



WOMEN'S FORUM

POWER AND SKILLS: WOMEN MAKING THE DIFFERENCE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

5 DECEMBER 2019

Roma – Parco dei Principi Grand Hotel (via Frescobaldi 5) – Farnese Room

1.45 - 2.30 pm | REGISTRATION

2.30 - 3.00 pm | OPENING

Elisabetta BELLONI, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy
Paolo MAGRI, Executive Vice President and Director, ISPI, Italy
Tawakkol KARMAN, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Yemen

3.00 - 5.00 pm | FIRST SESSION

WOMEN AS DEAL-MAKERS: ILLUSION OR REALITY?

What is the role of women in international politics and diplomacy today? In a field historically dominated by men, women are now taking more prominent roles in government, diplomacy and development.

In 2014, Margot Wallström pushed for Sweden to become the first country to publicly adopt what she explicitly called “a feminist foreign policy”, putting the promotion of gender equality and women’s rights at the centre of its diplomatic agenda.

How more women in charge would change international politics? How more women leaders and peacemakers would make the world be more peaceful? Are States more likely to achieve lasting post-conflict peace when women are invited to the negotiating table?

Among the senior conflict mediators involved in today’s peace processes, few are women. The 2018 United Nations Secretary-General report on Women, Peace and Security states that just 2% of mediators, 8% of

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negotiators, and 5% of witnesses and signatories in all major peace processes were women. Role models, such as female heads of state or government and foreign ministers, certainly exist, but are still more the exception than the rule. If the political arena is the most important natural “breeding ground” for mediators, then women still have to overcome numerous difficulties in their development and careers.

What difference women mediators make? How women’s perspective on conflict causes and solutions, their approaches to communication and problem solving, and their presence as mediators influence peace negotiations and their outcomes? What are the skills and the competencies to conflict mediation and are they learned or taught, preferably on the job, or through observation?

Chair

Gianluca ALBERINI, Principal Director for the United Nations and Human Rights, Directorate General for Political Affairs and Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy

Introductory remarks

Staffan DE MISTURA, Former UN Special Envoy for Syria | **Susanna TERSTAL**, Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process, European Union

Med Voices

Abu GHAZALEH, Assistant Secretary General - Head of Social Affairs Sector, League of Arab States

Amal JADOU, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Palestine

Comments and Debate

5.00 – 5.15 pm | COFFEE BREAK

5.15 – 6.30 pm | SECOND SESSION RE-ENERGIZING WOMEN: A KEY FACTOR FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Economic growth needs at least two fundamental components: access to energy and the energy of women’s human capital. What is needed are policies and actions that see women’s entrepreneurship and economic empowerment as essential in economic growth and in all aspects that regard economic inclusion.

Policies that encourage participation in STEM education – throughout primary and secondary schools, universities and for those out of school – are critical to ensuring women and girls continue to get the skills and knowledge needed to be active in the coming digital economy and business sector. Women need to be not only tech savvy, but engage in the development of innovations for sustainable development that will impact their daily lives and of those around us.

At the same time, to become economic actors, women need access to sustainable energy, in particular on the southern shore of the Mediterranean. The global transition to renewable energy is benefiting the economy and the environment, including new sources of employment. Women’s contributions – their talents, skills and views – are critically important in supporting this growing industry during a momentous transition towards a more sustainable energy system.

Women represent 32% of workers in renewables, as revealed in a new survey and analysis conducted by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). This compares to 22% reported in traditional energy industries like oil and gas and over 48% in global labor force participation.

How could women use their role as actors of change within the sustainable energy transition and contribute to achieving sustainable energy for all? Can we identify affordable and scalable solutions for cleaner, more resilient economies? From ambition to success: how can we help women gain the skills, knowledge and resources they need to take the next step?

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Chair

Marta DASSÙ, Senior Advisor European Affairs and Editor-in-chief of *Aspenia*, Aspen Institute Italia; President, Women Empower the World – WE, Italy

Introductory remarks

Haifa AL KHAIFI, Finance Director, Petroleum Development Oman | **Houda BEN JANNET ALLAL**, General Director, OME | **Francesca GOSTINELLI**, Head of Group Strategy Economics and Scenario Planning, Enel, Italy

Med Voices

Sheikha Hind bint Salman AL KHALIFA, President, Bahrain International Federation of Business & Professional Women

Monica FRASSONI, President, European Alliance to Save Energy

Doa WADI, Executive Director, Business Women Forum, Palestine

Comments and Debate

6.30 – 7.00 pm | CONCLUSION

Emanuela DEL RE, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy

Giampiero MASSOLO, President, ISPI, Italy

WORKING LANGUAGES: English, French and Italian with simultaneous translation

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