to partner with the International Bar Association Legal Practice Division (IBA/LPD) *Initiative for Women Business Lawyers* to develop and support women in commercial law in the Arab region and advance gender diversity in law and the professions.

Supported fully by a global network of partners, the Arab International Women's Forum continues to build on its core mission and momentum to achieve sustainable empowerment for women and youth, and to champion a concerted drive at the highest levels to advance gender equality in the Arab world.



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CMI IS ALL ABOUT PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTIONABLE KNOWLEDGE

The Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI) is a multi-partner platform where development agencies, Governments, local authorities and civil society from around the Mediterranean convene in order to exchange knowledge, discuss public policies, and identify the solutions needed to address key challenges facing the Mediterranean region, thus furthering the "Mediterranean public good" debate.

Members of the CMI include Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region, City of Marseille, the European Investment Bank and the World Bank Group, and the European External Action Service (EEAS) as an observer.

The CMI nurtures strong partnerships with a variety of institutions, among which: Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Anna Lindh Foundation, Union for the Mediterranean (UFM), Islamic Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), and others. Full list of partners on: www.cmimarseille.org.

By acting as a center for technical excellence that links knowledge to operations and reforms on the ground, the CMI complements the work of the Union for the Mediterranean, Mediterranean research institutes, and other regional partners.

STRATEGIC ORIENTATIONS

Under the overarching umbrella and unifying theme of Mediterranean integration for development, the programs of the CMI are structured around three interrelated dimensions: Creating Economic Opportunities, Promoting Inclusiveness, and Empowering the Population, with an additional cross-cutting dimension of "security and development".

FOCUS ON YOUTH AND WATER

The CMI places youth and gender at the center of its work by adopting youth and gender as cross-cutting themes. CMI themes systematically integrate youth and gender components, as part of the "Empowering the Population" dimension, and also in connection with the refugees and water agendas. In this context, the CMI Water Program aims at preventing water scarcity and supporting adaptation to and mitigation of climate change effects in the Mediterranean by providing capacity-building and green entrepreneurship opportunities (targeting youth) revolving around water, as a way to leverage untapped potential in the region with positive socio-economic and environmental outcomes.

Web: www.cmimarseille.org; **Facebook:** CMI Marseille; **Twitter:** @cmimarseille