



Union for the Mediterranean

High Level Conference on Women for Mediterranean

Madrid 26 and 27 October 2022

[Hotel Riu Plaza España Madrid](#)

The [2022 High-Level Conference on Women for Mediterranean](#) organised by the Union for the Mediterranean will take place in the afternoon of the **26th October and throughout the 27th**, in a physical format in Madrid.

During the High-Level Conference, Ministers from the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Members States and the UfM-Co-presidencies (EU and Jordan) will be invited as well as representatives of national, regional and international stakeholders from public and private sectors including financial institutions and international donors. The recommendations gathered from the Civil Society organizations will be certainly taken on board during the discussions.

The Conference will be preceded, on the 26th of October 2022 by the [5th \(UfM\) Ministerial Conference on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society](#), which will gather Ministers of the 42 Member States of the UfM responsible for women affairs and gender equality.

The Conference will provide an opportunity for a further exchange of experiences, good practices and lessons learned on women empowerment and women's rights in a regional-crisis (health, water, food and energy security) context.

These discussions will also contribute to shape **the Roadmap for the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration** and the regional agenda for the years to come, particularly towards an effective and inclusive gender equality policy, based on a gender transformative approach and the mobilisation of public and private actors in the region.

The experts' contribution to the discussions, taking place across the two days will be important in stepping up cooperation, focusing on **implementation, concrete delivery, and monitoring of impact**, while enhancing the visibility of past, on-going and future initiatives.



Madrid, 26 October

15:00-18:30 Opening Ceremony

The UfM Co-presidencies (EU and Jordan), the Ministers of the UfM Member States, the relevant EU Institutions will give a warm welcome to conference participants and will share the **key political commitments taken in the framework of the Ministerial Declaration adopted on 26 October** to turn challenges in opportunities for an effective political and economic women empowerment in the context of recent economic, environmental, health and political crisis faced by the Euro Mediterranean Region. More concretely, the ambitions and the successful outcomes of the good practices implemented at EU and national level will be spotlighted.

The high-level representatives of some key UfM partners will highlight the role of regional and international partnerships in advocating and ensuring the replicability and sustainability of the identified good practices.

Official opening 15:00 – 15:30

- H.E Ms Irene Montero, Minister of Equality, Kingdom of Spain
- H.E Ms Helena Dalli, European Commissioner for Gender Equality
- H.E. Mr Ayman Riad Al-Mufleh Minister of Social Development of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- H.E Mr Nasser Kamel Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat

H.E. Ms Svenja Schulze, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany (video message)

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization (WHO) (video message)

Round-table: Women Economic Empowerment 15:30 - 16:15

- H.E Maya Morsi, Head of the Egyptian National Council for Women
- Ms Natalia Efremova, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Policy, Bulgaria
- Dr Jordi Currell, Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL)
- Mrs. Fatou Haidara , Managing Director, Directorate of Global Partnerships and External Relations , UNIDO



Round-table: Women in Leadership 16:15 -17:00

- Ms Claudine Aoun, President of National Commission for Lebanese Women
- Ms Birgit Loeser, Co-Chair of the UfM Senior Officials Meeting - EU External Action Service (EEAS)
- Amb. María Jesús Conde Zabala, Special Envoy on Foreign Feminist Policy, Spain

Round-table: Gender Equality and Climate Change 17: 00- 17:45

- Mr Placido Plaza, Secretary General CIHEAM
- Carlos Conde, Head of Middle East & Africa Division, OECD
- Amb. Senén Florensa Palau Executive President IEMed
- Ms Arianna Censi, Deputy Mayor for Mobilty of Milan, Member of ARLEM

Round-table: Violence Against Women and Girls 17:45- 18:30

- H.E Ms Aawatif Hayar, Minister of Solidarity, Social Integration and Family, Morocco
- H.E. Ms Amal Nashwan, Minister of Women's Affairs, Palestine
- Ms Ángela Rodríguez, Secretary of State for Equality and against Gender Violence, Spain

18:30 -20:00 Networking cocktail



Madrid, 27 October

9:30-11:30 I. Women Economic Empowerment in the Regional Crisis context

In 2022, amid multi-layered and compounding crises including the ongoing pandemic, the climate emergency and large-scale conflict and displacement, the progress towards gender parity is stalling.

Not only are millions of women and girls losing out on access and opportunity at present, this halt in progress towards parity is a catastrophe for the future of our economies, societies and communities. Accelerating parity must be a core part of the public and private agenda.

As stressed by the [2022 Gender Equality report of the UfM](#), women are active drivers for economic and human growth, and key agents of change also in COVID-19 and other crisis economic recovery scenarios. However, women's access and participation in the labour market, and their engagement as entrepreneurs in the Mediterranean region remain significantly low.

The economic and social consequences of the pandemic and geopolitical conflict have paused progress and worsened outcomes for women and girls around the world. Conversely, the increasing representation of women in leadership in a number of industries, engagement in tertiary education overall and rebound in professional and technical roles are encouraging and may provide a basis for future efforts.

Collective, coordinated and comprehensive action will be needed to create sustained improvements and halt the risks of reversals. As a basis for action, close and constant monitoring of the gender gap is a critical first step.

In order to identify concrete actions to be implemented and the enabling conditions for their success at regional level, the invited speakers will tackle the challenges of an effective women's economic empowerment from three main perspectives.

- **Panel 1: Inclusive Labour market for a sustainable and integrated economic system**
 - **Outi Kärkkäinen, Focal point for Gender, European Training Foundation**
 - **Emmanuelle Roure, Team Leader for Neighbourhood, International Affairs Unit, DG EMPL**
 - **Tair Ifergan, Director General, Labor branch, Ministry of Economy and Industry, Israel**
 - **María Antonia Morillas González, Director of the Spanish Institute of Women, Spain**



- **Patricia Sanz Cameo, Vice-Chair for Equality, Human Resources, Institutional Culture, and Digital Inclusion, ONCE Social Group**
- **Panel 2: Enabling conditions for a successful female entrepreneurship**
 - **Neila Amara, International Project Management Expert, UNIDO**
 - **Jihen Boutiba , Secretary General BusinessMed**
 - **Zohra Slim, Co-founder and Chief Web Officer, InstaDeep, Start-Up (Tunisia)**
 - **Anne-France Wittmann, Policy Officer, DG NEAR**
- **Panel 3: Women in leadership and decision-making in public and private sector**

Moderator: Tala Khrais, Country Director MENA Women's Leadership Program, Forum of Federations- Jordan

- **Joana Lima, President of the Women's Forum of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM)**
- **Saida Neghza, Director Confédération Nationale d'Entreprises, Algeria**
- **Razan Liftawi, Palestinian Women Mediation Network**
- **Amneh I. Khasawneh, Princess Basma Center for Jordanian Women's Studies at Yarmouk University**
- **Annette Funk , Head of Project (WoMENA) Gender Responsive and Inclusive Politics and Economics in the MENA Region, (GIZ, Germany)**

11:30-12:00 Coffee/ networking break

12:00 – 13:30 II. Gender-just response to the climate crisis

The last UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66) recognized the disproportionate impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters on all women and girls that can include loss of homes and livelihoods, water scarcity, destruction and damage to schools and health facilities and stressed the urgency of eliminating persistent historical and structural inequalities, discriminatory laws and policies, negative social norms and gender stereotypes that perpetuate multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.



Gender-equality and the empowerment of women and girls remain essential for a sustainable natural resource’s management, for mitigating and adapting to climate change, for protecting ecosystems, for building resilient futures for indigenous and rural women, and for conserving biodiversity. The participation of women in discussions and decisions on climate change mitigation and adaptation is essential to find sustainable and effective solutions.

In order to adequately address climate change, environmental and disaster and risk reduction, the policy actions should 1) promote women’s and girls’ full and equal participation and leadership to make natural resource management and climate, environment and disaster risk action more effective. 2) expand gender-responsive finance at scale for climate and environment action and to reach women’s organizations, enterprises, and cooperatives; 3) building women’s resilience in the context of agricultural and food systems, forest and fisheries management and the sustainable energy transition. 4) ensure equal access and rights to land, water, technology, technical advice and information for a greater food security, renewable energy; 5) enhancing gender statistics and sex-disaggregated data in the gender-environment nexus; and fostering gender-responsive just transitions.

The invited panelists will share views and concrete proposals on how to implement the identified policy actions of Climate change from two main perspectives.

- **Panel 1: Gender Equality and Climate Change: women as agents for change and stakeholders instead of vulnerable groups**

Moderator: Africa G. Zanella, Gender Senior International Consultant, Lifewatch Eric and Centre for Sustainability and Gender Economics, (CSGE-Spain/Australia)

- **Blanca Moreno-Dodson, Director of the Center for Mediterranean Integration, UNOPS, United Nations**
- **Yasmine Seghirate, Policy and Communication Officer, CIHEAM,**
- **Maggie Refaat, Regional Gender Specialist, FAO**
- **Saira Ahmed, Programme Management Officer, UNDRR (online) (tbc)**

- **Panel 2: Gender-responsive finance at scale for climate and environment action**

Moderator: Anna Dorangricchia, Project Manager Gender Equality, Social and Civil Affairs Division, UfM



- **Anna Rosendahl, Head of Unit for Middle East and North Africa, Sida (Sweden)**
- **Sarine Karajerjian, Arab-Reform Initiative (Lebanon)**
- **Africa G. Zanella, CSGE and CIF Observer and Gender Focal Point for Climate Investment Fund**
- **Bashir Conde, Project Manager, Public and Private Partnership Division, UNIDO**
- **Majd Mashharawi, Founder & CEO at SunBox, (Palestine)**

13:30-14:30 Lunch break

14:30 – 16:00 III. Violence Against Women and Girls

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is a complex phenomenon.

Gender-based violence is taking different forms and being highly sensible to conjunctural events. VAWG increased in the context of the Covid-19 crisis as well as in the context of political and armed conflicts.

One in three women worldwide experience physical or sexual violence, mostly by an intimate partner. Violence negatively affects women's general well-being and prevents women from fully participating in society. It has tremendous costs, from greater strains on health care to legal expenses and losses in productivity.

At least 155 countries have passed laws on domestic violence, and 140 have legislation on sexual harassment in the workplace (World Bank 2020). But challenges remain in enforcing these laws, limiting women and girls' access to safety and justice. Not enough is done to prevent violence, and when it does occur, it often goes unpunished.

It is essential to boost reporting tools and systems for victims of violence in these specific contexts, with particular attention to migrant women and vulnerable groups. VAGW is a phenomenon which shall be prevented by means of public awareness campaigns, trainings and cooperation between the public institutions and the civil society.

The need to bridge funding gaps, to ensure essential services for survivors of violence during the COVID-19 crisis, to focus on prevention, and to boost collection of data that can improve life-saving services for women and girls will be among the topics of the Third Panel.

More concretely, the panellists will be invited to tackle the challenge of ending VAWG from two main perspectives:



- **Panel 1: The multidimensional impacts of crises leading to an increase of Violence against women and how to prevent it**

Moderator: Sana Afouaiz, Founder and CEO, Womenpreneur Initiative

- **Victoria Rosell Aguilar, Delegada del Gobierno contra la Violencia de Género, Spain**
 - **Cristina Fabre, Team Leader Gender-Based Violence (EIGE)**
 - **Stéfania Chiru, Deputy head of unit for international affairs, Ministry of Gender Equality (France)**
 - **Manal Benkirane, Programme Specialist for EVAW, UN WOMEN Regional Office for Arab States**
- **Panel 2: Strengthening the collaboration between public/legal systems and the CSOs to reinforce legal, economic and social protection and support for victims of domestic violence and insure adequate financial and other forms of support for prevention and combatting VAWG**

Moderator: Sana Afouaiz, Founder and CEO, Womenpreneur Initiative

- **Gülser Ustaoglu, General Director on the Status of Women, Ministry of Family and Social Services, Republic of Türkiye**
- **Lucie Déchifre, Programmes Manager, EuroMed Feminist Initiative, Jordan**
- **Cristiana Carletti, UfM Italian Gender Focal Point, Italy**

16:30 – 17:30 IV. Media and Gender Equality

The media industry (newspapers, television, radio and social media) plays a key role in shaping values and opinions, including those related to gender. Media are one of the main sources of information that enable citizens to be better informed and make decisions about issues affecting their life.

However, the perpetration of gender stereotypes and the under and misrepresentation of women in media contents have been consistently demonstrated by research studies; the Global Media Monitoring Project, published in 2020, shows that women represent just 24% of news' subjects and sources. It also



shows that only less than 1% of the stories analysed challenge gender stereotypes or mention gender inequalities.¹

Despite such research conclusions, media still struggle to adopt a global strategy able to ensure a nonstereotyped and non-discriminatory representation by adopting gender-sensitive lenses.

In addition to this, relevant stakeholders from civil society work hard to be effective in their advocacy mission, with particular reference to the difficulties related to the dissemination of information and contents via mainstream channels of communication.

We know that the media's sphere of influence is wide enough to become one of the most powerful tools to promote positive changes in the way genders are represented and, consequently, how they are perceived by society. By the way, the changes needed to favour a gender-sensitive approach require a combination of mechanisms and strategies bridging players from the media system and civil society.

This panel intends to investigate how media write and speak about global issues such as economy, climate crisis and violence against women with a gender perspective.

To this purpose, representatives from the media sector and civil society will share perspectives and strategies, starting also from existing good practices.

Speakers

Moderator: Carolina Pecharromàn, Editor of "Igualdad" – RTVE

- **Ihsen Benbel** Journalist/anchor of radio 2M for the weekly program "Gender and Diversity Debate", (Morocco)
- **Valbona Sulçe**, Researcher and journalist from Tirana, Albanian Woman in Audiovisual Albania, (Albania)
- **Farah Ahmad**, Senior Journalist Al-Ghad Daily Newspaper, Jordan (online)
- **Maria-Àngels Roque**, Director of the culture, gender and civil society department, IEMed

¹ https://whomakesthenews.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/GMMP2020.ENG_FINAL_.pdf