



ARAB INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FORUM

المنتدى العربي الدولي للمرأة

March/April 2019

Issue No 46

AIWF Founder & Chairman's Message

On the occasion of International Women's Day, 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 March / April 2019. In this issue, we report on the highly successful outcomes for AIWF following our high-level conference on *Women, Water & Youth* hosted in collaboration with the World Bank Center for Mediterranean Integration in Amman last September. We are also proud to update our members, partners and friends on AIWF's current outreach and advocacy at the highest levels as well as to share details of the year's upcoming Annual Programme building on the momentum, milestones, relationships and recommendations that emerged not only through the outstanding 2018 AIWF Annual Programme but carrying forward the work of AIWF since inception.

This year, AIWF is proud to join the international development community in celebrating International Women's Day and its 2019 theme of 'Balance for Better', a call-to-action for driving gender balance across the world. The 2019 IWD call for action is very much at the heart of what AIWF has been doing at the Arab and international level for over 18 years to create a more stable and more balanced future for women and youth in the MENA region and internationally through economic inclusion, diversity, leadership development, capacity and skills building for all young people, women as well as men.

AIWF has long been at the forefront of action on many of the region's critical development and sustainability challenges, covering a broad range of women's and youth issues and examining strategies for job creation, inclusive sustainable development, the role of women as engines of economic growth, economic competitiveness, early stage entrepreneurship in the MENA region, women-led innovation in STEM, and important challenges related to women's peace and security and the impact of water scarcity and food insecurity on women and refugees in the MENA region. We at AIWF wholeheartedly believe that striving for gender balance is not only a women's issue but a human rights issue, and that the drive for gender diversity should extend not only to the



HE Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, Guy Ryder, Director General of the ILO, Cláudia Costin, ILO Commissioner, and Haifa Al Kaylani, Founder & Chairman of AIWF

As a proud Commissioner of the International Labour Organization Global Commission on the Future of Work, the Chairman of the Arab International Women's Forum **Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani** was delighted to be in Geneva for the official launch of the ILO Report on the Future of Work on 22 January 2019. **Full story on page 5.**

Upcoming AIWF Events

AIWF to hold a high-level conference on 'Women Leaders & Health' in Beirut in April 2019

AIWF is proud to announce that it will hold a major conference with the American University in Beirut (AUB) and the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS), *Women Leaders & Health: Empowering women-led innovation and medical education towards the fulfilment of the SDGs* in April 2019 in Beirut, Lebanon.

16-17 April 2019 Beirut, Lebanon

AIWF to partner with the American University in Cairo on 'Women as Engines of Economic Growth' in Egypt in September 2019

AIWF is proud to share in the special Centenary celebrations of AUC with a leading conference in Cairo in September 2019 examining MENA and international strategies for empowering women innovators, entrepreneurs, executives and educators towards the fulfilment of the SDGs in the MENA.

16-18 September 2019 Cairo, Egypt



Haifa Al Kaylani, Founder & Chairman AIWF greets Warwick Hunt, UK Executive Board, Managing Partner and Chief Operating Officer, PwC UK at the AIWF Special Reception in London

boardroom but to private sector recruitment practices, policy development, and opportunities for women in academia, public service, and entrepreneurship.

Collectively, we all have a vital role to play in driving a gender-balanced world, using our various platforms to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women whilst contributing to the IWD call for action and working together to accelerate gender balance in all spheres and all spheres. AIWF supports a universal, rights-based approach to bring about meaningful, multilateral collaboration between all stakeholders – grassroots organisations, the private sector, public sector partners and women and young people themselves – to initiate vital dialogue and facilitate the connections that will power up new projects, strategies, initiatives and ideas to navigate the challenges of gender balance not only in the MENA region but globally. As Founder & Chairman and on behalf of the Board of AIWF, I extend my warmest wishes to women advocates, our partners in the private sector, and grassroots organisations all over the world who are working tirelessly to honour the spirit and mission of International Women's Day.

I am also pleased to update our valued partners and members on AIWF's initiatives, activities and outreach in this highly successful first quarter of 2019. In December 2018, I was honoured and proud to attend the landmark UK-Lebanon Business and Investment Forum which took place in London on 12 December 2018. The Forum was an outstanding success for Lebanon, drawing the support of Lebanese and UK government officials at the highest levels and promoting opportunities for economic participation and social cohesion for Lebanese women and youth as well as infrastructure development and economic growth for the country overall.

It was a pleasure to host in the early part of the new year, together with AIWF Board Member **Hanan Saab**, Managing Director Pharmamed and **Sana Bardawil**, AIWF Co-Chair, a special luncheon to introduce our AIWF 2019 Lebanon Programme. We were especially

delighted to welcome **Mrs Lynna Mourkazel**, President of the Arab Women Council in Lebanon and AIWF's valued members and friends as well as members of the Arab Women Council, the National Commission for Lebanese Women and representatives of the Ministry of Economy & Trade, the Lebanese University, the Ministry of Justice Lebanon, Fattal Holding SAL, and BBAC Bank among others. The luncheon was held to introduce key members of AIWF's Lebanese network to AIWF's 2019 Annual Programme including the upcoming high-level conference to be held in Beirut in April 2019 on Women Leaders & Health in partnership with the American University of Beirut and the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

Building on our longstanding ties with The World Bank, I had the very special privilege of attending the World Bank Mashreq Women's Economic Empowerment Summit on 19 January 2019 in Beirut at the Grand Serail and at the margins of the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit. The conference was held under the Patronage and with the presence of **HE Saad Hariri** with high level representation from the Governments of Jordan and Iraq, as well as heads of international organizations, ministers and members of parliament.

For this important initiative, the World Bank, International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Government of Canada had come together to support the efforts of Mashreq governments towards enhancing women's economic empowerment as a catalyst towards more inclusive, sustainable and peaceful societies, where economic growth benefits all. A full report is included in this newsletter on the World Bank's outstanding Mashreq Women's Economic Empowerment Summit, at which AIWF had the opportunity to nurture many valuable relationships and build new contacts at the highest levels of government and the private sector, from both the Mashreq and from Canada.

On 22 January 2019, as a proud Commissioner of the International Labour Organization Global Commission on the Future of Work, I was delighted to be back in Geneva for the official launch of the ILO Report on the Future of Work. It has been a special privilege to serve on the ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work since August 2017 as the only Commissioner from the Arab world, under the leadership and chairmanship of **Stefan Löfven**, Prime Minister of Sweden, and **Cyril Ramaphosa**, President of the Republic of South Africa, together with 27 other members, all outstanding individuals, eminently equipped to contribute to its work, reflecting a balance of gender, tripartite representation, geographical regions, and representing diverse disciplines and sectors of society and the economy.

I am deeply proud to have contributed with all the distinguished Commissioners to the ILO's impactful and independent report on how to achieve a future of work that provides decent and sustainable work opportunities for all and which calls for a "human-centred agenda for a decent future of work". The Report will be submitted to the Centenary session of the International Labour Conference in June 2019, and on its launch was immediately shared with AIWF's valued friends and partners of the Arab International Women's Forum.

Following our successful collaboration with the Center for Mediterranean Integration in Amman last year, I had the pleasure of attending the CMI Annual Meeting held on 23 - 24 January 2019 in Paris, at the kind invitation of the CMI Manager **Blanca Moreno-Dodson**. The CMI Annual Meeting 2019 was highly successful for all stakeholders and provided a valuable opportunity for us all to present our activities and share our insights, and truly showcased the CMI as a strong enabler of partnerships and actionable knowledge in the Mediterranean.

AIWF was proud to partner with the CMI for last September's joint high-level conference in Amman on *Women, Water & Youth: Perspectives from the MENA Region*, yet another important milestone in the longstanding and deeply valued partnership between the World Bank and AIWF, which brought into focus key development challenges as well as opportunities for economic growth and progress benefiting women and youth. In December 2018, AIWF published its official Report & Recommendations emerging from *Women, Water & Youth*, which are available in both English and Arabic for download from the AIWF website and were widely shared by AIWF with our 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), and the International Labour Organisation (ILO), among many others.

AIWF looks forward to maintaining close contact with our partners at the CMI following the success of the joint conference with a view to carrying the *Women, Water & Youth* initiative forward into the future and to working closely with all stakeholders, partners and contributors to promote and action the many valuable recommendations that emerged from our two days of discussions in Amman.

In February 2019, as a Commissioner on the ILO Commission on the Future of Work and as Founder & Chairman of AIWF, I was honoured and delighted to be invited to participate at the World Government Summit held on 10-12 February 2019 in Dubai at the

kind invitation of **HE Nasser bin Thani Juma Al Hamli**, Minister of Human Resources and Emiratization, Government of the United Arab Emirates. The Summit inspired future-focused dialogue on how the future of governments can be shaped to deliver opportunities to citizens worldwide for economic growth and prosperity as well as social cohesion and progress. The remarks delivered by HE Al Hamli on the future of work were truly inspiring, as were the remarks of **Mr Guy Ryder**, Director General of the ILO.

During the World Government Summit, I was present for the award of Best Minister to **Dr Ferozuddin Feroz**, Public Health Minister, Afghanistan, presented by **His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum** for implementing successful reforms and inspiring other government leaders and service providers to promote innovation within their domain to better serve the needs of their citizens. I was most proud to note the involvement of AIWF Global Partner PwC which conducted the global due diligence for this award, and it was such a pleasure to see PwC associated so closely with this important initiative to recognise excellence in the government sector. We at AIWF appreciate the longstanding partnership and support of PwC as our Global Partner.

The World Government Summit presented an excellent opportunity for me as a Commissioner of the ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work and as Founder & Chairman of the Arab International Women's Forum to connect with distinguished representatives and friends from the ILO, the World Bank, the OECD, PepsiCo, PwC and the Fujairah Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Following the World Government Summit, I had the great pleasure of engaging with AIWF's valued partners in Dubai through a series of valuable meetings with (among others) the senior leadership of AIWF Global Benefactor Partner PepsiCo and Global Partner PwC.

I had the opportunity to build many more new and valuable relationships in the United Arab Emirates through my participation at the World Government Summit and through a full schedule of high-level meetings in Dubai in February, including a special visit to Dubai Cares, a philanthropic organization working to improve children's access to quality primary education in developing countries which is playing a key role in helping achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 to ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning by 2030. I was very encouraged to note the many synergies that exist between AIWF and Dubai Cares in the critical areas of youth education and empowerment and have conveyed the warmest wishes on behalf of AIWF to Dubai Cares CEO **Mr Tarek Al Gurg** on the inspirational programmes and activities he and his team are implementing in Dubai and around

the world. I was also pleased to have the opportunity to engage in a series of meetings in Abu Dhabi with AIWF Co-Chair **Sana Bardawil**, visiting key contacts at Adnoc and the International Business Women's Group (IBWG) among others.

On 28 February in London, I had the privilege of attending the *About Jordan: Growth and Opportunity - the London Initiative 2019*, co-hosted by the Government of Jordan and the UK Government as a major international conference in central London to support investment, growth and jobs for Jordan. This initiative was truly a triumph for Jordan with **His Majesty King Abdullah** present together with the UK Prime Minister and many high level Jordanian and British senior officials. The conference brought together senior government officials, distinguished members of multilateral development and financial organisations and civil society and high-level investors and business people from over 60 countries and international organisations to unlock growth, jobs and investment for Jordan.

As AIWF launches its AIWF 2019 Annual Programme this month, it is an excellent time to share with pride the exciting initiatives that AIWF is now actively engaged in for the year ahead towards delivering another high-impact, results-oriented Annual Programme.

On 12 March 2019, I was proud to host the year's first AIWF Special Reception at the Royal Automobile Club in London marking the special occasion of International Women's Day 2019 and where I presented the AIWF 2019 Annual Programme to over 100 of AIWF's London-based partners, members and longstanding supporters from the private sector, the diplomatic corps and civil society. We were honoured to welcome **HE Ambassador Ibrahim Mohieldeen**, Ambassador for the League of Arab States in London, on this special occasion.

The AIWF 2019 Annual Programme formally commences with a high-level conference on *Women Leaders & Health: Empowering women leaders in innovation, medical education and healthcare delivery*, to be held in partnership between the Arab International Women's Forum, the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS) and the American University of Beirut (AUB) on 16-17 April 2019.

The opportunity to partner with AUB and UMMS on this path-breaking initiative developed last year through my visit to UMASS in 2018 and in subsequent meetings with AUB and UMASS. We are delighted to have the opportunity to host this high-level conference in full partnership with both UMMS and the American

University of Beirut, working closely with their valued teams in Boston and in Beirut to develop our impactful programme on women's leadership, entrepreneurship and development in medicine and the healthcare sciences. The programme also includes a highly timely half-day workshop on refugee maternal health in conflict / vulnerable situations.

As part of the American University of Cairo Centenary celebrations, AIWF's 2019 Annual Programme will also include a major conference in Egypt in September 2019 on *Women as Engines of Economic Growth: Empowering women innovators, entrepreneurs, executives and educators towards fulfilment of the SDGs in the MENA Region*, in full partnership with AUC. This initiative builds on the AIWF high-level agenda for action over the last eighteen years under the guiding principle of *Building Bridges, Building Business*, and takes forward AIWF's successful advocacy on women in business, as engines of economic growth and drivers of sustainable change.

AIWF is honoured to have been invited by **Ambassador Francis J Ricciardone**, President of the American University of Cairo, to host AIWF's 2019 conference in Egypt and is greatly looking forward to working with the outstanding team at AUC to deliver another high-impact conference highlighting women's roles as engines of economic growth and progress. Further details of the conference programme and registration will be included in AIWF's July 2019 newsletter.

On the occasion of International Women's Day and on behalf of the Board of the Arab International Women's Forum, I take this opportunity to wish all our members and partners a highly successful and productive year ahead as we all 'balance for better' and strive towards our shared vision of a more inclusive, more equitable, gender-balanced world for women and all our young people.

We look forward to welcoming you to Beirut for *Women Leaders & Health* in April 2019 and to Cairo for *Women as Engines of Economic Growth* in September. As always, we extend our deepest thanks and appreciation for the continued support and encouragement from AIWF's friends, members and partners all over the world and trust you will enjoy this rich and impactful issue of AIWF News.



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

AIWF Chairman Haifa Al Kaylani in Geneva for the official launch of the ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work Report

On 22 January 2019, AIWF Chairman **Haifa Al Kaylani** joined the distinguished Commissioners and senior leadership of the International Labour Organization in Geneva for the official launch of the ILO Report on the Future of Work marking the Centenary of the ILO in 2019.

Mrs Al Kaylani was exceptionally proud to have been invited by **Guy Ryder**, ILO Director-General, to join the ILO Commission in August 2017 as the only Commissioner from the Arab world, and it has been her honour to have served on this important Commission under the leadership and chairmanship of **Stefan Löfven**, Prime Minister of Sweden, and **Cyril Ramaphosa**, President of the Republic of South Africa. It was a great privilege to be a part of the independent 27-member Commission which includes leading global figures from business, trade unions, think tanks, government and non-governmental organizations. It was established by the International Labour Organization in 2017 as part of the ILO's Future of Work Centenary Initiative.

Over eighteen months, and as a result of the constructive deliberations of the Commissioners in Geneva, the Commission has now successfully delivered the impactful and independent ILO Report on the Future of Work which examines how to achieve a better future of work for all at a time of unprecedented change and exceptional challenges in the world of work. Among the key issues considered by the Commission are new forms of work, the institutional ramifications of the changing nature of work, lifelong learning, greater inclusivity and gender equality, the measurement of work and human well-being, and the role of universal social protection in a stable and just future of work.

A Universal Labour Guarantee, social protection from birth to old age and an entitlement to lifelong learning are among ten recommendations made in this landmark report, which calls for a "human-centred agenda for a decent future of work" that strengthens the social contract by placing people and the work they do at the centre of economic and social policy and business practice. The Report makes specific provision for implementing a transformative and measurable agenda for gender equality:

"The world of work begins at home. From parental leave to investment in public care services, policies need to foster the sharing of unpaid care work in the

home to create genuine equality of opportunity in the workplace. Strengthening women's voices and leadership, eliminating violence and harassment at work and implementing pay transparency policies are preconditions for gender equality. Specific measures are also needed to address gender equality in the technology-enabled jobs of tomorrow."

The landmark ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work Report outlines the steps needed to achieve a future of work that provides decent and sustainable work opportunities for all, calling for a new path which requires committed action on the part of governments, employers' and workers' organizations by reinvigorating the social contract. This agenda consists of three pillars of action, which in combination would drive growth, equity and sustainability for present and future generations:



HE Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa with Haifa Al Kaylani, Founder & Chairman of AIWF and the distinguished Commissioners of the ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work on the occasion of the launch of the ILO Report

- 1. Increasing investment in people's capabilities** by supporting lifelong learning and transitions for all, and through a transformative agenda for gender equality and strengthening social protection;
- 2. Increasing investment in the institutions of work** by establishing a Universal Labour Guarantee, revitalizing collective representation and leveraging technology for decent work; and
- 3. Increasing investment in decent and sustainable work**, which calls for transforming economies with a human-centred business and economic model

Further to its official launch in Geneva on 22 January 2019, the Report will later be submitted to the Centenary session of the International Labour Conference in June 2019. On its launch, the Report was widely shared with AIWF's valued friends and Global and Institutional partners in 22 countries. The ILO Report on the Future of Work is now available for download on the ILO website, together with a video from the ILO announcing the key messages of the report and a report summary.

AIWF celebrates International Women's Day 2019 with a Special Reception in London officially launching the AIWF 2019 Annual Programme



HE Ambassador Ibrahim Mohieldeen, Head of the London mission for the League of Arab States and Guest of Honour at the AIWF Special Reception

On 12 March 2019, the Arab International Women's Forum was delighted to welcome over 70 leading members of the London-and Europe-based Arab, British and international business community to the AIWF Special Reception celebrating the occasion of International Women's Day 2019. The AIWF Special Reception, held in the evening at the Royal Automobile Club in London, was hosted by AIWF Chairman **Haifa Al Kaylani** who was supported by several valued AIWF Board Members.

The Reception was well attended by senior leadership and representatives of the diplomatic corps and leading private sector, civil society and academic organisations including from the Royal Academy of Engineering, Boodle Hatfield, St Mark's Hospital/Imperial College, Schlumberger, Vistra, Northern Trust, the Financial Times, the Arab British Chamber of Commerce, Gulf International Bank, PwC, Heidrick & Struggles, Saudi British Joint Business Council, the National Bank of Egypt, Imperial College London Business School, the Global Diplomatic Forum, St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group, the Europe Arab Bank, the Commonwealth Disaster Management Agency, the Women's Engineering Society, Gulf Times, and WWF UK, among many others.

HE Ambassador Ibrahim Mohieldeen, Head of the London mission for the League of Arab States, delivered special remarks as a Guest of Honour at the AIWF Special Reception following Mrs Al Kaylani's keynote opening address, in which she welcomed the distinguished guests and valued partners and members in attendance and reiterated the support of AIWF for the spirit and mission of International Women's Day.

"International Women's Day," Mrs Al Kaylani said, "is a celebration of what women have done and will continue to do to further calls to 'Balance for Better' in every aspect of daily life in the Arab region and globally. Each year, AIWF is proud to join the international development community in celebrating International Women's Day and in 2019 we are especially proud to honour the IWD theme of 'Balance for Better' across the full year's programme, supporting the global call-to-action for driving gender balance and achieving a gender-equal world that will work for both women and men and leave no one behind." In line with AIWF's recent initiatives to empower and support women-led innovation in STEM, she said, "AIWF is also especially proud to support the UN Women campaign for International Women's Day, *Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change*, which puts innovation by women and girls, for women and girls, at the heart of efforts to achieve gender equality."

The 2019 IWD call for action is very much at the heart of what AIWF has been doing at the Arab and international level for over 18 years to create a more stable and more balanced future for women and youth in the MENA region and internationally. Through its key programmes and initiatives and working closely with our global network of corporate and institutional partners, AIWF prioritises women's and youth issues, examining strategies for job creation and inclusive sustainable development. AIWF supports a universal, rights-based approach to bringing about meaningful, multilateral collaboration between all stakeholders – grassroots organisations, the private sector, public sector partners and women and young people themselves to navigate the challenges of gender balance not only in the MENA region but globally.



The AIWF Board was delighted to welcome distinguished guests, partners and members at the AIWF Special Reception in London on 12 March 2019

The Special Reception celebrating International Women's Day provided AIWF with an excellent opportunity to launch the AIWF 2019 Annual Programme building on the momentum, milestones, relationships and recommendations that emerged not only through the outstanding 2018 AIWF Annual Programme but carrying forward the work and

approach of AIWF since its inception in 2001 which has been made possibly with the endorsement of all valued partners and supporters.

Taking forward the UN Women aim on International Women's Day to empower women and girls in innovation and STEM, and the overarching IWD theme of achieving gender balance, the Chairman was proud to announce the details of this year's AIWF programme, which will commence with a high-level conference on *Women Leaders & Health: Empowering women leaders in innovation, medical education and healthcare delivery*, to be held in partnership between the Arab International Women's Forum, the University of Massachusetts Medical School and the American University of Beirut, on 16-17 April 2019.

AIWF's 2019 Annual Programme will continue with a major conference in Egypt on 16-18 September 2019 on *Women as Engines of Economic Growth: Empowering women innovators, entrepreneurs, executives and educators towards fulfilment of the SDGs in the MENA Region*, in partnership with the American University in Cairo and in parallel with the university's centenary celebrations.

For further information on the AIWF 2019 Annual Programme, please contact the AIWF Office in London.

AIWF Chairman participates on a key panel of the World Government Summit in Dubai on the Future of Work and Lifelong Learning

As a Commissioner on the ILO Commission on the Future of Work and as Founder & Chairman of AIWF, **Haifa Al Kaylani** was honoured and delighted to be invited to address and participate on a key panel on the Future of Work and Lifelong Learning at the World Government Summit held on 10-12 February 2019 in Dubai under the patronage of **HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai at the kind invitation of **HE Nasser bin Thani Juma Al Hamli**, Minister of Human Resources and Emiratisation, Government of the United Arab Emirates.

The World Government Summit inspired future-focused dialogue on how the future of governments can be shaped to deliver opportunities to citizens worldwide for economic growth and prosperity as well as social cohesion and progress. The Summit, held at the Madinat Jumeirah in Dubai, brought together 4,000 high-profile officials from 140 countries, heads of state, global figures and leaders of 30 international



Haifa Al Kaylani, Founder & Chairman of AIWF at the World Government Summit with **HE Nasser bin Thani Juma Al Hamli**, Minister of Human Resources and Emiratisation UAE and **Guy Ryder**, Director General of the ILO

organisations, as well as more than 120 heads of leading global private sector organisations.

The Summit was attended and addressed by high-level keynote speakers including the World Government Summit Guest of Honour **Guy Ryder**, Director General of the International Labour Organization who shared the outcomes of the ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work Report launched in Geneva in January 2019. As a Commissioner on the ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work the AIWF Chairman was proud to participate on a key panel on the Future of Work and Lifelong Learning alongside **HE Sayed Zulikar Bukhari**, Minister of State and Special Advisor to the Prime Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Government of Pakistan; **Khalid Koser**, Executive Director, Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund; and **Jan-Emmanuel De Neve**, Associate Professor, Saïd Business School, University of Oxford. In her opening statement Mrs Al Kaylani said: "The 2019 World Government Summit represents a timely and crucial opportunity for all of us, representing governments, the private sector and civil society, to come together to collectively shape viable solutions for the critical issues of our time, as part of our joint commitment to creating a just and sustainable future working world for all."

In her panel remarks, Mrs Al Kaylani talked about the recent launch of the ILO Report on the Future of Work, calling it "an excellent starting point to inspire and guide a human-centred agenda for a decent future of work". She elaborated on the importance of lifelong learning and continuous education to address skills gaps and transform school-to-work transitional challenges for women and young people. "For both women and young people in the Arab world," she said, "the school-to-work transition is already complex, as it is in many other regions globally, but this gap threatens to widen in the coming decades if left unaddressed, meaning women and young people will

not successfully retain from their education the key skills that will aptly prepare them for the working world of the future." She concluded: "The challenges are complex but by no means insurmountable. Addressing them through international collaboration, a universal rights-based approach and through multi-stakeholder partnerships is key to ensuring progression, prosperity and stability for future generations."

Mrs Al Kaylani was also proud to attend a key plenary where AIWF Global Partner PwC presented the World Government Summit's Best Minister Award to **Dr Ferozuddin Feroz**, Public Health Minister, Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The World Government Summit presented an excellent opportunity for the Arab International Women's Forum to connect with distinguished representatives and friends from the ILO, the World Bank, the OECD, PepsiCo, PwC, the Fujairah Chamber of Commerce & Industry. AIWF has formally extended its warmest congratulations to HE Nasser Al Hamli on the outstanding success of this important initiative and its deepest respect and highest regard for the important work of the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation to empower the next generation of young leaders in the UAE and globally.

AIWF Chairman participates at high-level World Bank Mashreq Empowerment Summit in Lebanon



HE Saad Hariri, Prime Minister of Lebanon, and senior representatives of the World Bank leadership at the Opening Ceremony of the World Bank Mashreq Empowerment Summit held in Lebanon in January 2019

AIWF Chairman **Haifa Al Kaylani** and AIWF Board Member **Hanan Saab** had the honour and pleasure of attending the World Bank Mashreq Women's Economic Empowerment Summit on 19 January 2019 at the Grand Serail and at the margins of the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit.

The conference was held under the Patronage and with the presence of **HE Saad Hariri** with high level representation from the Governments of Jordan and Iraq, as well as heads of international organizations, ministers and members of parliament. Around

350 participants from governments, civil society, private sector and development partners were present at the event. The Summit was organised in partnership between the Government of Lebanon, the Government of Canada, the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, the World Bank and IFC, bringing key stakeholders together to support the efforts of Mashreq governments towards enhancing women's economic empowerment as a catalyst towards more inclusive, sustainable and peaceful societies, where economic growth benefits all.

The Summit was well attended by leading women in business from Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq, with several friends of AIWF attending from Lebanon and Jordan with significant delegations of women leaders from Lebanon led by **Claudine Aoun Roukoz**, President of the National Commission for Lebanese Women. The Summit also attracted high-level ministerial support and government delegations from Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq, as well as representatives of the Prime Minister's Office; the Ministries of Women's Affairs, Labour, Justice, Social Affairs, Economy, and Planning; Members of Parliament; Women's National Commissions; the private sector; civil society representatives; and development partners representing the UN agencies and international organisations. Official Opening Keynotes were delivered by **Ferid Belhaj**, Vice President MENA Region, World Bank; **Stephanie von Friedeburg**, Chief Operating Officer, IFC; **HE Emmanuelle Lamoureux**, Ambassador of Canada in Lebanon; **HE Mahdi Al Alak**, Secretary General, Council of Ministers, Iraq; **HE Mary Kwar**, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Jordan; and **HE Ahmad Abu Al Ghaith**, Secretary General, League of Arab States.

In the MENA region, women only generate 18% of GDP, according to the World Bank, compared to a world average of 37%, and increasing female labour force participation to the levels of men could boost regional GDP by 47%. Today, the majority of women in MENA are facing high inactivity and high unemployment rates. Only 19% of working age women participate in the labour force in MENA, compared to 46% in middle-income countries. In Mashreq countries, Jordan has one of the lowest female labour participation rates in the world with 14% compared to 19% in Iraq and 23% in Lebanon.

With this in mind, the high-level conference examined strategies for empowering women and girls which is instrumental to achieving more inclusive institutions, sound policies, and effective development outcomes. In the Mashreq countries, important gains have been made in women's access to education and health, but persistent challenges remain in the areas of women's economic opportunities, voice and agency. Accordingly, the conference aimed to elevate the



Distinguished delegates of the World Bank Mashreq Empowerment Summit held in Lebanon in January 2019

dialogue and overall awareness of the importance and benefits of enhanced economic participation of women in the Mashreq region, and create a space for the Governments of Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq, in collaboration with the private sector, civil society and development partners, to share their commitments to this agenda. During the conference, the Mashreq Gender Financing Facility was officially launched, aimed at supporting client countries in achieving their commitments towards enhancing women's economic empowerment.

Sessions examined the creation of a more enabling policy environment for women's participation in the Mashreq; the private sector as a catalyst for women's economic empowerment; and leveraging social change to enable women's economic opportunities. The Closing Session on Gender Commitments and Action Plans by the governments of Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq was moderated by **Dr Fadia Kiwan**, Director General, Arab Women Organization, who was a keynote speaker at AIWF's recent conference on *Women, Water & Youth* in Amman, Jordan. The concluding remarks, 'The Beirut Communique on Mashreq Women's Economic Empowerment', were delivered by **Saroj Kumar Jha**, Regional Director Middle East, World Bank, in whose honour AIWF held a Special Reception in Beirut in July 2018.

The Chairman was delighted to attend at the kind invitation of the World Bank and to contribute her insights into the benefits of enhanced economic participation of women in the Mashreq region and the importance of bringing stakeholders together – the private sector, civil society and international development partners – to share their commitments to this vital objective. The generous and ongoing partnership of the World Bank on AIWF initiatives to empower women and young people in the MENA region and internationally has always been deeply appreciated and AIWF looks forward to continuing to work closely with the World Bank's outstanding teams in Lebanon and across the MENA in support of the World Bank's mission and strategy in the region.

AIWF present at landmark Lebanon-UK Business & Investment Forum in London in December 2018

AIWF Chairman **Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani** attended the inaugural Lebanon-UK Business & Investment Forum which took place at Savoy Place in London on 12 December 2018.

Led by **HE Prime Minister of Lebanon Saad Hariri**, a senior government delegation and Lebanon's leading private sector companies travelled to London to highlight the investment opportunities available via the country's infrastructure Capital Investment Plan (CIP), with more than 200 projects in transport, power-generation and water supply open for UK companies to bid on, and the \$11 billion development program first announced at CEDRE in April 2018. The Forum attracted 500 high-level delegates and participation from the Lebanese and British governments, including Senior Cabinet Ministers, including International Trade Secretary **Dr Liam Fox** and International Development Secretary **Penny Mordaunt**.

Opening remarks were delivered by **HE Rami Mortada**, Ambassador of Lebanon to the UK, HM Trade Commissioner for the Middle East, **Sir Simon Penney**; **HE Gebran Bassil**, the Lebanese Minister of Foreign Affairs; and **The Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP**, Minister for Middle East at the FCO, who stated that the relationship between the UK and Lebanon has never been stronger, with UK support to Lebanon now worth around \$200 million per year.

The Forum, organised by DMA Invest on behalf of the Lebanese Embassy in London, was highly focused on highlighting key strengths and challenges facing Lebanon's economy while also promoting a number of multisector projects and opportunities offered by the CIP. Investor panels included leading decision makers involved in developing Lebanon's monetary, financial and economic policy. The Summit speakers highlighted the importance of trade, Lebanon-UK business relations, and the potential for growth and development arising from the Cedar (CEDRE) Conference for international donors and investors supporting Lebanon's economy, held in Paris on April 6, 2018.

In July 2016, AIWF hosted a Special Reception in Beirut in honour of **Saroj Kumar Jha**, Regional Director of the World Bank, who in his Guest of Honour Keynote Address elaborated on much-needed initiatives and projects to revitalise Lebanon's infrastructure and development. The focus of the evening's programme was on enhancing economic growth and opportunities for young people in Lebanon, highlighting the lead

role of the World Bank and other stakeholders in implementing critical economic reform and investment programmes with a special focus on ensuring that economic growth creates opportunities and prosperity for women and young people in Lebanon.

The AIWF Chairman was proud to be invited to attend this landmark Forum and to note the high-level presence from Lebanon in the United Kingdom which made all attending exceptionally proud as did the UK Government's presence and participation at the most senior level at the summit which was pivotal to its success. AIWF looks forward to supporting the British mission in Lebanon and the Lebanese Embassy in London on their future initiatives to create prosperity and stability in the region with women and young people at the heart as true engines of economic growth.

AIWF Global Benefactor Partner PepsiCo seeks to stop the crop gap

Our shared challenge

As a result of population growth and the rising global middle class, it has been estimated that there is a 56 percent gap between the calories we produced in 2010 and the amount the world will need in 2050. If the global community is to rise to this challenge, it is vital that we recognize the importance of the women who feed the world. Women are the backbone of rural economies, representing 43% of the agricultural labor force in developing countries, and often working longer hours than men. Yet they often lack land rights and access to the training, finance and agricultural inputs they need to boost their productive capacity. It is estimated that if women farmers had access to the same resources as their male counterparts, their food production would increase up to 30%, supporting local food security and nutrition for up to 150 million people.

PepsiCo's role in food systems change

PepsiCo's strives to be a leader in building a more sustainable food system by advancing sustainable agriculture, water security and a circular future for packaging. PepsiCo's roots in agriculture are at the core of this vision. Our Sustainable Farming Program (SFP) leverages our scale and our global networks of farmers to support next generation agricultural practices and farm-based technologies that create efficiencies and optimize crop production. This program, now implemented in 38 countries, is helping our farmers to increase yields, improve their livelihoods, boost social and economic development, advance worker rights and protect the environment. In 2019, PepsiCo, for the first time, is committing to including the empowerment of female farmers in our supply chain as a goal of the SFP and our wider work to transform the food system.

A campaign to drive awareness and engagement - closing the crop gap overview

In support of this goal, we recognize that it is important to help raise the voice of female farmers themselves. PepsiCo and our nonprofit partner, CARE, are launching a global campaign that gives a platform to women to tell their own stories about the challenges they face in agriculture. "Closing the Crop Gap" will introduce consumer audiences to five small-scale women farmers in India, Egypt, Guatemala, Poland and United States through a series of short-form videos. The videos are produced by female videographers from the same regions as the farmers whose stories they are documenting.



AIWF Global Benefactor Partner PepsiCo and its nonprofit partner, CARE, are launching a global campaign that gives a platform to women to tell their own stories about the challenges they face in agriculture

Consumers will be invited to engage in the campaign by voting for their favorite video, with each person that votes receiving a kiva.org microloan to benefit other female entrepreneurs. The videographer who receives the most votes will be invited to create a three-part docu-series further exploring the experiences of women in agriculture in Egypt, Peru and Uganda, where CARE and the PepsiCo Foundation will be working to support 5 million female farmers and their families. The campaign will be supported by a promotional plan, including targeted consumer engagement via National Geographic and Twitter and amplification through partner and consumer social and digital channels.

AIWF fully shares the PepsiCo mission to raise awareness of critical sustainability and empowerment issues for women and young people globally, and is especially appreciative of the support and endorsement of PepsiCo over the years as our Exclusive Benefactor Partner and for its kind support in the past of AIWF initiatives and conferences addressing critical sustainability, development and environmental challenges in the MENA region, most recently for the 10th Young Arab Women Leaders conference held in London in partnership with the Royal Academy of Engineering and the World Bank on 'Women Led Innovation in STEM' and the Women, Water & Youth conference held in Amman in September 2018 in partnership with the Center for Mediterranean Integration.

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

AIWF Global Corporate Benefactor Partner



AIWF Global Platinum Partners



AIWF Global Diamond Partners



AIWF Institutional Partners



AIWF Global Communications Partner



About Jordan: Growth and Opportunity Initiative 2019: A triumph for UK-Jordan relations with women and youth at the heart of reform and growth strategy

On 28 February 2019, the **Rt Honourable Theresa May MP**, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, and **His Majesty King Abdullah II** of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan hosted Jordan Growth and Opportunity: The London Initiative 2019, as a new initiative designed to lay the foundations to unlock growth, jobs and investment for Jordan which the AIWF Founder & Chairman **Haifa Al Kaylani** had the honour and pleasure of attending.

The Initiative marks the start of a new partnership approach between Jordan and the international community in pursuit of Jordan's sustainable growth and self-reliance. The conference brought together senior government officials, distinguished members of multilateral development and financial organizations and civil society, and high-level investors and business people from over 60 countries and international organisations to help support Jordan transition to a more productive, competitive and equitable economy for the benefit of all those who live there.

Jordan has undergone intensive reform efforts in recent years, mainly directed to improving the business and investment environment. As **HE Prime Minister Omar Razzaz** said in his key note speech, historically, Jordan has faced regional shocks one after another, yet Jordan has done and will continue to do everything in its power to develop by doing good for Jordan and others in the MENA region and its partners around the world.

This initiative was truly a triumph for Jordan with many high-level Jordanian, British and international senior officials in attendance including **Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP**, Secretary of State for International Development and Minister for Women and Equalities, and **Kristalina Georgieva**, CEO of the World Bank, and other representatives of the World Bank speaking at the Summit who particularly emphasised the important role of women and youth in private sector development and economic growth and reform for Jordan.

At the UK-Jordan London Initiative, held in the same week as the first EU-League of Arab States Summit, UK Prime Minister the Rt Hon Theresa May said: "This Initiative backs Jordan's Vision 2025 and supports Jordan in delivering social and economic reforms that will transform its economy, making the most of its

young, talented and diverse workforce – and, crucially, actively encouraging the participation of its women."

The next five years offer an unprecedented opportunity for growth for businesses and investors, driven by Jordan's young, diverse and educated population. 75% of the Arabic content on the internet is generated in Jordan, extraordinary for a country of Jordan's size. With ongoing economic growth reform, the re-opening of the border with Iraq and an uptick in sectors such as tourism and a promising start-up scene there is a real sense of optimism. Jordan is in an ideal position to benefit from a future full of emerging opportunities. Jordan is a powerhouse of talented, aspiring young people – 68% of Jordan's population are below the age of 30 and full of aspirations. Furthermore, its central geo-strategic position, connecting continents and markets, and its respected international role, stands behind its established trade relationships and numerous FTAs.

Through the Initiative, Jordan has set out a credible vision – and detailed agenda – to achieve economic transformation. HM King Abdullah II articulated in his speech an inspiring vision of a self-reliant, prosperous and inclusive country. HM's vision focuses on economic transformation: moving to private-sector growth powered by Jordan's highly-educated young population moving into jobs in high-end service exports and entrepreneurialism. This is a shift in focus to future-proofed sectors such as professional and business services, logistics, technology and tourism, along with improving education quality to power the economy of tomorrow. This vision is anchored on three main pillars that define the London Initiative; robust reforms to stimulate inclusive growth and job creation, especially for women; measures to improve macroeconomic and fiscal stability; and an enabling business environment to attract investments. This vision was further emphasized upon by Prime Minister Omar Razzaz and all Jordanian officials throughout the sessions of the Conference. Businesses, investors and global political leaders endorsed this vision as a clear and credible model for future growth that directly creates new jobs for Jordanians.

This strategy resonates with AIWF's work and mission for the last 18 years since its inception in London as a development organisation leading the way forward for women and young leaders in the MENA region and with their counterparts internally. The AIWF Chairman was honoured to attend this vital Summit in London, a landmark initiative further nurturing UK-Jordan relations, and pledges the full support of AIWF partners, members and stakeholders to helping Jordan realise the objectives laid out through this Initiative to bring more women into the workforce and leverage the huge potential of talented, educated young Jordanians.

AIWF Chairman participates at the Center for Mediterranean Integration 10th Annual Meeting in Paris in January 2019

Haifa Al Kaylani, AIWF Founder & Chairman, attended the Center for Mediterranean Integration's 10th Annual Meeting which took place in Paris, France on 23 January 2019 at the invitation of **Blanca Moreno-Dodson**, Manager of the CMI.

The 10th CMI Annual Meeting gathered members and partners of the CMI and was chaired by **Ferid Belhaj**, World Bank Vice President for the MENA region. The meeting attracted high-level participation from the Center's country members as well as its partner organizations. With the CMI entering its 10th year, the meeting was of strategic importance to discuss achievements and seek new ideas on the way forward. The discussions and videos presented highlighted the concrete results CMI has achieved throughout the year, the impact it had on its beneficiaries, and the added value it brought to its institutional partners. Members and partners of the CMI, including the Arab International Women's Forum, used this important opportunity to reiterate their continuous support for the CMI's work.



Haifa Al Kaylani, Founder & Chairman AIWF, attended the Center for Mediterranean Integration's 10th Annual Meeting in Paris, France on 23 January 2019

The CMI commenced its 10th Annual Meeting with a keynote address by the World Bank VP for The MENA region, **Ferid Belhaj**, who highlighted the importance of the CMI in the region as a driver for reforms and for looking at the future of the Mediterranean. Mr Belhaj also emphasized the enormous potential that lies in strengthening the connection linking the Mediterranean region to the African continent and expressed the interest of the World Bank to further explore that connection. The CMI believes that collaboration is the Mediterranean region's best strategy to achieve integration and economic development. The meeting was also an opportunity

for representatives from the Anna Lindh Foundation, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Investment Bank, Cities Alliance, Union for the Mediterranean and Agence Française de Développement (AFD) to reaffirm their willingness to continue working with the CMI for the upcoming years.

The outstanding programme developed by the CMI as a strong enabler of partnerships and actionable knowledge in the Mediterranean was deeply valuable to AIWF and all attending, and the high-level participation of leaders from both Europe and the Arab world was pivotal to its success. Haifa Al Kaylani was delighted to participate following the longstanding support of the World Bank for AIWF since inception in 2001 and the most recent partnership of AIWF with the World Bank CMI on our successful joint initiative on *Women, Water & Youth* in Jordan in September 2018, which took a unique intersectional approach to three of the MENA region's most critical development challenges – water scarcity, women's under-representation in economic and political life, and the ongoing crisis of youth unemployment.

The AIWF Board, AIWF Global and Institutional Partners and international members look forward to co-operating again in the near future with our valued partners at the CMI and to continuing the fruitful partnership to deliver future high-impact initiatives in the region and beyond.

AIWF to hold high-level conference on *Women Leaders & Health* in partnership with the University of Massachusetts Medical School and the American University of Beirut in April 2019

The Arab International Women's Forum is proud to announce that the AIWF 2019 Annual Programme will commence with a high-level conference on *Women Leaders & Health: Empowering women leaders in innovation, medical education and healthcare delivery*, to be held in partnership between the Arab International Women's Forum, the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS) and the American University of Beirut (AUB) on 16-17 April 2019.

The programme for *Women Leaders & Health* has been developed in full partnership between AIWF, UMMS and AUB, with the rich and timely sessions and concepts significantly strengthened by AUB's globally recognised approach to innovative medical education for the next generation of medical practitioners and



Haifa Al Kaylani, Founder & Chairman, Arab International Women's Forum, announcing the Women Leaders & Health conference to be held at the American University of Beirut Medical Center in Lebanon in April 2019

healthcare in the Arab world and beyond, and the leadership of UMMS in global health and wellbeing through pioneering education, research and healthcare delivery.

Haifa Al Kaylani, Founder & Chairman of AIWF and Conference Co-Chair, said: "Women Leaders & Health is a much-needed and timely initiative that brings into focus key challenges and opportunities for women's leadership in medical education, innovation and healthcare delivery. AIWF looks forward to working with our partners at AUB and UMMS, bringing the Arab public and private sectors, international development organisations and institutes, civil society, women and youth together to examine opportunities and barriers to entry for women leaders in medicine and the healthcare sciences and will deliver actionable recommendations for empowering women in these critical sectors towards fulfilment of the SDGs on gender diversity and maternal and children's health.

Conference sessions on Day 1 (16 April 2019) will explore the fostering of an inclusive and empowering environment for women-led innovation, research and discovery through regional and international best practices; building capacity for women in medicine in the Arab world and globally, through technology, training, entrepreneurship, executive leadership and social enterprise; and bringing Arab and international women leaders together to reflect on the region's most critical health challenges head on, through cross-border collaboration, capacity building, medical education and gender diversity in medicine and the health sciences.

The interactive and highly specialised half-day workshop on Day 2 (17 April 2019), titled *Addressing maternal and child health in conflict and / or vulnerable settings*, will bring into focus the critical challenge of refugee maternal mortality and will engage key stakeholders in the international development community as well as the public and private sectors and civil society to find actionable

solutions to this critical humanitarian issue that disproportionately impacts refugee women and children.

The opportunity to partner with AUB and UMMS on this path-breaking initiative emerged after the AIWF Chairman visited UMMS in 2017 and through subsequent meetings with the senior leadership of both UMMS and AUB. AIWF is delighted to have the opportunity to partner with the University of Massachusetts Medical School to organise this conference and to be doing so at and in full partnership with the American University of Beirut, working closely with both outstanding teams at AUB and UMMS to present an impactful programme on women's leadership, entrepreneurship and development in medicine and the healthcare sciences featuring leading women from Lebanon, the broader MENA region and internationally sharing their insights on critical conference themes and their experiences of women's leadership in medicine, medical education and healthcare delivery.

For further information on the Women Leaders & Health conference in Beirut, please contact the AIWF Office in London and visit <http://womenleadershealth.eventbrite.co.uk>.

AIWF publishes official Report & Recommendations emerging from high-level conference on Women, Water & Youth held in Amman in September 2018

In December 2018, AIWF was proud to announce the official publication of the flagship Report & Recommendations which documents the high-level and impact-oriented recommendations to emerge from the two days of conference discussions held at the Joint Conference of AIWF and the Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI) held in Amman, Jordan on 26-27 September 2018, on *Women, Water & Youth: Perspectives from the MENA Region*.

The conference was an outstanding success for AIWF, CMI and all valued stakeholders, taking a unique intersectional approach to three of the Arab world's most critical development challenges – water scarcity and food insecurity, women's economic participation and youth unemployment. The conference was deeply enriched by the invaluable input and contributions of Key Stakeholders, all AIWF Global Partners and Conference Partners, the **Union of Arab Chambers**, **PepsiCo**, **PwC** and the **Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (CIHEAM)**.

AIWF is fully committed to following up on all recommendations through high-level action and advocacy towards full implementation in partnership and co-operation with our valued partners and stakeholders who share in the AIWF mission for a sustainable future for Arab women and young people. The two-day *Women, Water & Youth* conference was an excellent opportunity for all our organisations to bring into focus issues of shared and urgent concern around sustainability, water scarcity and food insecurity, women's economic participation and leadership, the refugee crisis, and the ongoing challenge of youth unemployment.

The interaction that took place between the distinguished Opening Session Speakers, Panel Chairs, Guest Speakers and Delegates, attending from across Jordan, 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.



Women, Water & Youth was held in September 2018 in Amman as a joint high-level conference of the Arab International Women's Forum and the Center for Mediterranean Integration

In addition to distinguished partners at the CMI and the World Bank, guest speakers proudly contributing to the official report include world class specialists in the areas of sustainability, water resource management, refugee support and education, and women and youth empowerment together with representatives of leading international organisations, NGOs, academia, research institutes and the private sector, representing: 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; Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia; the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari; the Water Authority of Jordan; the Palestinian Water Authority; and the Mediterranean Youth for Water Network, among many others.

Recommendations to emerge from the observations and valued contributions of all distinguished speakers covered critical areas for actions including improving

water governance and technological innovation; advancing gender parity in sustainable agriculture; supporting specialised research and data; promoting public and private sector partnerships, support and investment for women-led sustainability projects, initiatives and social enterprises; building public awareness through STEM education; engaging young people and families / households in water conservation efforts; and addressing the critical challenges of the refugee and internal displacement crises in the region together with ongoing regional concerns around migration, job mobility and freedom of movement.

Women, Water & Youth reinforced AIWF's steadfast focus on investing in women and youth in the Arab region and internationally whilst bringing awareness to regional sustainability challenges that, if unaddressed, will deeply reflect in the region's future stability and prosperity. Addressing the nexus between water scarcity and food insecurity, women's economic participation and the ongoing challenge of youth unemployment underscores AIWF's deep and abiding commitment to efforts to realise the SDGs in the Arab world, and to the UN Global Compact Principles, which as a Global NGO Member AIWF is proud to contribute to and honour in all its programmes and initiatives.

The full Report and Recommendations are available in both English and Arabic for download from the AIWF website, and have been widely shared by AIWF with our 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, the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari, the Water Authority of Jordan; the Palestinian Water Authority, the Mediterranean Youth for Water Network and the MENA-OECD Investment Programme.

AIWF now looks with great optimism to carrying the *Women, Water & Youth* 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.

AIWF announces major conference in partnership with the American University in Cairo in September 2019 on *Women as Engines of Economic Growth*

Following AIWF's high-level conference on *Women Leaders & Health* to be held at the American University of Beirut in April 2019, AIWF's 2019 Annual Programme will also include 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*, in partnership with the American University in Cairo and in parallel with the university's centenary celebrations. The conference will be held on 16-18 September 2019 at the AUC New Cairo Campus.

Following a series of exchanges with **Ambassador Francis Ricciardone**, President of the American University in Cairo (AUC) after the AIWF Chairman attended his distinguished address in April 2018 at the Harvard University Centre for European Studies, it was agreed that AIWF and AUC would organise a joint conference on *Women as Engines of Economic Growth at AUC in September 2019*. The conference, fully titled *Women as Engines of Economic Growth: Empowering women innovators, entrepreneurs, executives and educators towards the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals in the MENA Region*, will examine critical development challenges and opportunities for women leaders in business, entrepreneurship, academia and public service in Egypt and the broader MENA region towards fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on women and young people and their social and economic prosperity.

This initiative builds on the AIWF high-level agenda for action over the last eighteen years under the guiding principle of *Building Bridges, Building Business*, and takes forward AIWF's successful advocacy on women in business, as engines of economic growth and drivers of sustainable change. The conference programme, the development of which has been led by AIWF with the input of AUC, will cover timely and relevant topics for discussion including 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. The AIWF / AUC Cairo conference will draw all core panel discussions and reflections together under the overarching themes of the SDGs and the Agenda 2030 for Women.

AIWF is exceptionally proud to have held two high-level conferences in Cairo in the past at the League of

Arab States, the first being *Women in the Arab World, Partners in the Community and on the World Stage* at the League of Arab States in Cairo in June 2004, marking the very first occasion that the League had co-hosted a women's conference in the main Chamber of their headquarters and with a special address delivered by **HE Mr Amre Moussa**, former Secretary General of the League. This landmark event was followed in June 2005 with a second high-level conference in Cairo, *Ten Years after Barcelona: Women and Integrated Rural Development*, held with the valued cooperation of the League of Arab States and the support of the European Parliament, the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and the World Bank to mark the tenth anniversary of the Barcelona Process.

AIWF is proud to be back in Egypt as part of its 2019 Annual Programme at the kind invitation of **Ambassador Francis J Ricciardone**, President of the American University of Cairo, and is very much looking forward to working closely with **Dr Ghada Howaidy**, Associate Dean Executive Education and External Relations, American University in Cairo School of Business who was a keynote speaker at AIWF's *Young Arab Women Leaders* conference in Morocco in April 2017, and her outstanding team at AUC to deliver another high-impact joint conference in September 2019. For further information on the Cairo programme please contact the AIWF Office in London.

AIWF attends the Global Thinkers Forum Excellence Awards Gala in London honouring leading female minds in governance, leadership and lifetime achievement

AIWF Founder & Chairman **Haifa Al Kaylani** attended the Global Thinkers Forum 6th Awards for Excellence Gala on 06 December 2018 under the theme '100 Years: Women of Passion and Purpose', held to honour leading female minds who have leveraged ideas, innovation, technology, passion, culture and values to lead by example and have made meaningful contributions to good governance, prosperity and development.

The Awards for Excellence Gala was hosted in the presence of **HE President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, HRH Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan, the Rt Hon Tobias Ellwood MP, Baroness Sandip Verma** and dignitaries from all over the world. Awards were presented to eight outstanding women who were recognised for their contributions to entrepreneurship, business, women's empowerment, global thinking, leadership, positive change, African female leadership and lifetime achievement.



(From left to right): Elizabeth Filippouli, Founder & CEO Global Thinkers Forum; HRH Princess Sumaya of Jordan, President of the Royal Scientific Society; Haifa Al Kaylani, Founder & Chairman of the Arab International Women's Forum; the Rt Hon Tobias Ellwood, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Minister for Defence People and Veterans

An additional Athena40 recognition was given to HRH Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan, President of the Royal Scientific Society, for her services to women's leadership and empowerment. Athena40 is the first ever global ranking of the top 40 most powerful female minds. Launched in Paris at UNESCO in March 2018, it acknowledges the work of the 40 most dynamic, active and fearless female thought leaders, columnists, commentators and activists across all industries and from all over the world. The first ranking will be announced in March 2020.

At the Gala, HRH Princess Sumaya said: "When given the opportunity, women in our region and around the world have proven themselves, again and again, to be innovative and creative, resourceful and driven. Gatherings such as this help to build confidence, to celebrate success, and to devise better strategies to achieve incredible outcomes for women and, ultimately, for society as a whole."

The AIWF Chairman thoroughly enjoyed the outstanding keynote addresses from HE Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, First Elected Female Head of State in Africa & Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, and all the accomplished and highly distinguished women leaders who participated at the Gala, which was beautifully organised by the GTF team.

AIWF is indeed proud to be affiliated with the Global Thinkers Forum and highly commends the Board of the GTF for the excellent Global Thinkers Mentors programme and outreach which makes such a rich impact on the lives and confidence of young people aspiring to leadership positions and excellence across all sectors.

AIWF extends congratulations to the new Secretary General of the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce Bandar Ali Reda

The AIWF Board extends its sincere congratulations to the new Secretary General & CEO of the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce, **Mr Bandar Ali Reda**. The ABCC is a valued and longstanding Institutional Partner of AIWF and the two organisations have collaborated closely since the signing of a MoU 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.



Bandar Ali Reda, Secretary General & CEO, Arab British Chamber of Commerce

Over the years, the ABCC and AIWF have been highly successful in their joint initiatives to bring top-level Arab and European decision-makers together, focusing efforts on capacity development and the facilitation of networking and mentorship opportunities that play such an important role in shaping multi-region business growth. **Haifa Al Kaylani** is proud to serve on the Board of the Arab British Chamber of Commerce, and she and the Board of AIWF highly value the Institutional Partnership and MoU alliance between AIWF and the ABCC honouring the AIWF mission of 'Building Bridges, Building Business' and the ABCC mission of creating 'Friendship through Trade'.

Mr Ali Reda succeeds former Secretary General & CEO of the ABCC **Dr Afnan Al Shuaiby** who is a longstanding and deeply valued Board Member of the Arab International Women's Forum, a Saudi woman leader in business who led the ABCC through eleven years of exciting growth for the Chamber and for Arab-British business relations overall. Mrs Al Kaylani is honoured to have contributed over the years to the Chamber's efforts to promote continued reform and economic stability in the region and always, to encourage initiatives for Arab women and young leaders to thrive in creating new business, trade and economic links between the UK and the Arab world.

Roula Dashti appointed Secretary General of ESCWA in major milestone for Arab women in public service

The AIWF Board extends its congratulations to **Roula Dashti** on her recently announced appointment as Executive Secretary of ESCWA. The Board have conveyed their warmest wishes to Ms Dashti for all future success in this vital role which marks another significant milestone for Kuwaiti women leaders and all Arab women in public service at the highest global levels of development and co-operation.

AIWF has a long history of close co-operation with ESCWA, from AIWF's earliest days when ESCWA was led by former Executive Secretary **HE Mervat Tallawy**, who served in this distinguished role from 2000 to 2007, and most recently for the high-level conference hosted in Amman, Jordan in September 2018 on *Women, Water & Youth: Perspectives from the MENA Region*, held in partnership with the World Bank Center for Mediterranean Integration, for which AIWF welcomed **Dr Reem Nejdawi**, Executive Director of the ESCWA Technology Centre, as a valued panel chair and speaker. AIWF was proud to have the endorsement and support of ESCWA for this important initiative which contributed greatly to its success.

AIWF looks forward to continuing the longstanding history of partnership and collaboration between AIWF and ESCWA and to working closely together to find viable solutions to key environmental, empowerment and development challenges in the MENA region and internationally.

AIWF Board Member Dr Alanoud Al Sharekh participates as a key speaker on collaborative advocacy at the Milken MENA Summit in Dubai



Dr Alanoud Alsharekh, AIWF Board Member & Director of Ibtakar Strategic Consultancy

AIWF Board Member **Dr Alanoud Alsharekh** was a key speaker at the Milken MENA Summit held in Dubai on 13 February 2019, joining a distinguished panel of women leaders on the panel titled Collaborative

Advocacy: A Path to Gender Parity. Dr Alsharekh was invited to participate on a key panel examining both the significant improvements that the MENA region has seen in gender parity over the years and the obstacles that still remain, including continued restrictions on women's legal and economic equality, as well as leadership opportunities. In conflict zones, women's human rights are especially at risk. The panel, moderated by CNBC's **Hadley Gamble**, invited female trailblazers from the MENA region to discuss how we can all work together, in partnership with government and industry, to effectively generate inclusion reform and other profound social change in the context of local attitudes and values.

Dr Alsharekh is a valued AIWF Board Member, Director of Ibtakar Strategic Consultancy which is leading the Empowering Kuwaiti Women in Politics program, and Founder of Abolish 153 which aims to abolish honour killing legislation in Kuwait and the neighbouring region.

The panel on Collaborative Advocacy included **HE Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi**, AIWF Founder Board Member and Former Minister of State for Tolerance, Minister of State for International Cooperation, and Minister of Economic and Planning, United Arab Emirates; **Kimberley Gire**, Founder, Global Women Leaders Strategic Philanthropy; and **Dima Dabbous**, Regional Director MENA Office, Equality Now.

AIWF Board Member Dr Shaikha Al Maskari honoured with 2019 UAE Federal Personality Award and IOD Golden Peacock Award for Lifetime Achievement



AIWF Board Member **Dr Shaikha Al Maskari** receiving the IOD Golden Peacock Award for Lifetime Achievement in Business and Social Leadership

AIWF Board Member Her Excellency **Dr Shaikha Al Maskari**, Chairperson of Al Maskari Holding (AMH), Emirates & Al Maskari Holdings, and Tricon Energy Operations, was honoured with the 2019 UAE Federal Personality Award by the Emirates Centre for Strategic

Studies and Research during their 25th Anniversary ceremony. Also in March 2019, Dr Al Maskari received the Golden Peacock Global Award for Lifetime Achievement in Business and Social Leadership. Established by the IOD over 27 years ago, the Golden Peacock Awards are today recognised worldwide as the hallmark of excellence and stand out as unique for recognising corporate achievements.

The AIWF Board is proud to have Dr Al Maskari as a valued and longstanding Board Member and extends its warmest congratulations to Dr Al Maskari on this richly deserved award, presented in appreciation and well-deserved recognition of her admirable service to the United Arab Emirates and her tireless dedication to social and community development of the UAE.

AIWF congratulates Dr Nadine Hachach-Haram, health tech innovator and NHS surgeon, recipient of the British Empire Medal and Takreem Tech Entrepreneurs Award

AIWF congratulates **Dr Nadine Hachach-Haram**, plastic surgeon and co-founder of augmented reality healthcare technology company Proximie, who received a British Empire Medal by Her Majesty the Queen in November 2018 for her innovative work within the field of surgery and medicine.

In the same week, Nadine was also honoured for her contribution to the Arab world at the Takreem Awards in Kuwait where she was presented with the Takreem Award in the Young Entrepreneurs category.

Nadine co-founded Proximie in 2015 as an augmented reality platform that allows doctors to virtually transport themselves into any clinical setting to interact in a live situation regardless of geographical location. This was after she saw firsthand, during her NHS surgical practice and ongoing charity work, how the patient demand for healthcare is outstripping the number of doctors available to deliver care, resulting in some patients experiencing difficulties in accessing the care they need.

Proximie has enjoyed significant success, improving the patient experience by allowing people to have their treatment locally without the need to travel to a specialist centre and cutting down on patient transfers between hospital sites. "Proximie has been adopted by a number of NHS hospitals and by healthcare and education providers across the USA, Europe, Middle East and Asia. It has also won multiple

awards for its innovation, including the Royal Society of Medicine Innovation and eHealth award and the Best Augmented Reality Industry Technology award at London Tech Week.

Nadine said: "I am incredibly proud and humbled to receive this award so early in my career. I'm passionate about innovation in healthcare and how we can leverage technology to improve the care our patients receive here in the UK and across the world. The innovation of Proximie has been very much a collective effort and it wouldn't have got to where it is now without the contributions of the whole team. I see access to high quality healthcare as a fundamental right of every individual wherever they live. The most exciting thing today is that with emerging technologies like augmented reality and virtual reality that right doesn't have to be something that is out of reach. We really can make it happen."

Nadine recently outlined her vision of the future of surgery at TedWomen 2017, which has received over one million views, and is regularly invited to speak around the world to share her innovative ideas. She also undertakes a number of roles to help advance surgery, including council member of the Royal College of Surgeons Future of Surgery Commission, council member of the British Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons (BAPRAS) Innovation UK and council member of the Royal Society of Medicine plastic surgery section.

AIWF was delighted to welcome Nadine as a key speaker at the December 2017 Women-Led Innovation in STEM conference held at the Royal Academy of Engineering and extends the warmest wishes of the Board on her richly deserved recognition of her work as a positive Arab role model inspiring the next generation of women leaders in medicine and the healthcare sciences.



Dr Nadine Hachach-Haram, Health tech innovator and NHS Surgeon, Co-Founder, Proximie

AIWF pays tribute to Jacqueline Hassink, author of Domains of Influence: Arab Women Business Leaders in a New Economy

AIWF was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of **Jacqueline Hassink** in Amsterdam in November 2018. Jacqueline was well known in the photography world and was a visiting Professor at Harvard University in Conceptual Photography. She was a winner of the prestigious Rencontres Arles Unlimited Award and her work was shown extensively in Europe, the USA and Japan.

Jacqueline authored and photographed nine books including the 2007 collaboration with the Arab International Women's Forum, *Domains of Influence: Arab Women Business Leaders in a New Economy*, published in 2007 and launched at a major AIWF conference that year in Dubai as a remarkable collection of photographic portraits of leading businesswomen from across the Arab world, created as a unique testament to the impact made on business by prominent Arab women.

Jacqueline's friend and film director **Sabine Krayenbühl** recalls meeting Jacqueline in the early 1990s in New York where she was embarking on an unusual and ambitious project that lasted several years and would ultimately launch her career as a photographer. Her idea was to photograph the boardrooms of the 40 largest multinational corporations in Europe to examine the place that symbolized modern society's most important value: economic power. The *Table of Power* (2000) led to subsequent work expanding on the idea and diversifying her coverage to places with women in leadership roles.

"In 2001, **Haifa Al Kaylani**, Founder of the Arab International Women's Forum, invited Jacqueline to broaden the story to the Middle East," Sabine recalls. "With AIWF facilitating key introductions to women leaders, Jacqueline travelled to 18 Arab countries to take pictures of board and dining rooms and we often spoke about her fascinating experiences in between trips. Jacqueline was ambitious, passionate and curious, a person of integrity and talent and dedicated above all to her work," says Sabine. "She died at just 52 years of age, but surely would have given us many more amazing, beautiful projects, expanding our view of the world."

Jacqueline's US-based Benrubi Gallery said of her passing: "Jacqueline lived her life with the greatest integrity, honesty of heart and depth of curiosity. She was an inspiration to us and will be sorely missed. She met life head on at its best and worst, even when facing down her illness, her strength and fortitude matched only by her humour and grace." The AIWF Board has expressed its sincere condolences to the Hassink family.



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

Arab International Women's Forum
Berkeley Square House, Berkeley Square,
London W1J 6BD, United Kingdom
T: +44 20 7887 7630 | F: +44 20 7887 6001
info@aiwfonline.com | www.aiwfonline.com

Date of next issue

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