

# WOMEN'S FORUM

**HOTEL PARCO DEI PRINCIPI – FARNESE ROOM**

**NOVEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup> 2018**

## WOMEN IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION: TAKE THE LEAD

### PROGRAMME

#### 2.30 | 3.15 pm Opening

*Opening remarks:* **Giampiero Massolo**, President, ISPI, Italy

*Introduction and chair:* **Elisabetta Belloni**, Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy

*Keynote speech:* **H.R.H. Lamia Bint Majed Al Saud**, Secretary General, AlWaleed Philanthropies, Saudi Arabia

#### 3.15 | 5.00 pm First Session

##### **Inspiring and pioneering women: economic empowerment as a tool for growth**

In the recent past glass walls were erected in order to limit women's aspirations within the traditional roles and opportunities they were used to. The activity of women in the public dimension has increasingly become a key parameter to assess the well-being of a society, since the communities that empower women tend to be more advanced. In the EU's Mediterranean countries social patterns have evolved and women now are strongly present in the labour market and have become financially independent. Nevertheless, inequalities persist, as women's employment rate is still lower than the men's one. For young women it is even harder than for young men to enter the labour market and women receive, on average, far lower wages than their male peers. The United Nations, in the Sustainable Development Goal n. 5, call all the signatory countries to act accordingly and to end all form of discrimination against women and girls everywhere, removing the existing forms of exploitation in the public and private spheres. There are still too few women in leadership positions both in private and public sectors as well as in politics. Notwithstanding, it is widely recognized the importance of the female participation up to the highest working positions, in order to boost the overall competitiveness of the economic system, improve gender equality, sustain poverty eradication and foster an inclusive economic growth.

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- How could an enhanced female participation in the Mediterranean region lower the overall inequalities and, in turn, calm down the existing social tensions?
- Which kind of financial and regulatory tools should be provided in order to ease women's access to the labour market and to finance?
- How can a wider and deeper role of women in the economy of the Mediterranean region help to reduce the migration flows between the two shores of the sea?

*Chair:* **Beatrice Covassi**, Head of Representation of the European Commission in Italy

*Kick-off speeches*

**Marta Dassù**, President, WE - Women Empower the World; Senior Director of European Affairs, The Aspen Institute, Italy

**Elisabeth Guigou**, President, Anna Lindh Foundation, Egypt

*Med Voices:*

**Amany Asfour**, President, Egyptian Business Women Association, Egypt

**Monica Carcò**, Senior Industrial Development Officer, UNIDO

**Maryam Khansari**, General Manager, Herison Construction Company and International Relations Manager, Association of Construction Companies, Iran

**Noga Mann**, Founder and CEO, QueenB, Israel

**Doa Wadi**, Executive Director, Business Women Forum, Palestine

*Comments and Debate*

## 5.15 | 7.00 pm Second Session

### Enhancing the role of women in peace and security: a collective effort

Eighteen years ago, the ground-breaking United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on "Women, Peace and Security" recognized for the first time the valuable contribution that women provide to conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and stressed the importance of their equal and full participation as crucial agents in peace and security. Yet, between 1990 and 2017, women constituted only 2% of mediators, 8% of negotiators, and 5% of witnesses and signatories in all major peace processes. The situation requires a paradigm shift. The establishment of regional networks of women mediators is a positive development in the right direction, and provides a resource for linking knowledge and capacity across mediation efforts locally and globally. As recognized by the United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, in his latest report on Women, Peace and Security, women mediators networks seek to overcome persisting obstacles to women's inclusion in peace processes and to enhance their meaningful participation and influence. To this aim, in 2017 Italy launched the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network, acknowledging the need to foster women's participation in this region, which is crucial for global peace and stability. Consolidating regional networks and promoting collaboration among them and with regional and international organisations can make the difference in supporting women's leadership in peace and security.

- How do we make female participation a priority in peace processes?
- How can women actively contribute to peace and security in the Mediterranean region?
- How can networking contribute to promoting women's leadership in peace and security, and more broadly in other sectors?

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*Chair: Francesca Tardioli*, Deputy Director General for Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy

*Kick-off speeches*

**Haifa Abu Ghazaleh**, Assistant Secretary General, League of Arab States

**Yasameen Al Nadheri**, Secretary General, Peace Track Initiative, Yemen

*Med Voices*

**Kalliope Agapiou Josephides**, Chairperson, European Institute for Gender Equality, Cyprus; Founding member, Mediterranean Women Mediators Network

**Rajaa Altalli**, Co-founder and Co-Director, Center for Civil Society and Democracy in Syria

**Rida Al Tubuli**, Co-founder and Director, Maan Nabneeha (Together We Build It - TWBI), Libya; Member, Mediterranean Women Mediators Network

**Hafida Benchehida**, Senator; CITpax Advisor on Mediation; Algeria; Member, Mediterranean Women Mediators Network, Algeria

**Silvia Colombo**, Coordinator, Mediterranean Women Mediators Network

*Comments and Debate*

**7.00 pm | Conclusion**

*Networking Buffet*

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*MED is intended to be a dialogue ensuring a high interaction and exchange of views among participants. In this context, the Rome MED Women's Forum aims to bring together about 50 influential women coming from all over the Mediterranean region at large and international organizations in order to exchange ideas, experiences and best practices. It has been conceived as an open debate among all the participants, sitting at the same table, under Chatham House Rule. Slides/Powerpoint presentations are not recommended. The schedule is flexible except for opening and closing hours. The working languages are English, French and Italian.*

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