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Opening Session of the Arab International Women's Forum / Center for Mediterranean Integration Conference on Women, Water & Youth, held in Amman, Jordan in September 2018

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 in which we are delighted to report on the insightful outcomes and impactful recommendations to emerge from the highly successful joint conference AIWF held in Amman in September 2018 on *Women, Water & Youth: Perspectives from the MENA Region* in partnership with the Center for Mediterranean Integration. As we progress into an exciting and high-impact programme for 2019, it is my pleasure to share the initiatives that AIWF is now in advanced stages of planning, taking forward the momentum we are so proud to have created in Amman in September and building on critical themes of empowering women in STEM.

On 26-27 September 2018, the Arab International Women's Forum held a joint conference in Amman on *Women, Water & Youth: Perspectives from the MENA Region*, 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. It brought in the complex but essential discussion on the impact of the refugee crisis on water scarcity and food security in the Arab world, and emphasised the importance of ensuring that sustainability projects, initiatives and startups create opportunities for women and young people to contribute to sustainability solutions in the region.

AIWF In Action

The Arab International Women's Forum was proud to host a high-level Joint Conference with the Center for Mediterranean Integration on *Women, Water & Youth* in Amman, Jordan in September 2018, examining water scarcity, women's economic participation and youth unemployment.

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Upcoming AIWF Events

AIWF & University of Massachusetts Medical School to jointly organise high-level conference on Women & Health in Beirut in April 2019

AIWF will jointly organise a major conference with the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS) hosted by and in collaboration with the American University in Beirut (AUB) titled *Women & Health: Empowering women-led innovation and medical education towards the fulfilment of the SDGs* in April 2019 in Beirut, Lebanon.

April 2019 Beirut, Lebanon

AIWF and the American University in Cairo to host major conference on Women as Engines of Economic Growth and Development

AIWF is proud to be partnering with AUC to examine strategies for empowering women innovators, entrepreneurs, executives and educators towards the fulfilment of the SDGs in the MENA Region.

September 2019 Cairo, Egypt



Haifa Al Kaylani Founder & Chairman, Arab International Women's Forum, delivering her keynote address at the German-Arab Business Women Leaders' Summit in Munich in October 2018

The conference was exceptionally well attended by AIWF and CMI guests, leading members of the Arab and international representatives of the private and public sectors as well as civil society and a number of talented doctoral and postdoctoral researchers in water, biotechnology, climate change, sustainable agriculture and engineering from the MENA, Europe and the US. I wish to personally take this opportunity to acknowledge the generous and ongoing collaboration and support of the World Bank for the AIWF mission, and our Conference Supporting Partners the Union of Arab Chambers, PepsiCo, PwC and CIHEAM-Bari, whose partnership and input into the development of the conference programme and speaker outreach truly contributed to the outstanding success of the conference overall. In addition, we especially acknowledge the invaluable and longstanding support of all AIWF Global Partners for the Forum's ongoing initiatives to empower women and young people towards greater economic participation and social cohesion, which has been instrumental in enabling AIWF to make the deep and lasting impact that it has in the MENA region and internationally.

The recommendations that have emerged from *Women, Water & Youth* (preliminarily summarised in this newsletter) are a true testament to the ability of AIWF to bring stakeholders at all levels together to action change at policy-making and the grassroots levels, bringing established leaders in their field together with rising stars of the STEM sectors, young innovative leaders from the Arab world and globally, to collaborate towards inclusive, concise and viable solutions that directly address the region's challenges and provide much-needed opportunities for the Arab world's most precious resources – women and young people. The full report will be published on the AIWF website in due course.

At the conclusion of *Women, Water & Youth* in Amman, I chaired the meeting of the AIWF Board during which we looked ahead to next year's programme, fully energised to build on the incredible momentum created during the two days of conference. Taking forward the key themes of empowering and supporting women and young people in STEM and sustainability, it was agreed that in 2019, AIWF will organise a major conference in Beirut, Lebanon on *Women & Health: Empowering women-led innovation and medical education towards the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals*.



Sana Bardawil, AIWF Co-Chair and Board Member; **Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani**, Founder & Chairman, Arab International Women's Forum; and **Rania Rizk**, AIWF Co-Chair and Board Member at the *Women, Water & Youth* Conference in Amman (September 2018)

I am also delighted to share that in September 2019 and following a series of excellent exchanges with **Ambassador Francis Ricciardone**, President of the American University in Cairo (AUC) and his outstanding team, AIWF and AUC are now fully engaged in organising a joint conference on *Women as Engines of Economic Growth and Development* on the AUC campus in New Cairo in September 2019 in parallel with the university's centenary celebrations. The conference, fully titled *Women as Engines of Economic Growth and Development: 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.

The programme, which is being developed by AIWF and 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. We are very much looking forward to working closely with our partners at AUC to deliver yet another insightful and high-impact conference, and we will be updating our members with further information on the sessions and confirmed speakers in the March 2019 Newsletter.

In October 2018, I was delighted to be invited to attend and deliver a keynote address at the German-Arab Business Women Leaders' Summit in Munich, held under the Patronage of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy and organized by CrossCultures Network Founder **Dr Gabi Kratochwil** in cooperation with Ghorfa Arab-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry, a longstanding and deeply valued partner of the Arab International Women's Forum. AIWF was once again exceptionally well represented at the GABWL Summit, with Board Members **Hanan Saab, Sana Bardawil** and **Nadereh Chamlou** also attending. We extend our warmest congratulations to Dr Kratochwil and to Ghorfa on an outstanding conference which was extremely well organised and which delivered such valuable opportunities for all of us participating.

In November 2018, I am honoured to share that I was awarded the 2018 Outstanding Golden Shield Award for Advanced Leadership at the Arab Women Council's Annual Regional Forum on Social Responsibility in Cairo. I extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to **Lynna Moukarzel**, President of the Arab Women Council (AWC) and to the Organising Committee of the AWC for honouring and recognising me with this important award. It was indeed an honour to be invited to deliver a keynote address in the Opening Session of the Regional Forum, elaborating on the work and vision of the Arab International Women's Forum and the action it takes at every level in support of our mission and with our Global Partners to build bridges of opportunity for women and young people in the MENA region and internationally. The Board of AIWF and I look forward to ever closer collaboration with the AWC in our mutual mission to support women at every level and in every sphere in the Arab world.

Taking forward the Arab International Women's Forum participation in and commitment to the UN Global Compact, AIWF was delighted to present our second biannual Communication on Progress report in September 2018 for the UN Global Compact (UNGC), of which AIWF is proud to be an NGO Global Member. As part of our UNGC commitment, AIWF looks forward to working with other members of the UN Global Compact and to continuing to honour our obligations as an NGO Member of the UN Global Compact to align all events, activities and programmes

with the ten UNGC universally accepted principles concerning Human Rights, Labor, Environment, and Anti-Corruption. To guide our programme for 2019, AIWF has also launched its Impact Statement and guiding principles, which will be available to view in full on the AIWF website in January 2019.

In November 2018, I had the pleasure of attending the fourth meeting in Geneva of the ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work, to which I am proud to have been appointed in August 2017 as a Commissioner. Under the inspired leadership of the Commission Co-Chairs **Stefan Löfven**, Prime Minister of Sweden, and **Cyril Ramaphosa**, President of the Republic of South Africa, the Commissioners met in Geneva to finalise our report and recommendations on the future of work to be published in January 2019 marking the centenary of the ILO. It has been an honour and a pleasure to serve on the ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work, and AIWF shall be delighted to report further in the March 2019 issue of the Newsletter on the key findings of the ILO Report on the Future of Work.



Mr Thorben Albrecht Federal Manager Social Democratic Party of Germany & Former State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Germany and **Mrs Haifa Al Kaylani**, Founder & Chairman of the Arab International Women's Forum at the fourth Meeting of the ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work on 16 November 2018, © ILO, Photo Credit: Crozet M

On behalf of the Board of AIWF, I look forward to the opportunity to welcome our friends, members, and partners to Beirut in April 2019 for *Women & Youth*, and to Cairo in September 2019 for *Women as Engines of Economic Growth and Development*. We convey our deepest thanks and appreciation for your continued support and encouragement, and trust that you will enjoy this rich and impactful issue of AIWF News.

Haifa Al Kaylani

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

AIWF hosts high-level Joint Conference with the Center for Mediterranean Integration on *Women, Water & Youth* in Amman, Jordan

AIWF / CMI Joint Conference on *Women, Water & Youth* brought to light critical development challenges in the MENA Region – water scarcity, women's economic participation and youth unemployment



AIWF Chairman Haifa Al Kaylani delivering her welcome keynote at the Opening Session of Women, Water & Youth in Amman.

The Joint Conference of AIWF and the Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI) was held in Amman, Jordan on 26-27 September 2018 on *Women, Water & Youth: Perspectives from the MENA Region*. The conference was held in partnership with the CMI and benefited tremendously from the invaluable endorsement, input and contributions of Conference Partners, the Union of Arab Chambers, PepsiCo, PwC and the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (CIHEAM).

The two-day event was an excellent opportunity for AIWF, CMI and all partnering organisations and participants 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 and indeed worsening challenge of youth unemployment – all of these among the Arab world's most critical development challenges.

The discussion and interaction that took place throughout both days between the distinguished Opening Session Speakers, Panel Chairs, Guest Speakers and Delegates, attending from across Jordan, the MENA Region, the UK, EU and the United States, was deeply impactful and highly insightful, resulting in over 40 concrete recommendations for further action. AIWF was especially proud to bring 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,



HE Hala Bseisu Lattouf, Former Minister of Social Development, Jordan

NGOs, academia, research institutes and the private sector.

Guest of Honour Keynote speakers were **Her Excellency Hala Bseiso Lattouf**, Former Minister of Social Development, Jordan; **His Excellency Ali Subah**, Secretary General of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation in Jordan, representing **His Excellency Munir Owais**, Minister of Water and Irrigation; **Professor Fadia Kiwan**, Director General of the Arab Women's Organization; **Blanca Moreno-Dodson**, Manager of the CMI; **Dr Fares Braizat**, Chairman NAMA Strategic Intelligence Solutions; and **Tessa Terpstra**, MENA Regional Envoy for Water and Energy Security for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.

In addition to AIWF's distinguished partners at the CMI and the World Bank, the conference welcomed guest speakers 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.

AIWF was honoured to have their valued presence and to hear their distinguished interventions elaborating on Jordanian and regional innovation and initiatives in the areas of water governance, gender equity in agriculture, empowering women and young people in the water sector through entrepreneurship, social enterprise and technology, and the impact of the refugee and internal displacement crisis on water scarcity challenges and social development programmes.

Sessions of the conference were aligned with the core priority policy areas of AIWF and the Center for Mediterranean Integration, and included:

- **Women and water governance in the MENA**
- **Gender equity in sustainable agriculture and food production**

- Building youth capacity to address water scarcity challenges in the Arab water sector through entrepreneurship and social enterprise
- Building capacity for women and youth in the Arab water sector through 'smart' technology and edtech innovation
- Impact of water scarcity in the MENA refugee and internal displacement crisis
- Reflections of women leaders and young innovators addressing water scarcity, sustainability, environmental and development challenges in the MENA region



Panel 1 (from left to right): Israa Alassa, Palestinian Water Authority Youth Committee, Palestine; Lara Nassar, Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association, Jordan; Esther Griffies Weld, EBRD Jordan; Susan Kilani, Assistant Secretary General for Laboratories & Quality Affairs, Water Authority of Jordan

The *Women, Water & Youth* conference in Amman in partnership with the Center for Mediterranean Integration attracted 150 participants, including change agents, young professionals, academics, representatives of media, government and civil society, as well as postgraduate and doctoral students representing STEM university institutes and those studying international development, international relations, environmental sciences, politics, Middle East studies, and sustainability in Jordan and the MENA. Universities represented at the conference included Harvard University, the University of Kassel in Germany, Imperial College London, Al-Balqa' Applied University, University of Jordan, and the Hashemite University in Jordan.



Panel 2 was chaired by Dr Roula Khadra (CIHEAM-Bari) with distinguished participants including Wafaa Al Dika Hamze, Former Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, CIHEAM Board Member; Wafaa Ramadneh, FAO Jordan; Laurent Debroux, The World Bank, Lebanon; Juan Antonio Sagardoy, Former FAO Senior Officer & International Consultant, Spain; Dr Souza Gamri, MedYWat Member, Tunis



Patrick Daru, International Labour Organization, Jordan, and Dr Samuel Rizk, United Nations Development Programme, Jordan

The conference programme also included an evening reception featuring a very special storytelling performance based on Algerian and Tunisian folklore, titled *Women and Water*, performed by the talented winners of the CMI Water Heroes Contest 2018 from Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco. The performance, organised by the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), conveyed important messages on the role of women in society in raising awareness of water scarcity in the Maghreb and promoting their creativity and resilience in finding viable solutions to water sustainability challenges.



Reem Nejdawi, Executive Director, ESCWA Technology Centre, Lebanon; Dr Rana Dajani, Rita Hauser Fellow, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University; Associate Professor Molecular Cell Biology, Biology Department, Hashemite University, Jordan

Women, Water & Youth was a positive demonstration of the truly international and collaborative network that AIWF has built up since its inception in 2001 with the support of all distinguished Global Partners, and of its steadfast focus on investing in women and youth in the Arab region and internationally whilst bringing awareness to the region's most critical development and 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 Board of the Arab International Women's Forum looks forward to working closely with the Center for Mediterranean Integration, all Conference Supporting Partners and all valued Guest Speakers to follow up and action the valuable learnings and outcomes of the *Women, Water & Youth* initiative. A preliminary summary of recommendations is included as part of this report.

Preliminary summary of *Women, Water & Youth* recommendations to emerge from high-level conference held in Amman in September 2018 by the Arab International Women's Forum and the Center for Mediterranean Integration

Water governance

1. Regional collaboration on water governance could produce a successful roll out of a comprehensive MENA Water Strategy that would improve water governance across the region, benchmarking from the Jordan Water Strategy 2016-2025, which calls for:
 - a. Key interventions to improve water governance
 - b. Clarification of responsibilities and accountabilities among water institutions
 - c. Improvement of financial sustainability mechanism
 - d. Improvement of regulatory framework through moving to independent regulatory entity with clear mandates
 - e. Increasing women participation in governing water entities through ensuring women presentation in their Boards
 - f. Improving community participation in decision making process
 - g. Improving transparency through mandating information dissemination and accessibility
2. Best sanitation practices in the MENA region must employ a participatory approach, retain government engagement and endorsement, be socially acceptable and technically appropriate, and aim to:
 - a. Create jobs
 - b. Protect the environment and natural resources
 - c. Reuse treated wastewater
 - d. Develop capacity building and mobilisation
 - e. Focus on women and gender equity
 - f. Engage the youth population
 - g. Deliver educational impact
3. Combating corruption that hinders MENA development in general and the improvement of water resources management in particular.
4. Recognising the importance of building a community of knowledge sharing and cooperation among donors and financiers in partnership with national governance structures, where these stakeholders can influence the environment in which they are financing projects. Enabling women to not only participate but to have equal influence on the governance of water resources and services is vital in protecting this essential resource.

Technological innovation

5. Enhancing awareness (radical shift in water use and mindsets on water use) urgently needed together with understanding at regional and national levels that we can no longer address the continuous challenges facing the Arab region without innovative science and technology - especially green technology - for advancing sustainable development, productivity and economic development.
6. Promoting the use of hydroponics, a technology using a minimal amount of soil and water - alternative ways to traditional farming through innovation and technology. As so many conference participants were involved in hydroponics projects, a technical meeting should be organised in this area as a follow up to the conference to build on expertise and leadership from the MENA region.
7. Utilising technology to address the 80% of wastewater that is not treated or reused. Wastewater is the world's largest untapped water source, the only natural resource that increases as cities and populations grow.
8. Introducing concepts of modern technology for alternative energy and raising awareness about local and regional strategies that contribute to water supply, through the application of water harvesting techniques, the reuse of grey water, and the separation of treated water sources from natural and flood waters, achieving the sixth sustainable development objective of "ensuring the availability, management and sustainability of water and sanitation services for all by 2030.
9. Technological and governance innovations - in the region and globally - are accelerating to meet an urgent need for action. Some of the most notable water management innovations in the world are being implemented in the Middle East and North Africa. Irrigation modernization programmes are among the largest ones in the Mediterranean

Region and offer new opportunities for increasing production, saving water and reducing the amount of work that men and women dedicate to this activity. On farm irrigation modernization may also lead to more intensive and productive crops.

Gender parity in sustainable agriculture

10. Women have an important role in water governance alongside men. Equal gender representation in the development and drafting of water policy of countries is essential. Currently, women work to provide water to meet the needs of their households, while men make decisions about water resource management and development at the local and regional levels. Therefore, projects, programs and policies aimed at addressing gender inequalities must empower women to contribute to the development of policy around water resource management and human development to ensure that both men and women – especially poor women and young people – can access and benefit from water resources, around the world.
11. Gender sensitive agricultural policies can play a strong role in closing the gender gap in rural societies, thus strengthening women's access to productive resources, rural services, infrastructure, advisory services and social protection. Focusing on "women only empowerment" is a risky strategy and will not lead to transformative empowerment. Holistic multi-dimensional empowerment is needed to link between the public sphere of women's life and her private sphere. It directly influences the household's division of labour and on the gendered social roles and power dynamics of both women and men. Capacity building is key and more investment in women in agriculture is urgently needed if they are to have proper access to resources and play their rightful roles in food security.
12. The 'feminisation of agriculture' means that women are doing the lion's share of work as many men have migrated away. A new generation of women farm managers unfortunately see their producing capacity limited due to lack of training and access to productive resources. Production and living standards of these women could be improved much if these constraints would be removed.
13. Women's access to governing bodies of Water Users Associations (WUAs) is very limited due to their restricted representation as water users but alternative solutions (fix quotas, two water users for each piece of land, women water users' committees, etc) are being tried out in several countries with interesting results. Access to irrigation water by women farmers must be guaranteed and enforced strictly.
14. Women are underrepresented in governing boards of water authorities and water regulating bodies and other community-based water organizations. Participation in professional networks can support the engagement and visibility of women in the water sector. The technical and capacity building activities offered by the Arab Integrated Water Resources Management Network (AWARENET) housed at ESCWA provides one such opportunity.
15. Special attention is needed to ensure that any agriculture development project, and in particular those concerned with irrigated agriculture, have adequate gender components that have resulted from the identification of the gender needs at the field level. Emphasising the importance of carrying out Gender Needs Assessments (GNAs) to ensure that new opportunities do not add more work to women without any compensation. For this purpose, it is important to know first if women under their present tasks (farming context) have any free time for anything else. When this is the case, additional work must be fully compensated and equal pay practiced. The multipurpose nature of water is highly evident in the rural context and therefore projects must also be multipurpose to attend these multiple water needs, which are particularly important for women, moving away from projects strictly addressing a single use.
16. Women's health on the land must also be addressed (in context of the health of female farmers). This is part of a wider need to address the subject of women's health in the MENA region overall and the urgent need to bring more young women into medical practice.

Research and information

17. Gender inclusive water strategies in the region still present a gap between policy and practice, caused by the different social and cultural perceptions that these strategies were built on. Strategies are typically built on research and science originated from Latin America, Africa and Asia, but in the MENA region culture and social norms are different. Therefore, these strategies will not necessarily work and will present implementation gaps.
18. Research and data in the Arabic language is very much needed but currently very much lacking, representing a major gap that could be filled through cross-border collaboration and

international research exchange and partnership programmes. One of the most significant challenges in the field of the environment is the language issue and difficulties with terminology.

19. We need to protect natural and environmental resources by integrating knowledge into interdisciplinary and interrelated issues (water, energy, the human environment) and adopting a scientific framework for improving ecosystems, as resource protection and management are the only guarantors of adequate water, food and dignity for future generations
20. Innovation research should be co-ordinated and classified in clusters and not on an individual / farm by farm basis (availability of research in the Arabic language and sectoral cluster data pertinent to the region is key). Specialised research should be conducted into women's role in innovation and in displacement crises where women typically take the lead in facilitating positive change and progress as part of reconstructive strategy.
21. Knowledge about the gender situation in the different Mediterranean countries is still very scarce. General figures are available, but specific information in the field and ethically sourced and usable data is still very much missing. This data is urgently needed to inform and improve inclusive gender projects and to generate workable data that can be used to address gender issues related to agriculture.
22. Intergenerational dialogue is key to success in addressing water scarcity challenges and correcting sustainability awareness gaps in every generation, imparting knowledge from one generation to the next (and vice versa) and engaging generations in working together to solve water, food, economic development and security issues.

Public and private sector partnerships, support and investment for women-led sustainability projects, initiatives and social enterprises.

23. Public-private partnerships have been implemented in the region to tackle the operational constraints of water utilities. The Middle East and North Africa has been the most active place in the world (along with China) regarding public-private partnerships in water management.
24. There is a need to identify the precise needs of women in the agricultural value chain. To support women-led projects, initiatives and social enterprises and improve opportunities for

women in the water sector overall, the following is required: (a) Access to market; (b) Training; (c) Capacity building; (d) Equality in access to opportunities. Investment in these projects can yield the greatest impact as activities run by women supported by FAO have been more sustainable than others.

Public awareness and STEM education

25. Women's low participation in the scientific specializations and actual participation in the labour force can be attributed to social perceptions which associate the suitability of certain employments to either women or men and addressing the societal and cultural barriers would foster major social and economic benefits for Arab States. Eliminating cultural barriers for Arab women in STEM and sustainability sectors is an important first step to improving gender diversity in water governance as well as addressing the critical challenge of women's low economic participation and the ongoing challenge of youth unemployment.
26. The availability of fellowships and scholarships for young people aspiring to careers in science and water conservation could be made more readily available both with public sector support and through public-private partnerships.
27. Engaging and educating civil society on water issues and water conservation is also crucial. Changing water management practices to ensure better service delivery and sustainability of water use requires changing the attitudes of individuals and government officials, as much as putting in place institutional incentives and arrangements.
28. Public awareness is an issue in water scarcity as it is unclear whether the MENA populations are acutely aware of the scarcity challenges and the cost of 'free' water. We need to integrate women and youth into water and food security programs and to involve them in water decision-making, solutions, knowledge sharing, innovation, and training women, youth, boys and girls to deal with water-related issues and challenges and how to manage them, starting with practices and awareness of water use and conservation measures in the home.
29. There is a serious need for structured recycling programmes and initiatives in the region not only to educate the public about the value of water and the impact of scarcity on a prosperous, peaceful Arab future, but also to practically manage water and implement viable policies for water management on both national and regional levels.

Youth and family engagement in the water sector and conservation efforts

- 30.** Women have an important and vital role in conserving the environment and water resources in particular and reducing their depletion. They are primarily responsible for rationalizing the consumption of water at home and have the primary role in guiding household members to the proper ways to benefit from water and not waste it. Achieving water security means acting together, from the household level to the regional level. From a household water perspective, this means engaging women, who often have the main responsibility for using and conserving water. What is needed is the right mindset to use water wisely, as something that is scarce and precious. This is where women come in. Women are the main water managers in the family. They can set an example and teach their children to use water wisely.
- 31.** Young people must be better supported to launch initiatives that serve the environment, and use social media and digital technology, especially education technology, to increase awareness and deliver environmental messages to all segments of society.
- 32.** Stakeholder participation is at the core of effective water and sanitation management. Therefore, investing in an enabling environment for youth as key stakeholders in the water sector is a prerequisite to successful engagement and will ensure the achievement of SDG 6. Engaging young people in the sector will involve:
- a. Awareness projects related to water sector implemented in partnership with other parties, targeting students at school (primary and secondary level as well as through to tertiary level)
 - b. Providing scholarships for MAs and PhDs which creates opportunities for young people to continue their higher studies and specialize in the water and agricultural sectors
 - c. Establishing youth committees in the water sector
 - d. Improving the quality of education and offering high school students some guidance on their university degree choices according to the needs of their local societies and countries
 - e. Including women and youth in the water sector and development process and encourage them to engage in this sector in the professional levels through the use of quotas and teacher training programs

Refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs)

- 33.** The issues of water and sanitation which are critically important especially when we address the ongoing and worsening refugee crisis that is a direct result of years of civil unrest, war and humanitarian crises. Water delivery in conflict areas should be considered a top humanitarian aid priority especially in IDP camps where women and children constitute the largest proportion of refugees.
- 34.** We must reframe the focus on refugee development programmes as not being based on neediness but seeing refugees as talented, educated and motivated individuals who can bring a wealth of experience and skills to sustainability projects and initiatives as well as to entrepreneurship.
- 35.** Addressing the challenges faced by Internally Displaced People (IDPs) together with refugees and providing for their basic needs (in Yemen alone, there are more than 2 million IDPs). The focus on refugees often neglects internally displaced persons forcibly displaced within their countries.
- 36.** UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security and UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security must be integrated into strategies and solutions to development challenges for the region, including in the water sector, as peacebuilding is an urgent need for many Arab States today and women and youth have critical roles to play in peace and security.

Mobility and Labour

- 37.** Freedom of movement for Arab citizens both within the region and internationally continues to present a serious restriction on women advocates and academics alike, either because of the legal requirement for a guardian to approve or accompany her on the travel. Taking forward the recommendation of the *UNDP Arab Human Development Report 2016: Youth and the Prospects for Human Development in a Changing Reality* on reducing barriers to mobility in the region – specifically, through relaxing visa restrictions and implementing a region-wide policy of mutual recognition of diplomas and other qualifications which is crucial for greater job mobility.

To request a copy of the printed full report and recommendations to emerge from *Women, Water & Youth*, please contact the AIWF Office in London.

Haifa Al Kaylani honoured with the 2018 Outstanding Golden Shield Award for Advanced Leadership by the Arab Women's Council

The Arab International Women's Forum is proud to announce that its Founder and Chairman, **Mrs Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani**, was honoured and recognised with the 2018 Outstanding Golden Shield Award for Advanced Leadership presented by the Arab Women's Council in Cairo, Egypt during a formal dinner awards ceremony at the conclusion of the AWC Annual Regional Forum on Social Responsibility that took place 12-14 November in Cairo, Egypt on *Leading Women: The Path from Empowerment to Entrepreneurship and Innovation*.

The Arab Women Council's Golden Shield Award honours individuals, institutions and organisations that contribute to and honour social responsibility at the local, Arab and regional levels. The Council honoured Mrs Al Kaylani's exceptional efforts in both enabling and advancing women and youth through economic and educational opportunities in the Middle East and North Africa region, and around the world. Announcing that Mrs Al Kaylani had been selected by the Board of the Arab Women Council to receive this prestigious award, **Lynna Moukarzel**, President of the Arab Women Council, said: "Mrs Haifa Al Kaylani is a leader and role model for Arab women around the world. She does not shy away from tackling some of society's most challenging issues. We are thrilled to honour Mrs Al Kaylani with the 2018 Outstanding Golden Shield Award for Advanced Leadership."

On accepting the award, Mrs Al Kaylani said, "Since 1990 and as a development economist I have been deeply involved with empowering women in the Arab world in all sectors in Arab and international domains as I truly believe that women are at the heart of development, progress and peace in the Arab region. I am delighted and honoured to receive the distinguished and highly valued recognition of the Arab Women Council for the 2018 Outstanding Golden Shield Award for Advanced Leadership, honouring Arab change agents and advocates for social responsibility, women's empowerment, advanced leadership and innovation. I wish to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to the Arab Women's Council President and Board members for their important efforts to organise the valuable Regional Forum on Social Responsibility and for bringing into focus the role of women in advanced leadership whilst emphasising the importance of women participating as decision makers at all levels and across all sectors."



AIWF Chairman Haifa Al Kaylani receives the 2018 Outstanding Golden Shield Award for Advanced Leadership by the Arab Women's Council at the AWC awards ceremony in Cairo, Egypt in November 2018

The Arab Women's Council, working under the umbrella of the Arab Organization for Social Responsibility, aims to empower women in various fields to make positive changes in Arab societies and to honour the achievements of women to reach a more responsible society and elevate their roles to the highest levels of excellence in social, economic and development strategies. The Arab Women's Council's annual Regional Conference on Social Responsibility comes as a response to the Council's mission to raise the capacity of Arab women to reach the highest levels of efficiency and productivity to meet the requirements and challenges of the future to enhance competitiveness and support innovation and the knowledge-based economy.

The Forum, which took place in Cairo on 12-14 November 2018, was attended by distinguished leaders in business and in public service from across the Arab world, and was addressed by influential guest speakers raising awareness on women's empowerment challenges and opportunities and demonstrating their collective contributions and positive roles in encouraging innovation and creativity in Arab societies, as well as their contributions to progress in economic, social, technological and cultural development. Opening session speakers included **Mrs Lynna Moukarzel**, President of the Arab Women Council; Member of the Board of Trustees **Dr Manal Al Absi**; **HE Dr Mohammed Al Adwan**, Ambassador of Arab Co-operation, Head of the Amman-Gulf Center for Strategic Studies, Head of the National Documentation Support Center, League of Arab States); and **HE Ambassador Mervat Tallawy**, former President of the Arab Women Organization.

The Forum addressed key topics on empowerment, entrepreneurship, and innovation, and explored pathways to women's leadership in the economic, administrative and political sectors. It was an honour and pleasure for the AIWF Chairman to participate at this important event and she and the Board of AIWF look forward to working closely with the Arab Women's Council in the future.

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

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AIWF Chairman Haifa Al Kaylani delivers keynote address at the German-Arab Business Women Leaders Summit in Munich in October 2018

AIWF Founder & Chairman **Haifa Al Kaylani** attended the German-Arab Business Women Leaders Summit (GABWL-Summit) in Munich held on 15-17 October 2018, themed *When Women Lean In, Economies Win*.

Held under the Patronage of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy and organized by CrossCultures Network Founder **Dr Gabi Kratochwil** in cooperation with Ghorfa Arab-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry and partners, the German-Arab Women Business Leaders Summit gathered more than 200 high profile women leaders, professionals, entrepreneurs, representatives from government, academia and media from Germany, Arab countries and the international community.

The Summit welcomed more than 50 leading speakers including **Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani** (Founder & Chairman Arab International Women's Forum, UK), **Janina Kugel** (Board Member Siemens), **Brigitte Zypries** (Former Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy), **Petra Justenhoven** (Board Member PwC), **Ouided Bouchamaoui** (Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 2015, Tunisia), and **Maha Farid Shirah** (Sheworks, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia). Distinguished Summit speakers shared with delegates and participants solutions and strategies to promote women's economic empowerment through leadership, start-up entrepreneurship, knowledge management, digitalization, STEM-led businesses, financing and capacity building, so as to find answers to new global challenges of modern management, globally interlinked societies, integrated economies and growing digitization.

HE Abdulaziz Al-Mikhlaifi, Secretary General of the Ghorfa Arab-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry, cooperation partner of the GAWBL Summit, stated: "Exchanging ideas, experiences and perspectives of leading business women from the Arab world and Germany will further boost economic relations between the two regions. In order to identify opportunities for business partnerships and innovative collaboration between women in the Arab countries and in Germany we support this important event."

In her welcome remarks, Dr Gabi Kratochwil, as Chairwoman of the GAWBL-Summit, stated: "Empowering and connecting women in our regions is a strategic part to further strengthen German-Arab



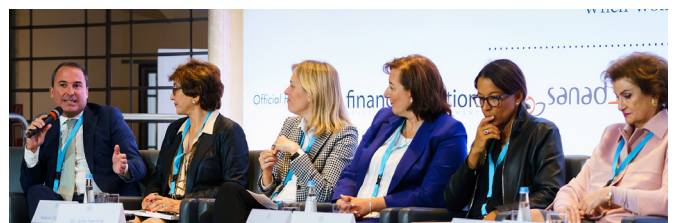
Haifa Al Kaylani, Founder & Chairman AIWF & Dr Gabi Kratochwil, Chair of the GABWL Summit 2018



Opening Session of the GAWBL Summit 2018

business relations. We strongly believe that women are key drivers for innovation and change, and that now is the time to connect, innovate, and create. Opportunities for cooperation between Arab and German women are high and unlocking this enormous potential is an economic imperative."

AIWF Founder & Chairman Haifa Al Kaylani delivered an exceptionally well received keynote address during the first session on 16 October 2018, titled *Women as Drivers for Economic Change*. She conveyed her warmest appreciation to AIWF's longstanding friend and supporter Dr Gabi Kratochwil for her kind invitation to address the conference, and recalled that AIWF's valued links with the German-Arab Women Business Leaders Summit and Dr Kratochwil in fact originate from AIWF's longstanding partnership with Ghorfa.



Panel on Women as Drivers of Change at the GAWBL Summit 2018

AIWF hosted its first ever conference in Germany in October 2013 in the heart of Berlin and the business community, in full partnership with Ghorfa, on *Women in the Arab World, Germany & the International Community*. The conference was a landmark initiative

for both AIWF and Ghorfa, fostering an environment for successful women business leaders from Europe and the Arab world to enhance business growth and create new links for innovation and intercultural collaboration, objectives that lie at the very heart of the AIWF mission. Through AIWF's partnership with Ghorfa, lines of greater communication, collaboration and interaction were opened for Arab, German and European women leaders.

"Five years on", the Chairman said, "I am proud to be back in Munich to follow up on AIWF's commitment to supporting valuable business and innovation links between Germany and the Arab world, to contribute my reflections on the progress that Arab women have made in the last two decades, to elaborate on key barriers that are holding women in the region back, and to offer my thoughts on promoting gender parity in the Arab world to empower and support women as drivers of economic change and growth."

Throughout the MENA region, women are increasingly taking on high-level leadership positions in business, public service, the judiciary and the legislature, advancing rapidly in professions previously dominated by men, including finance, aviation, law, business, research and STEM careers, and challenging gender bias in nearly every sector and sphere.

Mrs Al Kaylani's keynote address highlighted the progress made by Arab women who are leading and succeeding in business and featuring prominently on corporate boards, inspiring the next generation of young Arab women business leaders, and are increasingly being elected and appointed to political, diplomatic and international development roles, giving women a greater voice in legislative reform.

Although gains in business and political life for women are a direct result of the Arab world's investment in education over the last two decades, she noted, these gains are not translating into greater inclusion in the world of work and legislative and cultural barriers to women's employment and entrepreneurship are still restricting women's full participation in the MENA economy.

The Munich Summit was an excellent opportunity for AIWF to connect with female change makers in Germany, Europe, and the Arab world to exchange ideas leading companies and businesswomen in a rapidly changing business and political environment. AIWF greatly looks forward to the 2019 GABWL Summit in Germany and extends its full support and appreciation on this high-impact, community-driven conference series to AIWF's longstanding partners at Ghorfa and to Dr Gabi Kratochwil.

AIWF congratulates Paloma Berenguer on her appointment to the role of General Manager, External Relations MENA & JVs for Shell

Shell's longstanding Global Partnership of the Arab International Women's Forum dates back to AIWF's inception in London in 2001



AIWF congratulates Paloma Berenguer on her appointment as General Manager for External Relations for Shell's Upstream Joint-Ventures

The Founder & Chairman and Board of AIWF convey their warmest congratulations to **Paloma Berenguer** on her recent appointment to the pivotal role of General Manager for External Relations for Shell's Upstream Joint-Ventures business as well as operations in the Middle East and North Africa Region based in the Abu Dhabi office. Before this role, she was the Sustainable Development Manager for Shell's Downstream business based out of London.

For the past 15 years Paloma has worked in the energy sector, directly for Shell at the corporate and project level and as a consultant with the firms Synergy and ERM. Her areas of expertise are corporate reputation management and social responsibility including developing social investment strategies, effective community engagement and shared value programs with particular focus on local content, small medium enterprise and human capital development. In addition, Paloma was on the board of tri-partite sustainability initiatives, including the Roundtable for Sustainable Biofuels and Bonsucro, the Better Sugar Initiative. Paloma has lived and worked in Abu Dhabi, UK, Mexico and India. She speaks Spanish and English and holds a Master's Degree in International Development from the London School of Economics. She is married and has 3 children.

Paloma succeeds **Sana Bardawil**, AIWF Board Member and Co-Chair, who has been with Shell for 17 years and

who held the role for five successful years, building key relationships with Shell's National Oil Company partners in the region, managing reputation and key social investment initiatives, as well as leading a team of 45 professionals in 10 countries, in MENA and Europe and was part of Shell's Upstream Joint Venture Leadership Team. Sana remains on AIWF's Board in her personal capacity.

A Global Platinum Partner of AIWF, Shell actively works with AIWF to address key development challenges of human capacity building in the region. Shell and AIWF share the belief that a diverse staff and inclusive work environment is vital to increasing women's leadership in the oil and gas sector in the Gulf and broader MENA. AIWF looks forward to continuing the longstanding AIWF / Shell partnership into 2019 and beyond and working closely with Ms Berenguer and her outstanding team at Shell to highlight Shell's leading approach to gender diversity in the energy sector and its many initiatives to directly address key environmental and empowerment concerns that impact women and young people in the Arab world and internationally.

'Bridging Humanity for Inclusive Progress': AIWF Board Member Chiara Corazza chairs another highly successful Women's Forum Global Meeting in Paris

AIWF Board Member and Managing Director of the Women's Forum for the Economy & Society **Chiara Corazza** chaired the Women's Forum Global Meeting in Paris on 14-16 November 2018.

Over two days, the Women's Forum Global Meeting 2018 programme examined global social and economic issues through the lens of connecting people and bridging humanity, recognising that divisions have widened the distance between countries, political parties, religions, amongst institutions and within communities. The Global Meeting brought into focus key connections amongst different groups, points of view, experiences, institutions and leaders, as a means of moving towards more inclusive progress that enables humanity to bridge those divides, generating impact and promoting women's leadership on these issues. Throughout the Women's Forum Global Meeting, delegates, partners and speakers took part in moving forward the dialogue on bridging humanity for inclusive progress and inspiring each other to engage for impact.



Chiara Corazza, Managing Director of the Women's Forum for the Economy & Society and AIWF Board Member



*Women's Forum Global Meeting 2018: Bridging humanity for inclusive progress, 14-16 November 2018 in Paris, France
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The Women's Forum for the Economy & Society is a leading platform dedicated to highlighting women's voices and perspectives on global issues that brings a distinctly female perspective to addressing the issues affecting all of humanity and engaging for impact toward resolutions. Headquartered in Paris with global influence, the Women's Forum for the Economy & Society manifests a commitment to women's leadership and progress throughout the year with a range of initiatives in partnership with businesses, cultural and media leaders and non-governmental organisations. The yearly Global Meeting in Paris has become an unmissable date on the international conference calendar, with a powerful network that unleashes women's leadership and empowers leaders – both women and men – to make a difference, and to build bridges between generations, countries and cultures.

AIWF is always proud to support its valued Board Member Chiara Corazza in her important efforts as Managing Director of the Women's Forum for the Society & Economy and looks forward to attending the Women's Forum Global Meeting in 2019.

AIWF congratulates the American University of Beirut on prestigious Wharton-SSRN Innovation Award



Dr Steve Harvey, Dean of the Olayan School of Business at AUB, accepting the Wharton-SSRN Innovation Award at a ceremony in Paris for AUB's global and regional leadership, growth and innovation in high-quality academic research

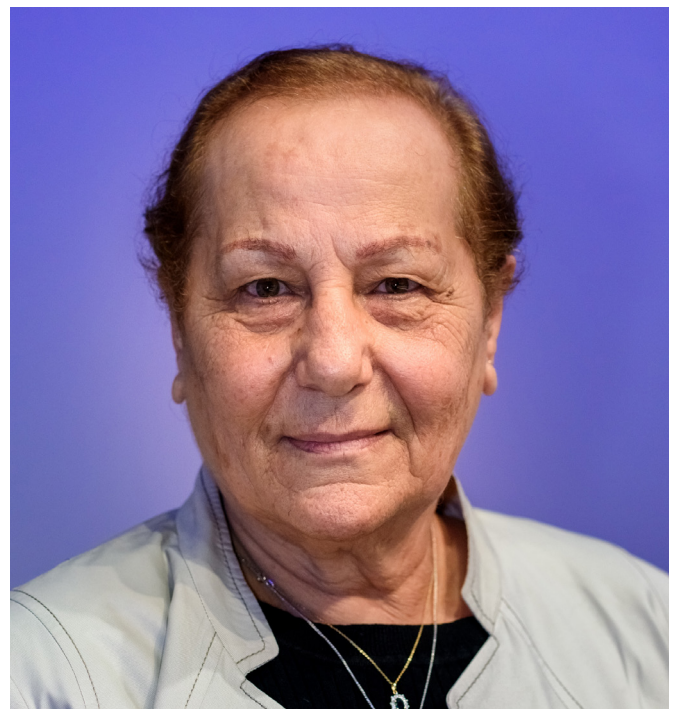
The Board of the Arab International Women's Forum has extended its deepest congratulations to **Dr Fadlo Khuri**, President of the American University of Beirut, and **Dr Steve Harvey**, Dean of the AUB Olayan School of Business, on the recent announcement that the American University of Beirut is the EMEA region winner of the prestigious Wharton Research Data Services (WRDS)-SSRN Innovation Award by the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. The award was presented to Dr Steve Harvey during the AACSB EMEA Conference in Paris in November 2018. Dr Harvey said upon accepting the award: "We are thrilled with this recognition as a school committed to high-quality research with reach and impact. It will serve to energize us even more to continue our focus on bringing actionable knowledge to the fore."

AIWF Founder & Chairman **Haifa Al Kaylani** is exceptionally proud to be an alumna of AUB together with several other AIWF Board Members who are also proud graduates of AUB, and to have had the honour and pleasure of being invited to the Wharton School in February 2013 to deliver a keynote address on Arab women in business and academic leadership at their *Economies of Freedom: Reshaping the Future of the MENA Region* conference. AIWF is also proud to have welcomed **Lubna Olayan**, CEO of Olayan Financing, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as a valued Guest of Honour Keynote Speaker at a major AIWF conference in the past.

AIWF is proud to be affiliated with the American University of Beirut and greatly admires the important work that AUB has done to support and nurture the next generation of young Arab leaders in the region and globally.

Dr Samira Goussous selected as the new Vice President of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), the first Arab doctor to be appointed to this key role

AIWF congratulates Jordanian pharmacist **Samira Goussous** for her well-deserved selection in September 2018 as the new Vice President of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), the first Arab doctor to serve in this high-level position. Founded in 1912, FIP is the global body for pharmaceutical sciences with 140 national organisations, academic institutional members and individual members, representing over 4 million pharmacists globally at individual, organisational and regional levels. FIP has been always especially active in the promotion of women in the pharmaceutical professions, and its 2018 report on *Pharmacy Workforce Intelligence: Global Trends Report*, has projected a steady increase in the proportion of women in the pharmacy workforce (by 2030, 72% of the total global pharmacy workforce will be women).



Samira Goussous, Vice President of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) (Photo courtesy of FIP)

AIWF reiterates its best wishes to Dr Goussous who is an inspirational role model to women pharmacists both in the Arab world and globally. AIWF looks forward to exploring links with FIP and lending all support towards advancing opportunities for education and career progression for women in the pharmaceutical sciences at national and international levels.

AIWF Member Ihsane Elidrissi Elhassani shortlisted for prestigious Law Society Woman Lawyer of the Year Excellence Award



Ihsane Elidrissi Elhassani, Founder of Sterling Stamp Law Firm, London

AIWF congratulates **Ihsane Elidrissi Elhassani** on her inclusion in the shortlist announced in August 2018 for the Law Society's prestigious Excellence Awards, the highest accolade for lawyers in England and Wales. Ihsane was shortlisted in the Woman Lawyer of the Year category.

Ms Elhassani said: "Being shortlisted in the Woman Lawyer of the Year Category is the ultimate recognition for any female law practitioner in England and Wales. It has even more significance for me as a Moroccan born lawyer who graduated in law from a Moroccan university, acquired a Master's degree in Belgium and qualified as a Solicitor in England and Wales. It is a nod to all competent women lawyers of foreign origin especially Arab women including Moroccans".

Law Society president **Christina Blacklaws** said: "There are more than 9,000 firms and 140,000 solicitors in England and Wales, so to be shortlisted for an Excellence Award is to be recognised as being among the best of the best. All the firms and solicitors who are shortlisted should be congratulated for the work they do day-in day-out to support their clients, many of whom are navigating complex and challenging legal problems. At a time of immense pressure on the justice system, the incredible work being done by solicitors across the country should be applauded."

AIWF wishes Ihsane every success and looks forward to welcoming her to a future edition of the AIWF / IBA *Women Business Lawyers* seminar initiative, designed to inspire women to build the confidence, skills and networks to achieve senior leadership positions in law and the professions.



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 March 2019. AIWF Global Partners, members and contacts are kindly requested to contact the Editor at info@aiwfonline.com on or before 15 February 2019 to contribute articles, photos and news.