



ARAB INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FORUM

المنتدى العربي الدولي للمرأة

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AIWF Founder & Chairman's Message

As Founder & Chairman of the Arab International Women's Forum (AIWF), I am proud to share with you this edition of the AIWF Newsletter for July / August 2019. In this issue, we report on AIWF's current outreach, advocacy and initiatives, including the highly successful conference *Women Leaders & Health* held in partnership with the University of Massachusetts Medical School and the American University of Beirut on 16-17 April 2019 in Lebanon.

Women Leaders & Health was held under the esteemed Patronage of **HE Mr Saad Hariri**, President of the Council of Ministers, Lebanon, and brought women leaders in medical education and healthcare delivery together to examine key empowerment strategies for women in these critical sectors. The impactful recommendations emerging from conference discussions in Beirut, as well as the high-level workshop the following day on refugee maternal health, were documented in a Special Report launched by AIWF in June 2019. Some of the key recommendations of *Women Leaders & Health* are also summarised in this issue.

The conference initiative was another demonstration of AIWF's solid commitment to empowering women in STEM leadership and in public service, and of AIWF's ability to bring women business, STEM, sustainability and humanitarian leaders together to engage with core complex issues with real significance for women and young people in the region. AIWF looks forward to working with our conference partners, distinguished Guest Speakers and our international network of advocacy partners, to realise the recommendations that emerged from *Women Leaders & Health* in our future programmes and initiatives.

In this rich issue of AIWF News, I am also proud to update our valued members, partners and friends on the upcoming conference to be held in partnership with the American University in Cairo, *Women as Engines of Economic Growth: Empowering women innovators, entrepreneurs, executives and educators towards fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals*. AIWF is proud to be working with the American University in Cairo under the leadership of



Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani, Founder & Chairman, Arab International Women's Forum, with His Excellency Mr Saad Hariri, President of the Council of Ministers Lebanon, and Dr Fadlo Khuri, President of the American University of Beirut

The Arab International Women's Forum was proud to hold a high-level conference on *Women Leaders & Health* in Lebanon in April 2019, in partnership with the University of Massachusetts Medical School and the American University of Beirut. The conference delivered an outstanding and rich full day of conference discussions on empowering women in the critical medical and healthcare delivery sectors. In June 2019, AIWF launched a special Report & Recommendations emerging from the *Women Leaders & Health* initiative. **Full story on page 4.**

Upcoming AIWF Events

AIWF to partner with the American University in Cairo on 'Women as Engines of Economic Growth'

AIWF is proud to partner with AUC on this leading conference in Cairo in parallel with AUC's Centenary Year Celebrations. The Conference will examine strategies for empowering women innovators, entrepreneurs, executives and educators towards the fulfilment of the SDGs in the MENA Region. The conference will be addressed by women leaders from Egypt, the broader MENA region, the UK, Europe and the United States, and will produce actionable recommendations for empowering women as engines of economic growth and development in the Arab world and beyond.

Further details on page 8.

16-18 September 2019 Cairo, Egypt

Ambassador Francis Ricciardone, President of AUC, and to be building on the momentum of the successful 2019 AIWF Annual Programme. It is a privilege to be collaborating closely with AUC on this initiative as part of the University's Centenary Year Celebrations, and we take this opportunity to congratulate Ambassador Ricciardone and the valued AUC Community on this important milestone.

I am also pleased to update our valued partners and members on some of AIWF's other initiatives, activities and outreach in this period and of my engagements and initiatives as Chairman of the Arab International Women's Forum. In April 2019, I attended the League of Arab States End Hunger in the Arab World Sub Committee meetings in Cairo, where I delivered a keynote presentation on one of the key outcomes of my Harvard Fellowship, Haseel for Sustainable Agriculture. Haseel is a sustainability enterprise project I have launched in pilot phase in Jordan to address key economic, food and water security challenges in the Arab world and to find solutions to ending hunger through sustainable agriculture. It was truly inspiring to be there for the full two days of meetings addressing key issues of water scarcity and food security in the region, with panels of leading experts from the Arab world and international community, and I commend and congratulate the League of Arab States on all their valuable work in this important endeavour under the leadership of **Dr Nada El Agizy**, Director, Sustainable Development and International Cooperation, League of Arab States.

Also in April, I was proud to deliver a Keynote Address at the ILO Summit in Amman held in celebration of the ILO Centenary and in my capacity as a Commissioner of the ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work, lending my insights on solutions to future of work challenges in the region and specifically Jordan in the context of the ILO's report and framework published in January 2019. The Summit was an outstanding success for the ILO and its partners in Jordan, drawing the support of Jordanian government officials at the highest levels and promoting opportunities to support and invest in economic participation and social cohesion for Jordanian women and youth.

In May 2019, I was invited to deliver the Guest of Honour Keynote Address at the American University of Beirut at the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences Reception honouring the Graduating Class of 2019, at the kind invitation of **Dr Rabi Mohtar**, Dean of FAFS at AUB. It was indeed a pleasure to meet many of the next generation of young leaders in sustainability at such a very special moment in their personal and professional lives. I am pleased to have had this important opportunity to extend to The Class of 2019 the warmest congratulations of AIWF on their valuable achievements in graduating from the prestigious AUB

programme that truly leads the way both regionally and globally in agricultural economics, food science and nutrition and the environmental sciences.

I truly believe that for the MENA region, reviving the rural economy requires investment and support for entrepreneurship in agriculture. This is a pivotal moment for these young leaders as the conditions for success in entrepreneurship in the MENA agricultural sector and rural economy are ripe and the sector is ready and open for innovative minds to reform the way the rural economy works and indeed to transform the entire food chain. Technological innovation, entrepreneurship and social enterprise within sustainable agriculture could undoubtedly provide a vital solution to the youth unemployment crisis in the region and could also spark exciting discoveries of new techniques and technologies that can support sustainable agriculture in the MENA region and beyond. It was indeed an honour to be in the company of the young leaders who will be leading the way forward for the region in addressing these critical sectors.

The themes of my FAFS Graduation Address resonated deeply at the dual launch of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)'s *Global Food Policy Report: Revitalizing Rural Areas in Lebanon* and the Soft Launch of WBG's DigitalAG4MENA, both held at FAFS at AUB on 18 June 2019 and which I was honoured to attend. IFPRI's landmark report reviewed major food policy developments as well as challenges and opportunities for 2019 at the global and regional levels that deeply affect rural people worldwide and especially in the MENA region.

A highly topical and informative panel discussion featured **Julian Lampietti**, Manager for the Global Agriculture Practice in the Middle East, North Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, World Bank, on the launch of the DigitalAG4MENA competition, an opportunity to crowdsource innovative tech-based solutions to raise efficiency, equity and environmental sustainability of food systems in the MENA region. **Clemens Breisinger**, Senior Research Fellow and Country Program Leader for IFPRI Egypt, presented the IFPRI Report's key findings on empowering rural women to participate in rural revitalization, and emphasised that rural revitalization is "critical, timely, and achievable and that addressing the rural crisis will help the region achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and alleviate the impacts of climate change". I am pleased to share that I have been subsequently invited by the IFPRI Egypt to author an article for its online publication, representing a key opportunity for AIWF to contribute our insights on these critical topics through the lens of women's empowerment and young engagement.

On 28 June 2019, AIWF was represented by AIWF Global Partner Boodle Hatfield's **Shaima Jillood** at the Global Women Inventors & Innovators (GWIIN) Conference & Awards Ceremony held at the headquarters of the Arab British Chamber of Commerce, AIWF Institutional Partner. AIWF is deeply appreciative of the partnership and friendship of GWIIN, founded by **Dr Bola Olabisi**, from AIWF's earliest days. The GWIIN Conference was truly engaging, attended by a group of inspirational women innovators. In her address, titled *Arab women as innovators, leaders and drivers of change*, Mrs Jillood discussed the key barriers that are holding women back in the MENA region, and offered her thoughts on achieving gender parity to empower and support women as drivers of economic growth. AIWF extends its warmest thanks to Mrs Jillood for representing AIWF on this special occasion and congratulates Dr Olabisi and the team and members of GWIIN on their milestone 21st Anniversary this year.

In early July, I was honoured to be invited by AIWF's Institutional Partners the Arab British Chamber of Commerce to address the *Arab British Economic Summit 2019: A Shared Vision* in London, and to participate on a key panel titled *Agriculture and Water Security*. It was indeed an honour to contribute my reflections on the link between agriculture and economic stability in the region, to support the call for investment into the MENA agricultural sector, and to call for greater recognition of the important role of women and young people in developing innovative, technology-based solutions to rural and regional challenges around sustainability, food security and water scarcity. All of us attending were most impressed by the strength of the Summit programme and the exceptionally high calibre of all Keynote speakers as well as the high level of attendees representing British and Arab governments, the private sector, business associations and investment initiatives. AIWF joins me in extending our warmest congratulations to our partners at the ABCC on the success of this important Summit in London.

Following the ABES 2019 Summit, it was a privilege for me to be invited to attend the Chatham House Gender & Growth Forum 2019 on 08 July 2019, *Shaping the Future*, and participated on a key panel titled *Women's entrepreneurship in the MENA region*, joining a distinguished panel of highly engaging and expert speakers including **Farmida Bi**, Chair, Europe, Middle East and Asia, Norton Rose and **Salma Al-Rashid**, Head of Delegation, W20 Saudi Arabia. I was honoured to be attending this high-level gathering, and to have the opportunity to speak about AIWF and our eighteen year-strong mission to empower women entrepreneurs. I was pleased to share key recommendations around empowerment, funding and legislative reform as proposed by partners at the



Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani, Founder & Chairman, Arab International Women's Forum, delivered a Keynote Address at the Arab British Chamber of Commerce Economic Summit 2019 in London

World Bank, the OECD and the ILO, and to highlight several excellent initiatives within the region that are supporting entrepreneurs in scaling their ventures and in doing so, are changing the landscape of entrepreneurship in the Arab world and opening up new windows of opportunity for women- and youth-led innovation.

The subject of women's entrepreneurship is going to be at the core of our forthcoming conference this year at the American University in Cairo to be held on 16-18 September 2019 in partnership with AUC and as part of the University's Centenary Year celebrations. The conference programme highlights key priority areas for both AIWF and AUC and will bring into focus: Women's leadership and gender diversity on corporate boards and in family business; Women's entrepreneurship and SME development, women in the rural / agricultural sectors and the informal economy; Women's critical role in public service and policy-making to advance legislative reform and societal progress; and Future of work challenges for women and young people in the MENA region.

On behalf of the Board of the Arab International Women's Forum, I wish to take this opportunity to extend my thanks and deepest appreciation to all our valued members, partners and friends of AIWF. We look forward to welcoming you all to key events and initiatives throughout the AIWF 2019 Programme and looking ahead, we look forward to sharing details of the exciting programme being prepared for 2020. We trust you will enjoy this rich and impactful issue of AIWF News.

Haifa AlKaylani

Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani
Founder & Chairman
Arab International Women's Forum

AIWF holds highly successful Women Leaders & Health Conference in Lebanon in April 2019 in partnership with the University of Massachusetts Medical School and the American University of Beirut

On 16-17 April 2019, the Arab International Women's Forum was proud to hold a high-level Conference in partnership with the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS) and the American University of Beirut (AUB) in Beirut, Lebanon on *Women Leaders & Health: Empowering women leaders in innovation, medical education and healthcare delivery*.

Taking forward the momentum that AIWF has created through recent and highly successful STEM-focused initiatives in Amman (*Women, Water & Youth* in September 2018) and London (*Women-Led Innovation in STEM* in September 2018), the *Women Leaders & Health* initiative examined strategies to foster an inclusive and empowering environment for women-led innovation, research and discovery in medicine and healthcare delivery by learning from regional and international best practices and the vital experiences and valuable strategies of women leaders themselves. The Conference was held under the esteemed Patronage of **His Excellency Mr Saad Hariri**, President of the Council of Ministers, Lebanon, who also delivered the Guest of Honour Keynote Address on this special occasion.



AIWF Chairman Haifa Al Kaylani and Dr Fadlo Khuri, President of the American University of Beirut

The conference was an outstanding success for AIWF, UMMS, AUB and all valued stakeholders, bringing into focus key challenges and opportunities for women's leadership in medical education, healthcare delivery, STEM, research, innovation, sustainability and international development and drawing the Arab public and private sectors, international development organisations and institutes, civil society, women and youth together.



HE Mr Saad Hariri, President of the Council of Ministers of Lebanon, delivered the Guest of Honour Keynote Address at Women Leaders & Health in Beirut in April 2019

The conference programme was greatly enriched by the invaluable input and collaboration of the valued expert colleagues of University of Massachusetts Medical School led by **Dr Michael Collins**, Chancellor of UMMS, and the American University of Beirut, under the leadership of **Dr Fadlo Khuri**, AUB President. *Women Leaders & Health* was also supported by all AIWF Global Partners with special recognition to Pfizer and PwC as Conference Supporting Partners, who share in the AIWF mission for a sustainable and equitable future for Arab women and young people and lent valuable contributions to the development of the conference programme as well as to the implementation of all conference logistics on the ground.

The AIWF Board was proud to have welcomed Distinguished Guest Speakers representing the University of Massachusetts Medical School, the American University of Beirut, St Marks Hospital in London, Pfizer Biopharmaceuticals and King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, among others. The interaction that took place between Distinguished Guest Speakers and participating Delegates, attending from Lebanon, across the MENA Region, the UK, EU and the US, was deeply impactful and highly insightful, as evidenced by the rich recommendations to emerge from the conference discussions. AIWF remains deeply appreciative to all valued and highly accomplished Guest Speakers who generously contributed their time, expertise, invaluable experiences and professional insights to the success of the conference.

The Opening Session was addressed by **Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani**, Founder & Chairman of AIWF; **Dr Fadlo Khuri**, President of the American University of Beirut; and **Dr Mohamed H Sayegh**, EVP Raja N Khuri Dean, Faculty of Medicine & Professor of Medicine and Immunology at the American University of Beirut. In her Keynote Address, Mrs Al Kaylani restated the commitment of AIWF to bringing together forward-focused stakeholders at every level to find



Dr Aceel Alanizi, Founder & Director, Luxury Healthstyle & Founder of Wisal, UK, speaking on 'Advancing women's leadership and entrepreneurship in healthcare and the sciences'

innovative solutions to a diverse and complex range of empowerment challenges faced within the region and internationally, including women in all STEM sectors. The full day of impactful conference sessions then explored capacity building for women in medicine through technology, training, intra/entrepreneurship, executive leadership and social enterprise. Conference participants also heard the deeply valued reflections of women leaders on meeting the region's most critical health challenges through cross-border collaboration, capacity building, medical education and initiatives to improve gender diversity in medicine and the health sciences.

The first panel of the day, *Transforming medical education for the next generation of women in medicine and health sciences*, was chaired by **Dr Zeina Kanafani**, Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases, Hospital Epidemiologist, American University of Beirut Medical Center, Lebanon, and welcomed as Distinguished Guest Speakers **Dr Naila Arebi**, Consultant Gastroenterologist St Mark's Hospital and The London Clinic, Chairman of Medicine and Director IBD Service, St Mark's Hospital, United Kingdom; **Dr Zakia Dimassi**, Research Associate at the Office of the Associate Dean for Medical Education at the Faculty of Medicine, American University of Beirut, Lebanon; **Dr Rana Sharara-Chami**, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Pediatric Critical Care, Director, Pediatric Residency Program, Director, Simulation Program, American University of Beirut, Lebanon; and **Dr Luanne Thorndyke**, Professor of Medicine, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, University of Massachusetts Medical School, United States. The session was dedicated to exploring exciting opportunities for the next generation of women in medicine and the healthcare sciences to engage with world class medical education towards greater inclusion for women in the medical profession in the Arab world and globally.

Panel 2, *Advancing women's leadership and entrepreneurship in healthcare and the sciences*, was chaired by AIWF Global Partner and valued Board

Member **Dr Oualae El Alami**, Vice President for Egypt, Levant, Iraq and Iran, Pfizer Biopharmaceutical Group, United Arab Emirates, and was focused on exploring strategies for building capacity for women in medicine through technology, training, intra/entrepreneurship, executive leadership and social enterprise. The session welcomed the valued insights and experiences of **Dr Aceel Alanizi**, Founder & Director, Luxury Healthstyle & Founder of Wisal, United Kingdom; **Lina Nabulsi**, Technical Director, Jordanian Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Co, Jordan; **Mais Najib**, Former Director, Global Head of Health Economics, Stallergenes, France; **Dr Rihab Nasr**, Associate Professor in the Department of Anatomy, Cell Biology and Physiology, Faculty of Medicine, American University of Beirut, Lebanon; and **Dr Lina Oueidat**, Advisor to the Prime Minister & National ICT Coordinator, Lebanon.



Dr Lina Oueidat, Advisor to the Prime Minister & National ICT Coordinator, Lebanon

The final panel of the day, *Reflections of women leaders in healthcare and medical education: Mentoring next generation, women-led innovation, discovery and leadership in medicine and health sciences*, brought together Arab and international women leaders to elaborate on the impact and potential of women-led innovation and empowering women to deliver viable solutions to the region's most critical health challenges through cross-border collaboration, capacity building, medical education and initiatives to improve gender diversity in medicine and the health sciences. The panel was chaired by **Dr Samia Khoury**, Associate Dean for Clinical and Translational Research, Professor of Neurology and Immunology, American University of Beirut, Lebanon; and was addressed by **Nancy Sunna**, Senior Medical Manager, Pfizer Biopharmaceuticals, Lebanon; **Dr Maha Al Mozaini**, Immunocompromised Host Research at King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre and Member of the Arab Women Council Board of Trustees, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; **Dr Muntaha Gharaibeh**, Former Member of the Board of Directors of the Healthcare Accreditation Council Jordan; and **Dr Janet Hale**, Professor of Nursing,



Dr Naila Arebi, Consultant Gastroenterologist St Mark's Hospital and The London Clinic; Chairman of Medicine and Director IBD Service, St Mark's Hospital, United Kingdom

Associate Dean of Interprofessional and Community Partnerships at the Graduate School of Nursing, University of Massachusetts Medical School, United States.

A half-day interactive workshop following the conference on 17 April 2019, titled *Addressing maternal and child health in conflict/vulnerable settings in the MENA region*, welcomed distinguished speakers representing the World Bank, the ESCWA Center for Women, the Ministry of Public Health in Lebanon, the Lebanese Order of Midwives, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and Mediciens Sans Frontieres. The workshop was opened by **Haifa Al Kaylani** and chaired by **Dr Faysal El-Kak**, Vice President of the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO), Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Health Sciences, American University of Beirut (AUB), Lebanon, Clinical Associate of Obstetrics and Gynecology, AUB Medical Center, Advocate for Women's Health, Lebanon. **Manar Zaitar**, Lead Consultant and Project Manager for Women Refugees in the Arab Region, ESCWA Centre for Women, Lebanon, and **Nadwa Rafeh**, Senior Health Specialist in the Health, Nutrition, and Population Global Practice, Team Leader for the Lebanon Health Resilience Project and the Emergency Primary Healthcare Restoration project for The World Bank in Lebanon, delivered the Opening Keynote Addresses.



Dr Janet Hale, Professor of Nursing, Associate Dean of Interprofessional and Community Partnerships, Graduate School of Nursing, University of Massachusetts Medical School, United States



Dr Maha Al Mozaini, Immunocompromised Host Research, King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre, Member of the Arab Women Council Board of Trustees, Saudi Arabia

The workshop sessions that followed brought together leaders in public service, international development and global advocacy to discuss the impact that the refugee crisis in the MENA has had on women in vulnerable and conflict situations in the region, and to provide insight into how these challenges can be mitigated through multi-level engagement, concerted action and dialogue. Sessions included: *Challenges to women's health and family planning under conflict; Dying by displacement: Vulnerability, maternal mortality and the making of maternal ill health; Interventions that work: Maintaining services at times of donor fatigue*, with a concluding discussion titled *Towards models of maternal health support*, which gathered all panel speakers and specialists together with a high and rich level of extended interactive Q&A from the audience.



AIWF Women Leaders & Health Conference in Beirut in April 2019

AIWF looks forward to carrying the momentum proudly created in Beirut to its next major milestone of the AIWF 2019 Annual Programme, *Women as Engines of Economic Growth*, to be held in Cairo in September 2019. The Chairman and Board of AIWF convey their deepest appreciation to all distinguished and outstanding Guest Speakers, our Conference Partners and all participating delegates for their valued contributions towards the success of this exceptional conference initiative.

AIWF launches Special Report & Recommendations emerging from high-level conference on Women Leaders & Health held in Beirut in April 2019



Delegates of the AIWF Women Leaders & Health Conference in Beirut

In June 2019, following the highly successful conference in Beirut on *Women Leaders & Health*, AIWF was proud to launch a Special Report which documents the high-level and impact-oriented recommendations to emerge from the conference and workshop discussions that took place in Beirut on 17 - 18 April 2019.

Recommendations to emerge from the observations and valued contributions of all distinguished speakers covered the importance of role modelling and making successful women leaders in the field visible to girls and young women to inspire the interest of girls in medicine and STEM careers from an early age; supporting inter-disciplinary initiatives to empower women in medical education taking best practice from other disciplines; recognising that the trajectory of women's career paths differs from men's; emulating the highly successful Athena SWAN Awards programme in the MENA universities; and investing in research data in Arabic that measures the engagement of women in all STEM sectors, specifically medicine.

The full Report and Recommendations are available in both English and Arabic for download from the AIWF website (www.aiwfonline.com), and upon publication were widely shared by AIWF with all partners and key contacts across the governmental, private sector and international development spheres, including the World Bank, the League of Arab States, UN organisations and agencies, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Food and

Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), USAID, United Nations agencies and the MENA-OECD Investment Programme.

AIWF now looks with great optimism to carrying the *Women Leaders & Health* initiative forward into the future and to working closely with all partners and participants to promote and action the many valuable recommendations to emerge from the conference. The AIWF Board, AIWF Global and Institutional Partners, and international members remain available to all valued stakeholders for fruitful co-operation on future initiatives towards realising the recommendations of our conference in the region and towards achieving economic security, prosperity and progress for all.

Highlights | Key Recommendations from Women Leaders & Health Special Report & Recommendations

- **Importance of role modelling and inspiring the interest of girls in medicine and STEM subjects at an early age, requiring a societal shift to channel female school leavers into world-class medical programmes, preparing them fully for the rigour of medical studies, and raising awareness of the importance of their role in cultivating a gender diverse medical workforce in the region. Support for lifelong learning is essential to empower women to remain competitive in their skills and training at every stage of their professional journeys.**
- **Empowering and engaging women in medical education with more inter-disciplinary initiatives, conferences, panels, working groups, task forces, and action. While there are numerous mentorship programs in place in medical education, mentoring of groups underrepresented in academic medicine (e.g., women) remains short of meeting the demands of the workforce and it is recommended that mentorship programmes be designed to specifically support women's leadership in medicine and in academic medicine.**
- **Recognising that women's career development paths differ from men's, career trajectories do not occur in a straight line, and many women are deterred by other priorities (such as family responsibilities). More importance should be given to work/ life balance and mindfulness, starting at medical school.**



The Women Leaders & Health conference and workshop produced a Special Report & Recommendations launched by AIWF in June 2019, now available for download from the AIWF website in English and Arabic

- Emulating the UK Athena SWAN Awards programme in MENA universities would enable departments and universities to develop action plans aimed at improving recruitment, retention and promotion of female academic and research staff.
- Research data in Arabic in many sectors is lacking in the MENA region, and figures that can inform research on women's participation and challenges in medical education and healthcare delivery do not sufficiently exist. Collecting and tracking data and statistics is vital as the current situation for women in medicine and STEM must be measured as a baseline in order to chart progress and outcomes of various initiatives. More data needs to be collected about existing women in the healthcare sector workforce. Promoting and valuing research based on the data. Linking academia more deeply with industry will help research data remain contemporary with the needs of the time.
- Launching an Arab Healthcare Women's Association chapter, similar to the American Medical Women's Association (<https://www.amwa-doc.org/>), as an online platform where women in the healthcare field can share resources, experiences, and support each other.
- Mainstreaming women refugees' issues within national health strategies, and to move to strategic planning instead of individual and temporary solutions. Localizing interventions and building capacity of health services on gender-based violence is also key. Building trust between the health sector, gender-based violence specialists and the refugee community, as well as developing quality indicators to measure to progress of the health sector's work with women refugees, would strengthen synergies between all relevant stakeholders working with women refugees.

- Projects should always address the gender dimension and have clear indicators to monitor progress for women. It is imperative that we move beyond humanitarian assistance to development assistance, which includes capacity building for refugees and creating economic opportunities including jobs programs to help young people and refugees into work.

Please visit the AIWF website for the full Special Report & Recommendations for Women Leaders & Health.

AIWF to hold major conference in September 2019 on Women as Engines of Economic Growth in partnership with the American University in Cairo in parallel with AUC's Centenary celebrations

Following AIWF's high-level conference on *Women Leaders & Health* held at the American University of Beirut in April 2019, the next milestone of AIWF's 2019 Annual Programme is a major conference on *Women as Engines of Economic Growth: Empowering women innovators, entrepreneurs, executives and educators towards fulfilment of the SDGs in the MENA Region*, to be held in partnership with the American University in Cairo and in parallel with the university's Centenary Year Celebrations. The full conference programme takes place on 16-18 September 2019 at the AUC New Cairo Campus.

The Conference will be opened with a Keynote Session addressed by **Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani**, Founder & Chairman of the Arab International Women's Forum; **Ambassador Francis Ricciardone**, President of the American University in Cairo; **HE Dr Hala El Said**, Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform, Egypt; and **Dr Maya Morsi**, President of the National Council for Women (NCW), Egypt. The conference programme, the development of which has been led by AIWF with the input of AUC, will deliver impactful and highly interactive discussion on gender diversity on corporate boards and in family business; women in public office; women in academia; and the role and contributions of women in the rural and informal sectors. *Women as Engines of Economic Growth* will draw all core panel discussions and reflections together under the overarching themes of the SDGs and the Agenda 2030 for Women and will deliver a comprehensive post-conference Report & Recommendations to document key action points and

strategies for further follow up between AIWF, AUC and all conference stakeholders.

The first panel of the day, *Advancing women's leadership and gender diversity on corporate boards and in family business: Best practices from Egypt, the broader MENA region and internationally*, will be chaired by **Dr Ghada Howaidy**, Associate Dean Executive Education and External Relations, School of Business, American University in Cairo, Egypt), who was a keynote speaker at AIWF's *Young Arab Women Leaders* conference in Morocco in April 2017. The panel will examine strategies to increase women's representation on boards and explore initiatives within the region that are working closely with the private sector to strengthen corporate governance and promote the role of female leadership on corporate boards.

This panel will be followed by *Women in entrepreneurship and SME development, the rural / agricultural sectors and the informal economy* (chaired **Dr Blanca Moreno-Dodson**, Head of the Center for Mediterranean Integration, France). The panel will explore challenges and opportunities for women entrepreneurs, including those in the rural, agricultural and informal economies, and elaborate on regional and international strategies and best practices to empower rural women to engage in entrepreneurship as a lifeline to economic inclusion and a way out of cyclical poverty, a situation that the ILO describes as "the ever-present challenge".

The third panel, *Women in public service and leadership: Towards gender parity in parliament and women's inclusion in policy-making* will elaborate on the role of women in parliament and the vital contributions of women towards the elimination of gender imbalances in legislative and regulatory frameworks impacting economic and social progress in the region.

The final panel of the day, *Reflections on the future of work for women and young people in the MENA Region*, will be chaired by AIWF Founder & Chairman **Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani**, who in August 2017 was appointed to serve as a Commissioner to the ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work, established by the ILO to undertake an in-depth examination of the future of work, provide the analytical basis for the delivery of social justice in the 21st century. The panel will identify key challenges facing the world of work and deliver practical recommendations and strategies for how these may be addressed in the future, with a focus on education, lifelong learning, technology, and entrepreneurship.

Distinguished Guest Speakers confirmed to address the conference include **HE Dr Hala El Said**, Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform, Egypt; **HE Violette Khairallah Safadi**, Minister of State for the Economic Empowerment of Women and Youth, Lebanon; **HE Dr Inaya Izzedine**, President of the Committee on Women and Child, Lebanese Parliament, Lebanon; **Mona Al Moayyad**, Managing Director, YK Almoayyed & Sons, Bahrain and a valued AIWF Board Member; **Carol Hamilton**, Group President Luxe Division, L'Oréal & President of the Harvard Women's Leadership Board, United States; **David Suarez**, People and Organisation Middle East Leader, PwC Middle East, UAE; **Deborah Greenfield**, Deputy Director General for Policy, International Labour Organization (ILO), Switzerland; **Dr Afef Haddad**, Deputy to the Country Director, Country Program Coordinator Maghreb and Malta, The World Bank, USA; **Elisabeth Guigou**, President, Anna Lindh Foundation, Egypt; and **Dr Nada El Agizy**, Sustainable Development and International Cooperation Director, League of Arab States, Egypt.

Also confirmed to address the conference are Distinguished Guest Speakers **Rana El Houjeiri**, Portfolio Manager Arab States, UN Women, Lebanon; **Jane Valls**, Executive Director, GCC Boards Institute, UAE; **Sophie Becker**, Deputy Head of Swedish Mission to the United Nations in New York, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden; **Heba Hagrass**, Member of Parliament, Egypt; **Dr Iman Bibars**, Vice President, Ashoka Global & Regional Director, Ashoka Arab World, Egypt; **Fatma El Zahraa Aglan**, Agricultural Specialist, Agriculture and Food Global Practice, The World Bank, Egypt; **Dr Haya Al-Dajani**, Professor of Entrepreneurship, Mohammed Bin Salman College for Business and Entrepreneurship, Saudi Arabia; **Dr Nagla Rizk**, Professor, Department of Economics & Founding Director, Access to Knowledge for Development Center, American University in Cairo, Egypt; and **Dr Salwa Bayomi El Magoli**, Professor, Department of Food Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University, Egypt.

The *Women as Engines of Economic Growth* initiative moves the momentum forward for AIWF's successful advocacy on women in business, as engines of economic growth and drivers of sustainable change. AIWF is proud to be back in Egypt as part of its 2019 Annual Programme and is very much looking forward to working closely with our partners at the American University in Cairo to deliver another high-impact joint conference in September 2019. For further information on the Cairo programme and registration for *Women as Engines of Economic Growth*, please contact the AIWF Office in London.

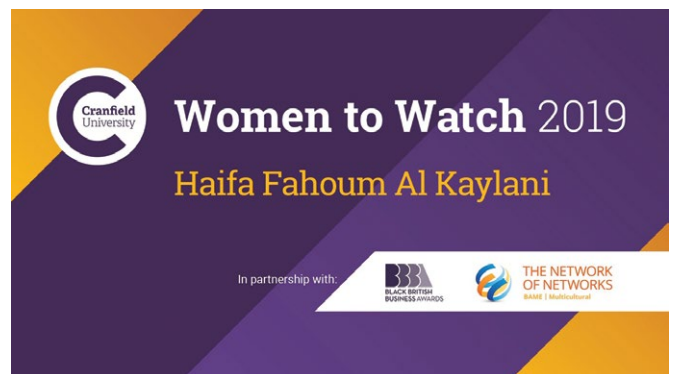
AIWF Chairman presents Harvard project on sustainable agriculture at the League of Arab States Sub Committee Meetings on Ending Hunger in Cairo

On 03 & 04 April 2019, AIWF Chairman **Haifa Al Kaylani** attended the League of Arab States End Hunger in the Arab World Sub Committee meetings in Cairo and led a keynote presentation during a key session titled *Sustainable Agriculture in the Arab Region*, on a key outcome of her Harvard Fellowship, Haseel for Sustainable Agriculture, a sustainability enterprise project Mrs Al Kaylani has launched in pilot phase in Jordan as an innovative solution to key economic, food and water security challenges in the Arab world.

Mrs Al Kaylani's Keynote was well-received by the participants of the high-level Meeting which was chaired by HE The Minister of Agriculture from the Sudan. The Meeting sessions covered a number of critical topics including the link between rural and urban development in the region and investment in agriculture in the Arab world, and Working Groups examined key development issues such as improving agricultural productivity and sustainable management, addressing hunger and community development issues, improving safety nets and social protection networks, and adapting to climate change and reducing the risks to food and water security of land degradation. Sessions were led by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Arab Union for Food Industries, and the Arab Water Council, among many other admirable organisations that are leading the way forward in the Arab region on addressing poverty, hunger, food security and water scarcity. The Meetings ended with a presentation of the Future Plan of the League of Arab States to end hunger in the region, delivered by the Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on the Elimination of Hunger.

The Summit was highly impressive and discussions of leading experts from the Arab world and the international development community demonstrated the commitment of the League of Arab States and the End Hunger in the Arab World Sub Committee to addressing key issues in the region, such as water scarcity, poverty and food security issues, through sustainable agriculture. The Arab International Women's Forum commends the League of Arab States on all their valuable work in this important endeavour and the leadership of **Dr Nada El Agizy**, Director, Sustainable Development and International Cooperation, League of Arab States, in leading with key issues of importance for people in the region.

Women to Watch 2019: Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani receives recognition from Cranfield University



The Arab International Women's Forum congratulates **Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani**, Founder & Chairman of AIWF, on her recognition in the Women to Watch 2019 supplement of Cranfield University launched alongside the Female FTSE Board Report, an annual analysis of women on boards produced annually by Cranfield University's School of Management.

As the UK's only exclusively postgraduate university, Cranfield University's world-class expertise, large-scale facilities and unrivalled industry partnerships are creating leaders in technology and management globally, unlocking the potential of people and organisations by partnering with business and governments to deliver transformational research, postgraduate education and professional development.

This year, Cranfield University has spotlighted 50 leading female professionals who come from backgrounds that have been previously underrepresented in the senior leadership pipeline. The 2019 edition showcases the talent and senior-level experience women with diverse ethnic heritage offer and prompts wider attention on the composition of boardrooms so companies go 'beyond the numbers' to push diversity in every sense.

Women to Watch was introduced by Cranfield University's Gender, Leadership and Inclusion Centre in 2009, and was this year compiled with the support of the Black British Business Awards and the Network of Networks BAME - Multicultural Chapter (TNON). **Diane Greenidge**, Founder of TNON, said: "These inspiring women, already leaders in their respective fields, have the potential to bring the power of greater diversity to UK boardrooms. We join Cranfield University in urging businesses to realise the positive impact that women from a broader range of backgrounds can have on their success."

AIWF Benefactor Partner PepsiCo launches Tamakani, a key initiative to boost women's empowerment in Saudi Arabia

Tamakani focuses on women in the workforce, women empowerment, women of the future and engaging men as advocates. The initiative was launched in June 2019 when PepsiCo hosted an exclusive screening of 'RISE - The Journey of Women in Saudi Arabia' as a first initiative under Tamakani.

AIWF is proud to support Global Benefactor Partner PepsiCo, the global food and beverage company, in its launch of Tamakani in Jeddah on 16 June 2019 as a dedicated platform that aims to support and inspire generations of women in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The platform will help create opportunities and guidance for women with promising capabilities, provide support to realize aspirations, scale up innovative initiatives, and mentor Saudi women to realize their full potential.

To launch Tamakani, PepsiCo partnered with Eggdancer Productions, the first production company in Saudi Arabia owned and managed by Saudi women, **Dania Nassief** and **Danya Alhamrani**, for a red-carpet screening of 'RISE - The Journey of Women in Saudi Arabia' at VOX Cinemas in Jeddah. The event was attended by key government officials, VIPs, media and influencers. The documentary chronicles the changing social landscape of Saudi Arabia through remarkable stories of the most influential women in the past 50 years in the field of media, education, politics and sports. Drawing strength from their own culture and religion, the women featured in the documentary describe diverse ways in which they strive towards their unique potential. Some of the influencers who took part in the documentary are **Muna Abu Sulayman, Thuraya Obaid, Raha Moharrak, Dr Fatima Nassief, Dr Suad Juffali, Khairyah Abu Laban, Bayan Zahran, Somayya Jabarti, Dr Samira Islam, and Dr Lama Al-Sulaiman**, to name a few.

Speaking on the launch of Tamakani, **Tamer Mosalam**, GCC-Levant Foods Vice President and Business Unit General Manager, PepsiCo, said: "Empowering women and providing them with opportunities to thrive is a core component of PepsiCo's Winning with Purpose strategy. With the launch of Tamakani, we further our commitment to provide equal opportunities for empowerment and enablement for every member of the society to realize their full potential in the workforce and in society. By doing so, they contribute to the efforts made to support the ambitions of Saudi Vision 2030 and realizing the core pillars of the Kingdom's vision to achieve a thriving economy." Following the screening, Tamer Mosalam participated



Photo courtesy of PepsiCo

"Empowering women and providing them with opportunities to thrive is a core component of PepsiCo's Winning with Purpose strategy."

**Tamer Mosalam, GCC-Levant Foods
Vice President and Business Unit
General Manager, PepsiCo**

in a panel discussion on the role of women in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia along with **Lina Al Maeena, Dr Thuraya Obaid** and **Khairiah Abulaban**, with discussion revolving around how women contribute to the economy, and the importance of empowering women to hold a stronger position in society, engaging men as advocates and the role of women in realizing Saudi Vision 2030.

The Tamakani platform will focus on a number of key areas - women in the workforce that will shed light on work-life balance, career growth, overcoming challenges; female empowerment to support and mentor younger generation of Saudi women to push boundaries and women of the future which will highlight women with influence that are shaping the future of the Kingdom. The initiative will also focus on engaging men as advocates who support women as co-workers and family members.

AIWF is proud to support this valuable initiative of PepsiCo and commends PepsiCo for its commitment to recruit women across all functions as managers, engineers and on the frontlines, where they work on a specifically developed ladies-only packaging line, called the 'Pink Line' in the plants, with many more working throughout PepsiCo's offices, warehouses and facilities in the Kingdom. AIWF also commends PepsiCo for launching the region's first Million Women Mentors® chapter in Riyadh, a global movement designed to support the engagement of millions of STEM mentors, both male and female, in order to increase the interest and confidence of girls and women to persist and succeed in STEM programs and careers.

AIWF ACKNOWLEDGES WITH MUCH APPRECIATION
THE VALUED SUPPORT OF AIWF GLOBAL & INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

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AIWF Global Platinum Partners



AIWF Global Diamond Partners



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Towards A Just and Equitable Future of Work in Jordan: AIWF Chairman delivers keynote presentation at the ILO Summit in Amman to mark Centenary of the ILO

AIWF Founder & Chairman **Haifa Al Kaylani** was honoured to join the International Labour Organization and its partners in Jordan on 11 April 2019 for a milestone celebration of the UN agency's 100th Anniversary. This very special event, held under the esteemed Patronage of Jordan's **Prime Minister Omar Razzaz**, brought together high-level delegates, including government agencies, trade unions, and employers' organizations, as well as civil society representatives and international partners. It featured a series of impactful Keynotes and presentations, as well as folk dancing performances and the unveiling of a social justice-themed mosaic crafted by people with disabilities from the Syrian refugee and Jordanian host communities, who were trained with ILO support by the Jordan Compact, which supports economic growth, job creation and quality service delivery in Jordan.

The event was streamed live alongside similar presentations from other ILO offices around the world and highlighted some of Jordan's recent successes at promoting decent work and social justice for workers, while also addressing some of the challenges that lie ahead in the context of the Future of Work. **Haifa Al Kaylani**, Founder & Chairman of the Arab International Women's Forum and the only Commissioner from the Arab world to serve on the ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work, delivered a keynote presentation titled *For a Just and Equitable Future of Work in Jordan*, sharing her reflections on the future of work report outcomes and significance before turning to challenges and opportunities for Jordan in particular.

Mrs Al Kaylani noted that the ILO Future of Work Report proposes a human-centred agenda which places women and men and the work they perform at the centre of economic and social policy and business practice. This approach re-orientates the economy towards human-centered growth, economic and social policy and business practice. She elaborated on the Report's three pillars of action: investing in people's capabilities; investing in the institutions of work; and investing in decent and sustainable work. She focused on the importance of continuous opportunities for education, retraining, upskilling and lifelong learning which are essential to preparing citizens for inevitable change in the employment environment and to suitably prepare young people for the working world of



Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani, Founder & Chairman, Arab International Women's Forum, delivered a Keynote Address at the ILO Summit in Amman (Photo Credit: ILO Aran States)

the future. Mrs Al Kaylani also noted that young people especially will need help navigating the increasingly difficult school-to-work transition, which is already a well-documented economic empowerment challenge for Jordan, and that future of work challenges seen globally are already interacting with a number of socio-economic and demographic factors distinct to Jordan.

Mrs Al Kaylani said: "Human capital has always been deeply valued in Jordan and is widely considered to be the Kingdom's greatest asset. Jordan has always invested in and continues to invest in education and has a highly talented population of well-education people - men, women and youth. However, the key challenge at this time is that the Jordanian economy is not yet creating enough jobs to accommodate the large numbers of school leavers and university graduates in Jordan. For an optimistic vision of the future of jobs in Jordan to become a reality, investing in people's capabilities must involve closing the Jordan's skills gap today, to put an end to 'brain drain', and build the skills needed to successfully leverage the technological advances of tomorrow."

Mrs Al Kaylani concluded with her resounding belief that for Jordan as well as the rest of the world, "the responsibility to create an effective and appropriately financed lifelong learning ecosystem does not rest solely with governments, but equally with the private sector, workers, employers and education institutions to build and maintain opportunities for lifelong learning."

Jordan has a long history of collaboration with the ILO. It has strived, through the common commitments of the Government, workers' and employers' organisations, to promote decent work, social justice and equity. The ILO and Jordan recently pledged to further promote decent work through the implementation of the country's third Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP). The Programme supports national initiatives to promote decent work

and strengthen national capacity to mainstream decent work in social and economic policies.

It was indeed a great honour for Mrs Al Kaylani to be in Amman on the very special occasion of the ILO Centenary Celebrations in Jordan, and a great privilege for her to serve on the ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work under the leadership and chairmanship of **Stefan Löfven**, Prime Minister of Sweden, and **Cyril Ramaphosa**, President of the Republic of South Africa and to have contributed to the ILO Future of Work Initiative and its landmark Report.

AIWF is proud to share that the ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work 2019 was adopted at the 108th International Labour Conference on 01 July 2019, which marked the 100th anniversary of the ILO. The Declaration is a crucial statement on the major challenges and opportunities for the future of work, ranging from technology to climate change, from demographic shifts to the need for new skills. It provides guidance for dealing with these pressing issues and a platform for cooperation with other organizations in the international system. The Declaration is the culmination of years of work within the framework of the ILO's Future of Work initiative. As a first step, member States held tripartite dialogues, which provided a rich discussion of priorities, challenges and opportunities at national and international levels. The outcomes of these dialogues informed the work of the Global Commission on the Future of Work, whose recommendations, in turn, helped craft the Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work.

AIWF Chairman delivers Keynote Address at the ABCC Arab British Economic Summit 2019: A Shared Vision in London

AIWF Founder & Chairman **Haifa Al Kaylani** delivered a keynote address and participated on a key panel at the Arab British Chamber of Commerce Economic Summit on A Shared Vision (ABES) at the Queen Elizabeth II Center in London on 03 July 2019, held in cooperation with the League of Arab States, the British Chambers of Commerce and the Union of Arab Chambers. ABES 2019 attracted hundreds of senior business executives, diplomats, government officials and investors with an interest in building stronger economic and commercial relations between the UK and the Arab World.

The Summit highlighted the enormous potential for closer UK-Arab cooperation and the keenness of both



Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani, Founder & Chairman, Arab International Women's Forum, at the Arab British Chamber of Commerce Economic Summit in London in July 2019

sides to strengthen their historic partnership. The Summit offered invaluable opportunities for investors, exporters, experts, consultants and providers of services to engage in dialogue with project leaders and decision makers, and was addressed by **Rt Hon Dr Liam Fox MP**, Secretary of State for International Trade for the United Kingdom; **Rt Hon Baroness Symons**, Chairman of the Arab British Chamber of Commerce; **Alderman Peter Estlin**, Rt Hon the Lord Mayor of the City of London; **HE Mr Ahmed About Gheit**, Secretary General of the League of Arab States; and **Dr Khaled Hanafy**, Secretary General of the Union of Arab Chambers, with which AIWF was proud to partner in September 2018 on its *Women, Water & Youth* conference initiative held in Amman, Jordan. The Summit also included an address by **HE Ambassador Dr Husam Zumlot**, the Head of the Palestinian Mission to the UK, who emphasised the entrepreneurial spirit of his people and how the economy of Palestine was an integral part of the wider Arab economy.

The Summit's programme anticipated future collaboration in the high growth sectors where there is significant potential for productive collaboration and which are transforming the global economy, such as modern infrastructure development, smart cities, renewable energy, agri-business and Fintech. **Haifa Al Kaylani** delivered a well-received address on Agriculture and Water Security in the **MENA Region** as Founder & Chairman of AIWF, as a development economist focused on gender, food security and water scarcity challenges within the MENA region and internationally, and as a Member of the Board of the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce, a valued and longstanding Institutional Partner of AIWF.

As the Arab region and the rest of the globe continue to experience a high rate of population growth, their agricultural sectors and water supply face considerable challenges. The session will consider to what extent the Arab world will rely on imports to meet local

demand for food produce and highlight the investment and partnership opportunities as the region acts to develop sustainable agriculture. The high-level panel was chaired by **Sir Peter Kendall**, CEO & Chairman, Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board, and addressed by **Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani**, Founder & Chairman of the Arab International Women's Forum; **HE Yousef Khalawi**, Secretary General, Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA); **Cornelia Richter**, Vice-President, International Fund for Agricultural Development; and **Fares Hassouna**, Director, TNP Worldwide.

During her Address and panel participation, Mrs Al Kaylani shared her insights on the critical development challenges of agriculture and water security in the Arab world and reflected on the importance of trade, entrepreneurship and investment in these vital sectors. She called for a revival of the rural economy as a key priority for MENA economies overall which will require significant entrepreneurship and investment in agriculture. She also stated the importance of recognising the pivotal role of women as key contributors to rural economies worldwide, and shared key findings of the ILO Report on the Future of Work in regards to unprecedented scale and speed of transformative change in the world of work driven by new technologies, climate change and demographic shifts, which are generating great uncertainty as well as income disparity and social inequality in every sector including and especially in agriculture and the rural economy.

Mrs Al Kaylani said: "For all of us in the MENA Region, economic growth and security are intrinsically linked with human security, prosperity, and social cohesion. The Arab world needs a thriving rural economy to meet the challenges of youth unemployment, food insecurity, water scarcity, women's under-representation in the economy, and to alleviate hunger and poverty challenges. The region needs leaders in business, entrepreneurship and social enterprise to discover, create and innovate solutions to the region's most critical development challenges. The Arab International Women's Forum, the Arab British Chamber of Commerce, and organisations like ours provide the necessary networks of support that are so vital to successful leadership in this endeavour."

Mrs Al Kaylani is exceptionally proud to serve on the Board of the ABCC with whom AIWF has longed worked closely over the years to facilitate Arab-British trade links towards our joint mission to support business leadership and economic growth and prosperity in the MENA region and globally. Over the years, the ABCC and AIWF have been highly successful in their joint efforts to bring top-level Arab and European decision-makers together, focusing on capacity development, highlighting the role of women

and young leaders as pivotal to the region's future economic growth and prosperity, and facilitating the networking and mentorship opportunities that play such an important role in shaping multi-region business growth.

The Board of AIWF congratulates **Mr Bandar Reda**, Secretary General & CEO of the Arab British Chamber of Commerce, and his outstanding team at the ABCC on an excellent Summit. AIWF highly values the Institutional Partnership and MoU alliance between AIWF and the ABCC honouring its mission of creating 'Friendship through Trade' and looks forward to continued future collaboration to encourage Arab women and young leaders to thrive and create new business, trade and economic links between the UK and the Arab world.

AIWF Chairman delivers Guest of Honour Keynote Address at the American University of Beirut at a Special Reception honouring the FAFS Graduating Class of 2019



Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani, Founder & Chairman, Arab International Women's Forum, delivering the Guest of Honour Commencement Address at the graduating ceremony of the Class of 2019 at the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, American University of Beirut, in May 2019

On 27 May 2019, AIWF Chairman **Haifa Al Kaylani** was delighted to address the Graduating Class of 2019 of the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences (FAFS) at the American University of Beirut, delivering the Keynote as Guest of Honour and a proud alumna of AUB to the graduates, families and faculty on this special occasion at the kind invitation of **Dr Rabi Mohtar**, Dean of FAFS at AUB.

In her address, Mrs Al Kaylani shared sincere congratulations on the Class of 2019's achievements in graduating from the prestigious AUB programme that truly leads the way both regionally and globally

in agricultural economics, food science and nutrition and the environmental sciences. The FAFS is one of the oldest schools of agriculture in the region and, through its impact-driven research partnerships and its world class teaching, FAFS has set a global standard within the Arab world and internationally. Its expertise in agriculture, food, water, energy and health is unparalleled in the region.

Mrs Al Kaylani said: "As FAFS graduates and future sustainability leaders – men, women, rural, urban, young students and mature students – you have all been well-equipped to serve the nation and the region. As our young leaders, our future entrepreneurs, business leaders, academics, and our industry pioneers, you have the passion, energy, drive and ideas to discover and innovate the solutions urgently needed to address challenges within the Food-Water-Energy nexus that have major global and regional significance."

Mrs Al Kaylani shared her reflections on agriculture and economic security and the importance of entrepreneurship, technology, research, innovation and youth leadership in agriculture. She said: "The conditions for success in entrepreneurship in the agricultural sector and rural economy are ripe and the sector is ready and open for innovative young leaders as yourselves to reform the way the rural economy works and indeed to transform the entire food chain." She also noted that technological innovation, entrepreneurship and social enterprise within sustainable agriculture could undoubtedly provide a vital solution to the youth unemployment crisis in the region and could spark exciting discoveries of new techniques and technologies that can support sustainable agriculture in the MENA region and beyond.

Mrs Al Kaylani also emphasised the important role of women as key contributors to rural economies worldwide, given that women comprise about 43% of the agricultural labour force globally and in the MENA Region, the female share of the agricultural labour force stands at around 45%. Throughout the MENA region, women are involved at every level in the agricultural chain, as producers, entrepreneurs, engineers, researchers and policy-makers, and a high number of households in the Arab world are led by women that are solely dependent on agriculture.

Mrs Al Kaylani concluded: "As graduates of FAFS you are all equipped with an outstanding education and the networks of support that are so vital to successful leadership in this endeavour. You all have the capacity, the power and the drive to help build healthy Arab populations, to enliven the rural economy, to enrich valuable research and awareness in these important fields, and to create exciting business ventures

and innovative new models in this vibrant but underappreciated sector."

The Chairman and Board of the Arab International Women's Forum reiterate their warmest congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2019 on their monumental achievement and wish each and every graduate and future leader all the best in their future journeys.

AIWF participates at 2019 Gender & Growth Forum at Chatham House on *Shaping the Future We Want*

AIWF Chairman **Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani** was a key panel speaker at the 2019 Gender and Growth Forum held at Chatham House in London, titled *Shaping the Future We Want* and organised by the Chatham House Royal Institute of International Affairs. The Forum was a key opportunity for stakeholders to come together and find innovative solutions to re-shape the world of work – specifically, on creating a work environment that works for women and works for all; identifying practices which support women-owned/led businesses; and developing strategies to empower women in all forms of entrepreneurship.



Haifa Al Kaylani participated on a key panel on women's entrepreneurship in the MENA region at the Chatham House Gender & Growth Forum which took place in London on 08 - 09 July 2019 (Photo Credit: Suzanne Plunkett/Chatham House)

Mrs Al Kaylani participated on a high-level panel titled *Entrepreneurship in the MENA region*, which examined the MENA region as a case study to understand how initiatives and programmes piloted across the region contribute to creating an environment in which female entrepreneurs can develop and eventually scale their business against a backdrop of strong social and cultural norms, in which access to markets and finance can make a significant difference for women-owned enterprises.

The panel was moderated by **Esraa Al Buti**, Director, Business Tax Advisory Services, EY, and also featured **Farmida Bi**, Chair, Europe, Middle East and Asia, Norton Rose and **Salma Al-Rashid**, Head of Delegation, W20 Saudi Arabia.

In her Opening Statement, Mrs Al Kaylani said: "Governments around the MENA region recognise that the economic impact of continuing to exclude one half of the region's most precious natural resource - its human talent - is unthinkable, and the long-established preference of young graduates towards public sector employment unsustainable. I believe this is an optimum time for the MENA region to scale up and invest in creating an enabling environment that engages all potential entrepreneurs, producers, and investors, including women and young people with the education, experience, ideas, ambition and aptitude to make a real difference in the economic future of the Arab world."

Mrs Al Kaylani explained that infrastructure has improved significantly throughout the region and Arab states have invested significantly in education over the last three decades. As a result, creative, talented and highly ambitious young Arab women are seeing unprecedented opportunities and market gaps in which to launch successful businesses both online and off, redefining traditional business models and meeting the needs of the regional market in valuable and highly innovative ways. Sectors in which female entrepreneurs are thriving include digital marketing, advertising, games, education technology platforms, e-commerce websites, fashion retail, and publishing of online magazines, apps and software.

She said: "Given the vast and untapped potential of women's increasing participation in the workforce, which by 2025 could add an estimated \$2.7 trillion to the whole of the region's economy, the growing trend of women launching viable, innovative and scalable start-ups in the region could be truly transformative for the Middle East economy and for the prosperity of women and young people, families and communities throughout the region. Empowering women entrepreneurs in the MENA region is the key to unlocking the Arab world's economic potential - all that is needed is the right business environment and the ecosystem in place to support them as they navigate their way towards success in the entrepreneurial space."

AIWF commends Chatham House Director **Dr Robin Niblett** and his team for organising this valuable event and looks forward to continued collaboration in the future with the Chatham House Royal Institute for International Affairs.

AIWF congratulates Mona Al Moayyed, valued AIWF Board Member, on her appointment to the Bahrain Shura Council



Mona Al Moayyed, AIWF Board Member & Managing Director of YK Almoayyed

The Board of the Arab International Women's Forum extends its warmest congratulations to **Mona Al Moayyed**, valued AIWF Board Member and Managing Director of YK Almoayyed & Sons, on her landmark appointment to the Shura Council, the second chamber in the legislative house, by **HM King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa** in December 2018. Ms Al Moayyed is leading key social and economic initiatives within the Kingdom, with women now representing 18.75% of the 2018-2022 parliament, up from 15% in 2014-2018.

Mona Almoayyed hails from one of Bahrain's most established entrepreneurial families. She was the first woman to be elected to the Board of a publicly traded company in Bahrain and also the first woman to be elected to the Board of Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry in 2001. She is a Member of the Board of the Child Care Home which provides facilities for the care of orphaned children, and she is a Member of the International Peace Institute Middle East which is an independent, international, non-profit thinktank dedicated to managing risk and building resilience to promote peace, security and sustainable development. Throughout her journey, Mona Almoayyed has won various prestigious awards and recognitions, most recently with the recent ranking in 2018 by Arabic Forbes as 8th of the 100 Most Influential Arab Women in the Middle East.

AIWF is most proud to have Mrs Al Moayyed on the Board of AIWF and values her contributions and expertise generously given to the direction and initiatives of AIWF as led and endorsed by the Board. AIWF looks forward to welcoming Mrs Al Moayyed as a valued Distinguished Guest Speaker for the upcoming *Women as Engines of Economic Growth*

Conference in Cairo in September and wishes her every success in her role on the Shura Council which will undoubtedly inspire many young Arab women aspiring to positions of leadership in business and public service.

AIWF Global Partner Boodle Hatfield's Shaima Jillood represents AIWF with a Keynote Address at the GWIIN Conference in London



Shaima Jillood, Partner at Boodle Hatfield, an AIWF Global Partner, delivered the Opening Address on the morning of 28 June 2019 at the GWIIN 21st Anniversary Conference and Awards held at the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce in London (photo courtesy of GWIIN)

Shaima Jillood, Partner at Boodle Hatfield, addressed the Global Women Inventors & Innovators (GWIIN) Conference in London on 28 June 2019 on behalf of **Haifa Al Kaylani**, Founder & Chairman of the Arab International Women's Forum, and representing the Board and Members of AIWF at this very special event celebrating GWIIN's 21st Anniversary.

The Conference was held at the Arab British Chamber of Commerce in London upon the introduction facilitated by the AIWF Chairman between Dr Bola Olabisi, Founder & CEO of GWIIN and the ABCC leadership team. GWIIN was delighted to welcome the Keynote Address of **Shaima Jillood**, titled *Arab women as innovators, leaders and drivers of change*, which discussed the key barriers that are holding women back in the MENA region, offering some thoughts on achieving gender parity to empower and support women as drivers of economic growth.

Mrs Jillood's address deeply inspired and engaged the GWIIN Members and Partners. She spoke about how she recognised that the Arab world needs leaders in business, entrepreneurship, and social enterprise to discover solutions to the region's most critical development challenges. She said: "Throughout the MENA region, women are taking on high-level

leadership positions in business, public service, and the government. More Arab women than ever before are leading and succeeding in business, inspiring the next generation of Arab women business leaders."

However, she noted, there is still much to be done, considering that women in North Africa are still twice as likely to be unemployed as their male counterparts; unemployment for women in the Arab States is still 13% higher than that for men, and female participation in the labour market remained the lowest globally at just 21% overall in 2016, against a world average of 49%.

Mrs Jillood highlighted the vital role that organisations such as the Arab International Women's Forum, the Arab British Chamber of Commerce and the GWIIN play in bringing together Arab, British, and international women to make a positive impact and a real difference, to advance momentum and support each other in significant efforts to build bridges and build business between MENA and global markets. "This is key," Mrs Jillood said, "in the vision of the AIWF and its Global Partners, to securing a peaceful and prosperous Arab future and most importantly, the next generation including our own daughters."

Mrs Jillood took extended Q&A at the end of her address and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to engage with GWIIN members, partners and representatives of AIWF's Institutional Partners at the Arab British Chamber of Commerce. AIWF and its Global Partners, including Boodle Hatfield, wholeheartedly support GWIIN's objective of creating opportunities for innovative women to benchmark their skills, re-train and take advantage of current and emerging opportunities, and congratulate this excellent organisation led by **Dr Bola Olabisi**, Founder & CEO of Global Women Inventors & Innovators on the occasion of its milestone 21st Anniversary.



Shaima Jillood, Partner, Boodle Hatfield and Dr Bola Olabisi, Founder & CEO of Global Women Inventors & Innovators (GWIIN)

AIWF proud to support Schwarzman Scholars and bring an important opportunity to aspiring young Arab leaders

Further to the kind introduction of valued AIWF Board Member **Robert Lyle** between AIWF and **Robert Garris**, Global Director of Admissions and Strategic Initiatives for the Schwarzman Scholars, the Board of the Arab International Women's Forum are proud to support this innovative leadership development programme benefitting young men and women. Designed to prepare young leaders to deepen understanding between China and the rest of the world, Schwarzman Scholars is the first scholarship created to respond to the geopolitical landscape of the 21st Century. With the inaugural class enrolled in 2016, the program gives the world's best and brightest students the opportunity to develop their leadership skills and professional networks through a one-year Master's Degree at Tsinghua University in Beijing – one of China's most prestigious universities. This experience will expand students' understanding of the world and create a growing network of global leaders that will build strong ties between China and the rest of the world.

AIWF has a long history of supporting partner universities, organisations and leadership development programmes keen to have young Arabs represented in their international academic programme intakes. AIWF is also exceptionally proud to have collaborated with some of the world's leading universities and regional institutes of learning, including the London Middle East Institute at The School of Oriental and African Studies at London University; the Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World at the Lebanese American University in Beirut; the University of Massachusetts Medical School; and the Harvard Women's Leadership Board at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA, among others.

AIWF's academic partners promote the empowerment of women as an economic imperative and are advocates for entrepreneurship, leadership and sustainability training to become a core part of the business and management syllabus in the MENA region and beyond. AIWF is also very proud to offer internships to talented female students, routinely assists universities and PhD candidates with research projects, and allocates a significant number of places for female researchers and students to attend AIWF conferences and engage fully in its initiatives.

AIWF is proud to support nominations from the Arab world for the Schwarzman Scholars programme and to lend its full and continued cooperation to empower,

support and develop the next generation of young leaders in the MENA region and globally. For further information on the programme, please visit <http://schwarzmanscholars.org>.

AIWF Board congratulates Dr Afef Haddad and the World Bank on the success of the #EmpowerHer Initiative



Dr Afef Haddad, Deputy to the Country Director & Country Program Coordinator for Maghreb and Malta, The World Bank, speaking at the AIWF Young Arab Women Leaders conference in December 2017 at the Royal Academy of Engineering. The conference, Women-Led Innovation in STEM, was held in partnership between AIWF, the RAEng, the World Bank, PepsiCo and PwC.

Haifa Al Kaylani, AIWF Founder & Chairman, extends the sincere congratulations of the AIWF Board to **Dr Afef Haddad**, Deputy to the Country Director & Country Program Coordinator for Maghreb and Malta, The World Bank, on the recent successes of the 'Empower Her' project that she showcased at the AIWF Young Arab Women Leaders Conference on *Women-Led Innovation in STEM*, held in London in December 2017 in partnership with the Royal Academy of Engineering, PepsiCo, PwC and the World Bank. Dr Haddad will also be participating on a key panel representing the World Bank at the upcoming *Women as Engines of Economic Growth* in Cairo in September 2019, on Reflections on the future of work for women and young people in the MENA Region.

Since its launch in 2017 as an initiative to support the empowerment and economic inclusion of women through the power of technology, the EmpowerHer project has since gone from strength to strength, bringing young, unemployed tech graduates together with rural women to create startups for apps that help provide services for women in the Maghreb and the MENA region. The core objective of the project is to develop solutions to help strengthen the economic and financial autonomy of women in lagging regions.

“EmpowerHer is development for the youth by the youth and for the women by the women, a new approach to job creation and economic empowerment.”

Marie Françoise Marie-Nelly, Country Director for the World Bank in Maghreb and Malta

The project recently received a World Bank Excellence Award, and one of EmpowerHer's Startups, Ahmini (which supports women in agriculture) was nominated Best Arab Entrepreneur and has won MIT's last Arab start-up challenge. With over 90% of rural women workers in Tunisia lacking health coverage, Ahmini is an online service that enables rural women to enroll in social services easily by using a mobile phone, without having to leave home, the first time many of these women will have access to the social services and health care to which they and their families are entitled.

Other apps created during EmpowerHer hackathons have also successfully gone live and been marketed in the Maghreb region and worldwide, including Hand & Crafts, a web platform selling traditional craftworks of the Maghreb to a global community that provides a fair marketplace for women artisans so their unique artworks and crafts can be preserved and shared with the rest of the world; Carpet Plus, a web platform for the design and sale of hand-made personalized carpets where clients can design and create their own one-of-a-kind carpets thanks to software developed by the Carpet Plus tech team (allowing for hotels, restaurants, companies, and individuals to add custom messages, names or logos); and She Shares, a pooling platform enabling women artisans in rural areas to buy and transport the raw materials they need to make their crafts, such as wool, leather, skins, olive wood, and yarn. This online platform lowers costs by cutting out the middlemen, saving the women time and the difficulty of traveling to distant markets to search for materials.

“This is development for the youth by the youth and for the women by the women. A new approach to job creation and economic empowerment”, Marie Françoise Marie-Nelly, Country Director for the World Bank in Maghreb and Malta, has said.

Since its 2017 launch the EmpowerHer project has successfully benefitted more than 700,000 women. AIWF is proud to extend its full support to Dr Haddad and her outstanding team at the World Bank in any way possible on this important initiative, and indeed on all the World Bank's important work to support and nurture economic growth, security and prosperity as well as valuable new opportunities for the next generation of young people in the MENA region and globally.



ARAB INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S FORUM

المنتدى العربي الدولي للمرأة

About AIWF

The Arab International Women's Forum, established in 2001 as an independent not for profit organisation, is a unique network linking Arab women with their international counterparts, showcasing their development, ability and competence in business, professional and public life, and creating greater global awareness of women's success and prospects in the Arab world.

Now in its second decade of fulfilling its founding mission of *Building Bridges, Building Business*, AIWF has been a force for change for women in the MENA region, encouraging them to take greater leadership roles and reach higher levels of responsibility in all sectors of business, public life and in civil society while at the same time contributing to the progress and prosperity of their families and communities.

In 2019 and beyond, supported fully by a global network of corporate and institutional partners, the Arab International Women's Forum remains committed to achieving sustainable empowerment for women and youth and to championing a concerted drive at the highest levels to advance gender diversity in the Arab world.

For more information on AIWF's history, mission, programmes and publications, or to join AIWF as an individual, corporate or student / new graduate member, please visit www.aiwfonline.com

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Date of next issue

The next edition of the AIWF Newsletter will be published in November / December 2019. AIWF Global Partners, members and contacts are kindly requested to contact the Editor at info@aiwfonline.com on or before 15 October 2019 to contribute articles, photos and news.