



ARAB INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S FORUM  
المنتدى العربي الدولي للمرأة



CENTER for MEDITERRANEAN  
INTEGRATION | CENTRE pour  
l'INTÉGRATION en MÉDITERRANÉE  
مركز التكامل المتوسطي

Joint conference of the  
**Arab International Women's Forum &  
The Center for Mediterranean Integration**

# **Women, Water & Youth: Perspectives from the MENA Region**

**CONFERENCE SESSIONS WITH CONFIRMED SPEAKERS**

26-27 September 2018  
Kempinski Hotel, Amman, Jordan

# Women, Water & Youth

**A joint initiative of The Arab International Women's Forum & The Center for Mediterranean Integration**

**The Arab International Women's Forum (AIWF) is proud to host a high-level conference in valued partnership between AIWF and the Centre for Mediterranean Integration. The conference will take place in Amman, Jordan on 26 - 27 September 2018.**

Based in London, AIWF is a non-profit development organisation focused on women's development and youth empowerment. AIWF's Annual Programmes have featured high-level international conferences held over the past 17 years in London, Paris, Dubai, Doha, Damascus, Washington DC, Madrid, Brussels, Sharjah, Cairo, Amman, Beirut, Palestine, Kuwait and Morocco, 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, women's peace and security, economic competitiveness, early stage entrepreneurship in the MENA region, and women-led innovation in STEM. AIWF works closely with a global network of corporate and institutional partners to promote and prioritise the engagement of women and youth towards finding innovative and actionable solutions to the multi-faceted and complex environmental, economic security, and developmental challenges the MENA region faces.

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

AIWF is proud to partner with the Center for Mediterranean Integration in 2018 on this much-needed and timely initiative on 'Women, Water & Youth', to bring into focus development challenges as well as opportunities for economic growth and progress benefiting women and youth in the MENA region and internationally.

AIWF and all AIWF Global Partners are committed to giving women leaders, entrepreneurs, executives and educators a powerful platform to voice and examine critical issues of global and regional concern that deeply impact women's lives, their livelihoods and their security and prosperity. AIWF and the CMI look forward to working with all partners and participants to make this another highly interactive, impact-driven conference that will bring Arab governments, the private sector, civil society, women and youth together to innovate new solutions for the food and water crises in the MENA region and better understand how these challenges impact the lives of women and young people.

## Conference Themes

*Women, Water & Youth* takes an intersectional approach to three critical development challenges for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region – water scarcity, women’s economic participation, and youth unemployment. Themes of the conference, titled *Women, Water & Youth*, are aligned with the core priority policy areas of AIWF and the Center for Mediterranean Integration, and include:

### Day 1

1. **Women and water governance in the MENA**
2. **Gender equity in sustainable agriculture and food production**
3. **Building youth capacity to address water scarcity challenges in the Arab water sector through entrepreneurship and social enterprise**
4. **Building capacity for women and youth in the Arab water sector through ‘smart’ technology and edtech innovation**

### Day 2

5. **Impact of water scarcity in the MENA refugee and internal displacement crisis**
6. **Reflections of women leaders and young innovators addressing water scarcity, sustainability, environmental and development challenges in the MENA region**

## Conference Concept

### ***Women, Water & Youth***

The MENA is a “hotspot of unsustainable water use”, with more than half of current water withdrawals in some MENA countries well exceeding the water resources available by up to 75% on average<sup>1</sup>. Over 60% of the MENA population lives in high or very high water stressed areas (compared to 35% for the rest of the world)<sup>2</sup>. Roughly 70% of the region’s economic activities are produced in areas of high or very high water stress, more than three times the global average of 22 percent, reflecting the high economic output of the highly water-stressed Gulf states. In Jordan alone, according to the country’s Ministry of Water and Irrigation, “climate change and the refugee crisis have reduced water availability per person to 140 cubic meters, far below the globally recognized threshold of 500 cubic meters for severe water scarcity. These recent developments compound the impact of decades of rapid population growth, urbanization and agricultural intensification.”<sup>3</sup>

Furthermore, armed conflict in Syria, Libya, Iraq and Yemen and the resulting refugee and internal displacement crises, unprecedented since the Second World War, have created further strain on land and water resources in many Arab States, as well as on the infrastructure and resources of receiving countries such as Jordan, the second largest refugee-hosting country in the world when compared to the size of its population, according to the United Nations Higher Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). As economic, social and political pressures continue in Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Libya and Yemen, international focus has rested on security and conflict-related engagement, but it is clear that the realities of water scarcity and its alarming implications for economic growth, regional stability, health and quality of life for people in the MENA region are equally critical to its future prosperity and stability.

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<sup>1</sup> Sadoff C and Jagerskog A, Game-changing water solutions for the Middle East and North Africa, 22 November 2017, The World Bank Water Blog; World Bank. 2017. *Beyond Scarcity: Water Security in the Middle East and North Africa*. MENA Development Series. World Bank, Washington, DC, p9

<sup>2</sup> World Bank. 2017. *Beyond Scarcity: Water Security in the Middle East and North Africa*. MENA Development Series. World Bank, Washington, DC, p10. License: Creative Commons Attribution CC BY 3.0 IGO

<sup>3</sup> Sadoff C and Jagerskog A, Game-changing water solutions for the Middle East and North Africa, 22 November 2017, The World Bank Water Blog

Nowhere in the world is the challenge of water scarcity more pertinent than it is in the “world’s most water-stressed” MENA region. In some MENA countries and economies, access to water is critically low. The World Bank finds in its *Water Scarcity* report: “In Yemen, Libya, and the West Bank and Gaza, less than 80% of the population has access to safe drinking water<sup>4</sup>. In Djibouti, Yemen, Morocco, Libya, and Iraq, up to 50% of the population still lacks access to adequate sanitation. While some countries such as Morocco have made some progress, they remain several steps away from achieving universal access. Algeria is the only country in the Middle East and North Africa that has made no progress toward universal access.”<sup>5</sup>

Water security matters because scarcity threatens global prosperity and strains growth that could cost the global economy \$500 billion per year, a strain felt most keenly by countries already experiencing high levels of water insecurity and those with high dependence on agriculture (Sadoff et al, 2015)<sup>6</sup>. Water scarcity could potentially have serious long-term impact on regional growth and stability. According to the World Bank’s *Water Scarcity* report: “The region is expected to have the greatest economic losses from climate-related water scarcity as a share of GDP by 2050 (World Bank 2016). The many impacts of climate change on water scarcity have the potential to impair economic activities in the region, causing reductions in GDP of between 6 percent and 14 percent of GDP by 2050 (World Bank 2016).”<sup>7</sup>

Water scarcity most impacts food production, agriculture being the largest consumer of freshwater resources in the MENA and a “vital and volatile” economic sector which generates 15% of Morocco’s GDP, to give just one example – representing nearly a quarter of the country’s exports and creating jobs for nearly half its labour force<sup>8</sup>. Arab countries are the “largest net importers of cereal in the world and therefore highly vulnerable to variability and shocks in global commodity prices” (Brookings)<sup>9</sup> and as such, highly vulnerable to food insecurity – yet another critical challenge in the MENA region that disproportionately impacts women and youth.

However, economic losses arising from water scarcity and food insecurity are further compounded by two other critical development challenges that the MENA region faces. The first of these is the extraordinarily low rate of female participation in the Arab labour force overall, and the second is the high rate of youth unemployment in the Arab world.

### **Women’s low rate of economic participation**

As the ILO notes in its *World Employment and Social Outlook Trends 2017* report, despite significant improvements in educational attainment, women in North Africa are still twice as likely to be unemployed as their male counterparts, unemployment for women in the Arab States is still 13 percentage points higher than that for men, and female participation in the labour market remained the lowest globally at just 21.2% in 2016, against a world average of 49.5%. The male participation rate, however, was slightly above the world average (76.5% in 2016, against a global rate of 76.1%). As the ILO has found, such large gender disparities in labour market performance undoubtedly highlight the fact that although women have achieved high levels of education in many parts of the Arab world, this has not translated into enhanced inclusion in the world of work.

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<sup>4</sup> World Bank. 2017. *Beyond Scarcity: Water Security in the Middle East and North Africa*. MENA Development Series. World Bank, Washington, DC, p76. License: Creative Commons Attribution CC BY 3.0 IGO

<sup>5</sup> World Bank. 2017. *Beyond Scarcity: Water Security in the Middle East and North Africa*. MENA Development Series. World Bank, Washington, DC, p76

<sup>6</sup> World Bank. 2017. *Beyond Scarcity: Water Security in the Middle East and North Africa*. MENA Development Series. World Bank, Washington, DC, p7

<sup>7</sup> World Bank. 2017. *Beyond Scarcity: Water Security in the Middle East and North Africa*. MENA Development Series. World Bank, Washington, DC, p16

<sup>8</sup> Brookings, *Is Water Scarcity Dampening Growth Prospects in the Middle East and North Africa?* 24 June 2014 (Accessed at <https://www.brookings.edu/opinions/is-water-scarcity-dampening-growth-prospects-in-the-middle-east-and-north-africa/>); World Bank 2013 Project Appraisal Document on a Proposed Global Environment Facility Trust Fund Grant to the Amount of US \$ 6.44million to the Kingdom of Morocco For a Social and Integrated Agriculture Project

<sup>9</sup> Brookings, *Is Water Scarcity Dampening Growth Prospects in the Middle East and North Africa?* 24 June 2014; J Lampietti, N Magnan, S Michaels, A McCalla, M Saade, N Khouri 2009 *Improving Food Security in Arab Countries*. Report No. 5022. World Bank

The World Bank estimates that legal and business barriers are still preventing women from joining the labour force in MENA, causing a loss of 27% in income for the region overall. Every MENA economy has at least one restriction on the type of work a woman can do, and Morocco is the only country where it's prohibited by law to discriminate against women when giving them access to credit. Morocco and Djibouti are the only countries that legally mandate equal remuneration for equal work and non-discrimination based on gender in hiring for jobs, and Algeria also legally mandates equal remuneration for equal work<sup>10</sup>.

Gender barriers to women's inclusion are also reflected in the low rates of female-led entrepreneurship in the MENA region, with the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor's (GEM) MENA 2017 Report identifying these barriers as women having higher levels of domestic responsibility, lower levels of education, a lack of female role models in business and public service, fewer business-orientated networks in Arab communities, a lack of capital and assets, and a culturally-induced lack of assertiveness and confidence in women's abilities to succeed in business, entrepreneurship and professional life.

### **The crisis of youth unemployment in the MENA region**

At the same time, according to the Arab Youth Survey 2017, youth unemployment in the region stands at between 25% - 30% and the Arab world's youth population is among the fastest growing in the world, with the number of young workers aged 15-24 estimated to grow to 58 million by 2025. In some Gulf states, up to 70% of people are employed in the public sector, which clearly cannot sustainably provide jobs for the growing youth population into the future, making private sector job creation a key regional priority and startups and social enterprises key drivers of job growth in the region.

Promoting growth, jobs, and inclusiveness in the Arab World is critical to developing a future Arab working world and economy that - as **Christine Lagarde**, Managing Director of the IMF, said at the 2018 Arab Fiscal Forum - "includes all, works for all, and provides opportunities for all"<sup>11</sup>. Support and financing for youth-led, scalable startups and initiatives that create jobs for young people, especially those that rise up to critical development and sustainability challenges, can foster innovation and serve as a lifeline for unemployed young Arabs. In most Arab countries there are clusters of Silicon Valley-inspired startup incubation initiatives that facilitate training and interaction between mentors and funders (including Flat6Labs in Egypt, Oasis 500 in Jordan, Bader, Berytech, and Seeqnce in Lebanon, Tenmou in Bahrain, and Astrolabs, Dubai 100 and SeedStartup in the UAE), but there is still much to be done to address challenges that inhibit startup growth in the region, which have been identified as the cost of establishing a business, cumbersome regulatory systems, inconsistent labour laws, the absence of bankruptcy laws and the difficulty of recruiting and retaining top talent.<sup>12</sup>

The consequences of failing to support opportunities for all, and failing to promote growth, jobs and inclusion for women and young people in the Arab world, are that ultimately, as Madame Lagard also said, that "stability is at stake ... Youth unemployment is the highest in the world - averaging 25 percent, and exceeding 30 percent in nine countries. Moreover, over 27 million hopeful young people will join the workplace over the next five years, anxious to be included. But so far their aspirations are unfulfilled, and their understandable frustration is compounded by perceived unfairness. This could easily lead to dissatisfaction, a rise in social tensions, and a collapse in social trust."

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<sup>10</sup> The World Bank, *The State of Women's Rights in the Arab World*, 7 March 2016 (Accessed at <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2016/03/07/the-state-of-womens-rights-in-the-arab-world>)

<sup>11</sup> Christine Lagarde, *Spending Reform for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth in Arab Countries*, as delivered in Dubai, February 2018 (Accessed at <http://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2018/02/09/sp021018-dubai-spending-reform-for-sustainable-and-inclusive-growth-in-arab-countries>)

<sup>12</sup> Suparna Dutt D'Cunha, *Plagued By a 30% Unemployment Rate, Arabian Youth Turn to Startups For a Lifeline*, Forbes, May 2017 (Accessed at <https://www.forbes.com/sites/suparnadutt/2017/05/11/can-startups-drive-new-job-growth-in-the-mena-region-where-youth-unemployment-rate-is-30/#4f95f7a34f43>)

## Conference Objectives

### **Women, Water & Youth**

Rising social tensions and a collapse in social trust are likely potential outcomes for the region should the triage of critical development challenges – of women, water and youth – remain unaddressed. Accordingly, the conference will demonstrate the intrinsic link between the challenges of water scarcity, women's economic empowerment, and youth unemployment, providing fertile ground for participants and panelists to come up with new solutions to increasingly urgent problems through both technological innovation and a renewed effort to promote water governance measures – tariffs, subsidies and transparent regulations.

The conference aims to bring women – who are most affected by water challenges, food insecurity, armed conflict and displacement, and reduced economic opportunity – into the conversation. It will also bring vital youth voices to the table to explore ways in which women-led / targeted, and youth-led / targeted initiatives might solve environmental and sustainability challenges whilst simultaneously promoting women's economic participation and leadership and addressing the crisis of youth unemployment in the region.

The conference will connect established women leaders in water and the international development sectors with rising stars who are breaking new ground to address the challenges of food, water and energy in the MENA region head on through the use of transformative technology and innovative, out-of-the-box projects and initiatives. AIWF and the CMI look forward to welcoming subject matter experts and guests who will help bring our conference objectives to life, by sharing their research into critical issues around women, youth, water and food insecurity, bringing their own experiences and expertise into the discussions. Highly interactive, impact-driven discussions and panel debates that are a hallmark of AIWF conferences will contribute actionable insights and results-oriented recommendations from thought leaders, change agents and key actors whose expertise spans the most critical issues facing the MENA region: water, food security, sustainability, women and youth.

## Conference Participants

The *Women, Water & Youth* conference in Amman will bring together no less than 200 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.

The conference will call for the engagement of international, regional and local actors, bringing together Arab governments, the private sector, and civil society, to support innovative entrepreneurship, research and initiatives that directly address the need for technology and investment in education whilst promoting the urgency of water governance in the region. Additionally, the conference will examine strategies to support and empower women and young people to address environmental challenges in the region through public service, entrepreneurship and social enterprise.

Through high-level panel sessions, each panel addressed by global and emerging young leaders, both panelists and participants will engage in frank discussion in a supportive environment on water governance, gender equity in sustainable agriculture, trends and technologies to boost water security in the region, and capacity building in the water sector through training, education, entrepreneurship and social enterprise. The conference programme also includes a unique high-level session during which women leaders and young innovators in the water, sustainability and development sectors will share innovative solutions, projects and initiatives that directly address critical water, food and security challenges in the Arab world.

# AIWF / Center for Mediterranean Integration Conference Programme: 'Women, Water & Youth' 26-27 September 2018 | Amman, Jordan

## Day 1

0730 - 0900 Registration & Coffee Networking

0900 - 1000 **Opening Session** (Prompt start at 0900)

### **AIWF Founder & Chairman's Keynote Address and An Introduction to 'Women, Water & Youth'**

**Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani** Founder & Chairman, Arab International Women's Forum; Fellow, Harvard Advanced Leadership Initiative 2017; Commissioner, ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work

### **Guest of Honour Keynote**

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

### **Guest of Honour Keynote**

**HE Eng Ali Subah** Secretary General, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

### **Center for Mediterranean Integration Keynote**

**Blanca Moreno-Dodson** Manager, Center for Mediterranean Integration, France

### **Guest of Honour Keynote**

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

### **Guest of Honour Keynote**

**Professor Fadia Kiwan** Director General, Arab Women Organization, Egypt

1000 - 1145

## **PANEL 1**

### **Women and water governance in the MENA**

Laws and regulations regarding water governance in MENA countries focus on the efficient use of water resources in order to protect water quality and conserve quantity, but do not make sufficient provision for the input or protection of women and citizens generally in decision-making on water governance, especially rural women or women working in the informal water economies. Women's involvement in managing water resources, with a focus on activism and awareness-raising through entrepreneurial ventures, could directly improve effectiveness and impact of water sustainability initiatives, informing community, corporate and government attitudes, behaviours and beliefs.

This session explores the importance of entrepreneurship and economic diversification to directly address the water scarcity crisis and strengthen

the role of women in water governance in the MENA region. The session will look to Jordan, Yemen, Morocco and other MENA countries for benchmark multi-stakeholder frameworks and initiatives as well as private sector projects and entrepreneurial ventures that give women a powerful voice in the governance of water resources, in the creation of sustainable livelihoods in the water and agricultural sectors, and in community-driven infrastructure development in informal water economies.

### Confirmed Speakers

*Panel Chair* **Janet Heckman** Managing Director SEMED, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Jordan

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

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

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

1145 - 1215

Tea & Coffee Break

1215 - 1400

## PANEL 2

### Gender equity in sustainable agriculture and food production

CIHEAM's Strategic Agenda 2025 covers 15 thematic priorities, which include protecting the planet "by struggling against triple waste" (sharing knowledge and defending knowhow), managing natural resources and energy (water, soil, forests, energy, and biodiversity), and reducing agricultural losses and food waste. In addition, CIHEAM is committed to inclusive development "by investing in new generations and fragile territories" through young employment and life-long learning, gender equality and the participation of vulnerable groups.

Women in the MENA Region have historically always played an essential role in small-scale subsistence agriculture and pastoralism as well as food production, resource and household management as elsewhere in the world, but their involvement is far more limited in the modern agriculture and agribusiness and even when it takes place, their access to resources and services is highly restricted. According to the International Water Management Institute's January 2018 report on 'Gender-Equitable Pathways to Achieving Sustainable Agricultural Intensification': *"Increased gender equity in agriculture is both a practical and a social justice issue: practical because women are responsible for much of the production by smallholders; and social justice because in many cases they currently do not have rights over land and water resources, nor full access to markets, and often they do not even control the crops they produce. Strategies to promote gender equity must be tailored carefully to the social and economic context."*<sup>13</sup>

<sup>13</sup> International Water Management Institute, *Gender-Equitable Pathways to Achieving Sustainable Agricultural Intensification* (January 2018), p 3

This session examines community-driven strategies to promote gender equity in the sustainable agriculture, water management and food production sectors to create more holistic, cost-effective and gender-neutral infrastructure in the water economies. The session will discuss the roles and responsibilities of men and women in small- and large-scale agriculture and food production in the MENA region, a sector in which women often lack legislative or regulatory protection of their land or water resource rights or access to markets. Panellists will explore how best to improve gender equal access to support networks, technology, credit, information, education and training, in order to engage more women in the sector, strengthen their voices in collective action and decision making at the highest levels, and create employment generation for sustainable sectoral growth.

### **Confirmed Speakers**

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

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

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

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

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

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

1400 - 1500

Buffet Lunch & Networking

1500 - 1630

### **PANEL 3**

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

This unique session engages young entrepreneurs at different stages of their ventures (successful, challenged and start-up / early stages of development) together with key stakeholders (government, private sector actors and civil society organisations) in frank and outcome-based dialogue on the current status of support provided to youth innovators addressing critical water scarcity challenges through entrepreneurship and social enterprise. It will showcase success and failure stories and explore key learnings from both, endeavouring to produce viable recommendations on how the dual challenges of youth unemployment and water scarcity in the Arab world might be addressed by equipping young people with the skills, training, investment and access to directly address environmental and sustainability challenges by

starting new ventures and social enterprises or by initiating new sustainability projects or campaigns that not only facilitate development of infrastructure but also provide income and training opportunities for rural women.

### Confirmed Speakers

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

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

**Lamis Qdemat** Social Entrepreneur, Founder of Water Heroes app, Member of the Mediterranean Youth for Water Network (MedYWat)

1630 – 1645      Networking Break

1645 – 1815      **PANEL 4**

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

This session calls for increased co-operation and innovation between international, regional and local actors, Arab governments, the private sector, and civil society organisations, to first attract young people to the water and sustainability sectors and then dynamically build their capacities through sustained investment in training and education. The session examines how women and young people's capacity can be developed and matured with key skills, finance and access to support networks, but also looking beyond traditional education formats into social and cultural community-building using the power and influence of storytelling, harnessing new technologies, smart farming technologies, and digital innovation (including apps, MOOCs and other innovative online education technology platforms) to benefit women and youth in the rural and informal water economies. The session will also ask how technology and the development of smart farming infrastructure can build capacity and create much-needed jobs for young people and examine how technology can be used to empower women and girls in rural communities by facilitating access to education and vocational skills.

### Confirmed Speakers

*Panel Chair* **Reem Najdawi** Executive Director, ESCWA Technology Centre, Lebanon

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

**Dr Lahbib Latrach** Founder & CEO of Green WATECH, young water entrepreneur and winner of the CMI 2018 Water, Member of the Mediterranean Youth for Water Network (MedYWat) Heroes contest, Morocco

1815 - 2000 Speakers & Partners Evening Networking Reception and 'Women & Water' show led by women storytellers from the Maghreb region (winners of the CMI Water Heroes Contest)

## Day 2

0820 - 0920 Registration, Coffee & Networking

0920 - 1000

### Opening Session (Day 2)

#### Founder Chairman's Welcome & Summary of Day 1

**Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani** Founder & Chairman, Arab International Women's Forum; Fellow, Harvard Advanced Leadership Initiative 2017; Commissioner, ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work

#### Guest of Honour Opening Keynote

**Dr Fares Braizat** Chairman, NAMA Strategic Intelligence Solutions, Jordan

#### Guest of Honour Opening Keynote

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

1000 - 1130

### PANEL 5

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

Armed conflict in Syria, Libya, Iraq and Yemen and the resulting refugee and internal displacement crises have created unprecedented strain on land and water resources in many Arab States, as well as on the infrastructure and resources of receiving countries such as Jordan, the second largest refugee-hosting country in the world when compared to the size of its population, according to UNHCR. This session brings together leaders in public service and global advocacy to discuss the impact that the refugee crisis in the MENA region has had on water scarcity, food insecurity and future environmental stability in the region, and to provide insight into how these challenges can be overcome or mitigated through multi-level engagement and dialogue.

#### Confirmed Speakers

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

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

**Kholoud Al Ajarma** Programs Manager Lajee Center, Member of the Mediterranean Youth for Water Network (MedYWat), Palestine

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

1130 – 1300

## PANEL 6

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

This unique session will invite women leaders and young innovators to share reflections of leadership and common motivating factors as well as differentiating challenges in launching initiatives, projects and campaigns that directly address water scarcity, sustainability, food security, environmental and social development challenges in the MENA region. This session recognises leadership and innovation in addressing critical sustainability challenges and highlights the essential role that women and young people play in the development of sustainable approaches to natural resource management, stressing the need for women and young people to participate in environmental and sustainability decision-making at all levels.

#### Confirmed Speakers

*Panel Chair* **Asma Bachikh** Former President, Water Youth World Parliament

**Janette Uhlmann** Senior Operations Officer, Center for Mediterranean Integration, France

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

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

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

1300 – 1310

Closing Remarks delivered by **Rania Rizk**, AIWF Co-Chairman and Senior Vice President & General Counsel AMEA, PepsiCo

1310 – 1400

Post-Conference Networking and Refreshments

# Conference Information

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## Date

26-27 September 2018

## Venue

Kempinski Hotel, Amman, Jordan

## Language

All sessions, conference moderation and materials will be in English.

## How to register

**Please register online.** You should receive emailed confirmation of your registration within 24 hours; if you do not, please contact [info@aiwfonline.com](mailto:info@aiwfonline.com)

[Click here to register](#)



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## Registration confirmation

Upon registration, a confirmation email will be sent containing details of the event and confirming that you have successfully registered for the conference. Registration confirmation will not be distributed by post.

## Travel arrangements and visas

Kindly note that the organisers will not be liable for any travel or accommodation expenses incurred by any individual who travels to this event. Participants are responsible for their own travel arrangements. It is recommended that you check your visa requirements with your local embassy or consulate. **We are unable to dispatch visa invitation letters to support your visa application prior to receipt of your registration form. Please apply for your visa in good time.**

## Cancellation of registration

If you are no longer able to attend the event, we kindly ask you to cancel your registration by emailing [info@aiwfonline.com](mailto:info@aiwfonline.com) so we may make your space available again.

## Access and special assistance

Please notify us by email at [info@aiwfonline.com](mailto:info@aiwfonline.com) if you require any special assistance.

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## Photography and filming

Certain sessions and/or social functions may be photographed and/or filmed and some of this content may be used for future marketing materials, member communications, products or services of the organisers. Should you have any concerns with regard to this, or do not wish to be featured in any of these materials, please contact the organisers at [info@aiwfonline.com](mailto:info@aiwfonline.com)

## Promotional literature

Please note that no individual or organisation may display or distribute publicity material or other printed matter during the conference, unless by prior arrangement with the Arab International Women's Forum or the Center for Mediterranean Integration.

The organisers may at any time, with or without giving notice, in their absolute discretion and without giving any reason, cancel or postpone the conference, change its venue or any of the other published particulars, or withdraw any invitation to attend. In any case, neither the organisers nor any of their officers, employees, agents, members or representatives shall be liable for any loss, liability, damage or expense suffered or incurred by any person, nor will they return any money paid to them in connection with the conference unless they are satisfied not only that the money in question remains under their control but also that the person who paid it has been unfairly prejudiced (as to which, decision shall be in their sole and unfettered discretion and, when announced, final and conclusive).



## Arab International Women's Forum

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

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

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

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

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



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## **CMI IS ALL ABOUT PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTIONABLE KNOWLEDGE**

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

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

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

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

## **STRATEGIC ORIENTATIONS**

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

## **FOCUS ON YOUTH AND WATER**

The CMI places youth and gender at the center of its work by adopting youth and gender as cross-cutting themes. CMI themes systematically integrate youth and gender components, as part of the “Empowering the Population” dimension, and also in connection with the refugees and water agendas.

In this context, the CMI Water Program aims at preventing water scarcity and supporting adaptation to and mitigation of climate change effects in the Mediterranean by providing capacity-building and green entrepreneurship opportunities (targeting youth) revolving around water, as a way to leverage untapped potential in the region with positive socio-economic and environmental outcomes.

Web: [www.cmimarseille.org](http://www.cmimarseille.org); Facebook: **CMI Marseille**; Twitter: **@cmimarseille**

## Conference Partners



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