



Parliament of Jordan



WOMEN IN PARLIAMENTS GLOBAL FORUM WIP SUMMIT 2016 REPORT

“WOMEN IN POLITICS: FAST FORWARD”

4-6 MAY 2016

PLENARY OF THE PARLIAMENT OF JORDAN
AMMAN, JORDAN



اللجنة الوطنية الأردنية لشؤون المرأة
The Jordanian National Commission for Women



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4-5 May, 2016

Plenary of the Jordanian Parliament
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UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF
HIS MAJESTY KING ABDULLAH II

WOMEN IN PARLIAMENTS (WIP)
GLOBAL FORUM SUMMIT 2016 REPORT
WOMEN IN POLITICS: FAST FORWARD

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AMMAN, H.K. OF JORDAN

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INTRODUCTION

The Women in Parliaments Global Forum (WIP) Global Summit 2016, held in Amman, Jordan, 4-6 May, focused on “Women in Politics: Fast Forward” and was co-hosted by the Parliament of Jordan. Over 200 female Members of Parliament attended WIP’s Annual Global Summit, representing over 65 countries. This Summit in particular is a breakthrough as it was the first of its kind to be held in a country of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, being held in the Plenary of the Jordanian Parliament. The Summit was organised in cooperation with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Parliamentarians from the WIP Global Network and high level speakers from a wide range of sectors and areas delivered powerful keynote speeches and participated in panel discussions, interactive sessions, training sessions and networking opportunities. All of these activities allowed for the exploration of themes such as technology, development, peace and conflict management, leadership, migration, international communication and the potential role of female representation in paving the way for rapid evolution and improvement of society.

As the global forum of female Parliamentarians, WIP continues to encourage governments, political leaders and policy makers to focus on the importance of progress in gender balanced political leadership. At the Annual Global Summit 2016, WIP acknowledged countries that have notably made changes and succeeded in empowering women in their societies, with certificates of recognition for their continued effort. These certificates were particularly focused on nations in the MENA region due to the difficulty and enduring efforts being made in order to allow for great leaps in gender equality and the advancement of women’s roles in the world.

At the WIP Global Summit 2016, WIP launched a new initiative in its effort to promote and empower the notion that women have a positive impact on the economy. This is going to be achieved through the WIP Working Council focusing on “Healthy Women, Healthy Economies.” This was of special relevance due to the host country Jordan’s progress in the field of women and politics alongside many others in the MENA region.

The greatest outcomes from the WIP Global Summit 2016 can be seen in the declaration that summarises the main discussions at the conference, especially stressing the importance of women’s empowerment, bridging the gender gap and that of international cooperation.

WIP will continue to pursue its goal by providing women a forum for networking, sharing experiences and empowerment as political leaders and agents of global action. An increase in female participation and access to political power is not only important on an individual level, but also benefits whole societies and the world at large.

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مجلس النواب

WIP

Women in Parliaments
Global Forum



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OUTCOME DECLARATION

The Women in Parliaments Global Forum Jordan Summit 2016 Outcome Declaration

We, women in Parliaments, participating in the WIP Global Summit 2016 “Women in Politics – Fast Forward”, held in Amman on 4-6 May, organised by the Women in Parliaments Global Forum (WIP) and co-hosted by the Parliament of Jordan and the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and in partnership with the Council of Women World Leaders (CWWL), have gathered in Amman for the WIP Global Summit 2016 in Jordan, the first of its kind to be held in a Middle East North African (MENA) country, to define the power of parity, to explore strategies on how to increase the number and influence of women in Parliaments and to outline policies for how to accelerate progress;

Commend global progress made in terms of increasing the number of women in politics around the world, especially highlighting the MENA region, where women have been provided with new opportunities for increased political participation; especially applauding the region’s steady increase in women’s representation in politics from 7 % in 2005 to 18% today; supporting positive trends visible in countries around the MENA region where the activity and influence of women in public life is rising;

Reaffirm the importance of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and the important role women play in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction and stress the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security;

Express concern about the difficult challenges faced by all refugees in the Middle East, Europe and around the world, especially female refugees; and encourage female Parliamentarian colleagues to advocate and design gender-sensitive integration policies that improve the conditions for all members of society;

Welcome the idea that women’s economic empowerment and workforce participation should be addressed by strengthening linkages between education, employment, entrepreneurship, digital skills and health;

Announce that a global WIP Working Council on “Healthy Women, Healthy Economies” has been set up to focus on the link between women’s economic empowerment and health, ensuring that Parliaments systematically advocate women’s economic empowerment, by addressing health and social policies and;

We, women in Parliaments, commit ourselves to “fast forward” progress for all women in the world to create inclusive and participatory societies for all.

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OVERVIEW: KEYNOTE SPEECHES AND VIDEO MESSAGES

Keynote Speeches (in order of appearance):

- **Dalia Grybauskaite**, Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders, President of Lithuania (2009-present)
- **Faisal Al-Fayez**, President of the Senate, on behalf of His Majesty King Abdullah II
- **Dr. Amal Al Qubaisi**, Speaker of the Federal National Council, UAE
- **Atifete Jahjaga**, President of Kosovo (2011-2016)
- **Mari Kiviniemi**, Deputy Secretary General, OECD, Prime Minister of Finland (2010-2011)
- **Marie Louise Coleiro Preca**, President of Malta (2014-present)

Video messages

- **Violeta Bulc**, EU Commissioner for Transport
- **Kristalina Georgieva**, Vice-President of the European Commission, EU Commissioner for Budget and Human Resources
- **Jean-Paul Laborde**, Executive Director, UN Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED)
- **Peter Sutherland**, United Nations Special Representative for Migration and Development, WIP Advisory Board Member



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WIP CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION



Category: The enhancement of women's role in the decision-making process

Presented by **Silvana Koch-Mehrin**, Founder of the Women in Parliaments Global Forum (WIP) to:

- **Jordan** – received by Faisal Al-Fayez, President of the Senate of Jordan

Category: Advancing Women in Parliamentary Positions: The first female Speaker of Parliament in the Arab world

Presented by **Louise Mushikiwabo**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Rwanda to:

- **United Arab Emirates** – received by Amal Al Qubaisi, Speaker of the Parliament of the UAE

Category: Legislative Reform

Presented by **Linda Lanzillotta**, Vice President of the Italian Senate:

- **Algeria** – to Mouina Meslem, Minister of National Solidarity, Family and the Status of Women - for a 50% quota for women on political party lists.
- **Morocco** – to Head of Delegation - for Equal pay and non-discrimination based on gender, in employment.

- **Tunisia** - to Faouzia Ben Fhodda, Head of Delegation - for a 50% quota for women on political party lists

Presented by **Hanna Birna Kristjánsdóttir**, Member of Parliament for Iceland to:

- **Iraq** – to Maysoon Salem Al-Damluji, Head of Delegation – for Introducing a 25% quota for women in the Council of Representatives of Iraq.
- **Libya** – to Head of Delegation – for Adopting a 16.5% quota for women in the 2014 electoral law, for the House of Representatives of Libya.
- **Saudi Arabia** – to Aljawhra Abubshait, Head of Delegation – for Women granted the right to vote and stand in the 2015 municipal elections

Presented by **Lucero Saldana**, Member of the Mexican Senate, to:

- **Egypt** – to Sahar Ottman, Head of Delegation – for Introducing a 10% quota for women in Parliament.
- **Oman** – to Suad Mohamed Ali Sulaiman Al Lawati, Head of Delegation – for Achieving gender parity in primary and secondary education.



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REPORTS FROM PLENARY SESSIONS

WEDNESDAY, 4 MAY

Accelerating Towards Parity in Power- Defining the Power of Parity

This panel session sought to discuss the gender gap that still remains in many countries across the world, as well as the fact that equal participation is a cornerstone of democratic governance. High-level panellists discussed concrete steps for the creation of a necessary environment to facilitate an equal participation in politics and increase the influence of current women in Parliaments.

The discussion focused on particular areas of society that have wide gender gaps such as education, the economy, politics and health. The reason why closing the gender gap is so vital is that women bring an essential perspective and different values to the table, which must also be reflected in the decision making process. This holds particularly true in the MENA region where there is a need for rapid action when it comes to closing the gender gap in order to be able to participate on the global arena. Moreover, the idea of representation within governance to allow for true democracy sprung up in the idea of fairness. Fairness can only truly be achieved if all citizens participate in the political process through representatives that actually reflect the populous of a nation. Rwanda is one such positive example for women's involvement in the public and political sphere. However, as discussed, in order to get to the stage where women are key players in politics there needs to be an increase in access to education and health for girls and women, which sets them up for a productive and beneficial future.

All concluding in the notion that by narrowing the gender gap in society the door of political empowerment can be unlocked. Both men and women should be present in the building and rebuilding of society. The panel truly emphasised the need for parity in power to become the norm, and the fact that this can only be achieved through equal opportunity, for both men and women.

Moderator:

- **Laura Liswood**, Secretary General of CWWL

Speakers:

- **Wafaa Bani Mustafa**, Member of the House of Representatives, Jordan
- **Paula Cox**, Premier of Bermuda (2010-2012)
- **Tawakkol Karman**, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate (2011)
- **Louise Mushikiwabo**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Rwanda
- **Vesna Pusic**, Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Croatia



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THURSDAY, 5 MAY

The Promise of Peace: The Impact of Women in Conflict Prevention, Peacekeeping and Conflict Resolution

The Promise of Peace is not attainable without the involvement and consideration of all those effected by conflict, and by extension, through peacekeeping efforts. The issue of the extremely low involvement levels of women in the political arena when it comes to the resolution of said conflicts is now being faced head-on by many governments, particularly in such turbulent times. With respect to the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 there should be an equal involvement in women in the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, which is what makes the fact that only 9% of peace mediators are women a cause for concern.

Due to the international representation the discussion drew upon several different approaches that different conflict zones have taken. Steps by the UN in promoting women's involvement was evident in the Libyan example, where 16 women were supported by the UNDO to participate in the drafting of the Constitution. Moreover, several African examples (such as Rwanda, and Senegal) offer a positive template and attitude towards conflict resolution and women in Parliament that could be embraced globally. The call for women's involvement, to allow for more inclusive and resilient outcomes, was universal. Whether this be in governmental policy in post-conflict regions, management of refugees in the present crisis, or as agents of peacekeeping through the UN or NATO.

Most prominent conclusions from the discussion were linked to the notion that women do not need to be fixed or changed but rather facilitated in

order to allow for a systemic change that can bring about accountability, inclusivity and sustainable peace. A target of peacekeeping operations and local governments was identified in order to focus on this hope for female involvement, as well as the reconsideration of budget allocations.

Moderator:

- **Rick Zednik**, CEO, Euractiv.com, and incoming CEO of Women in Parliaments Global Forum

Speakers:

- **Reem Abu Dalbough**, Member of the House of Representative, Jordan
- **Bineta Diop**, Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, African Union Commission
- **Edward Kallon**, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Jordan
- **Mara Marinaki**, EEAS Principle Advisor on Gender & on the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325
- **Marriët Schuurman**, NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security



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Flight, Migration and Integration, Women Leaders' Policy Answers to the Refugee Crisis

The session "Flight, Migration and Integration - Women Leader's Policy Answers to the Refugee Crisis" sought to discuss solutions needed to face the challenges of female refugees. Special attention needed to be given to the differentiation between the experiences males and females have and why this difference matters. In addition, the focus was on refugees migrating from substantially less gender equal countries into more gender equal countries – and the role of female Parliamentarians in designing gender-sensitive integration policies.

The body of the discussion had several fairly varied focal points. The first point made was that the refugee crisis is a global issue and deserves to be treated as such. In order to allow for the smooth and sustainable integration of refugees into the societies they newly enter there is a necessity for multi-sector collaboration. Such a collaboration would allow for the accumulation of resources and expertise that are gravely needed in today's migration challenge. Businesses should be one partner, offering training, work placements and a one to one support for refugees. A close cooperation between business and government can accelerate social and economic integration – and to consideration of the special needs of women, special trainings, language courses and labour inclusion measures must be set up. However, we must not simply consider the act of integration but also reflect upon what kind of society are we attempting to integrate refugees into. We need open societies in addition to education or employment programmes in order to provide refugees the chance to integrate completely.

All in all, the speakers highlighted the need for specific gender policy measures in order to improve the situation many female refugees have to face. These situations are often gender specific

either due to gender gaps in education, sexual assault while in such a vulnerable position, or even child marriage. Thus, not only does the global community need to take further action to facilitate the integration and safety of those migrating, it must also keep in mind the specific needs of particularly disadvantaged groups, including women.

Moderator:

- **Shirin Wheeler**, Principal Advisor International Media, European Investment Bank

Speakers:

- **Marie Louise Coleiro Preca**, President of Malta
- **Pamela Goldsmith Jones**, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada
- **Cornelia Gottbehüt**, Partner EY
- **Kholoud Khatatbeh**, Member of the House of Representatives, Jordan
- **Ulrike Lunacek**, Vice-President of the European Parliament
- **Emilia Monjowa Lifaka**, Vice President of Parliament, Cameroon
- **Iveta Radicova**, Prime Minister of Slovakia (2010-2012)
- **Åsa Regnér**, Minister for Children, the Elderly and Gender Equality, Sweden



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REPORTS FROM PARALLEL PANEL SESSIONS

WEDNESDAY, 4 MAY

Women's Political Participation across all levels in the MENA region

Ringling in the first regional annual dialogue of the OECD's G7 Deauville Partnership Project "Promoting Women in Parliaments and Policy-making," this session brought together a panel of strong female Parliamentarians from within the MENA region (Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan and Morocco).

Each spoke about the progress of women's participation in politics in their own countries, noting that over the past two decades, women's participation in the representative and political executive bodies in MENA countries has improved, much in part due to legislation that seeks to protect women's rights and empower them to fully participate in public life, as well as the strong performance of women MPs which has spurred a change in public opinion about the roles women can take on and their positive influence in policy-making.

This session addressed important questions, such as, the degree to which progress has been made after the Arab Spring and what reforms still need to be implemented to boost the number of qualified women in upcoming local and Parliamentary elections. Strong emphasis was placed on the importance of transitional quotas as a positive discrimination mechanism to increase women's participation in politics; the need and

importance of male colleagues' support of their female counterparts within Parliament; and for resources to be allocated to training and women's professional development to boost their confidence. Given that Parliaments in the MENA region have classically been male-dominated, there was discussion about the importance of implementing gender-sensitive workplace policies to ensure that men and women can equally participate in debate and decision-making.

The session concluded that along with civil society, governments have a strong role to play in improving women's political participation in the region both at the national level and local level; to address socio-cultural barriers to women that are evident in persistent discrimination, gender stereotypes, women's limited access to finance, and providing incentives for political parties to support female candidates.

Moderator:

- **Annette Young**, senior journalist and news presenter for France 24 Television

Speakers:

- **Heba Hagres**, Member of Parliament, Egypt
- **Saada Boussif**, Member of the House of Representatives, Morocco
- **Nawal Al Faouri**, Member of Senate, Jordan
- **Olfia Soukri**, Member of Parliament, Tunisia

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Digital Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Skills Development

Technologies, and the digital sphere has allowed for certain strides to be made in closing the gender gap. Focusing particularly on the vital impact that digital disruption has on women, led to a discussion on how to address and manage this disruption. Moreover, the session touched upon female entrepreneurship and women's participation in the formal workforce. The discussion touched upon a lot of different topics but a common point was the advancement of women in entrepreneurial and decision making positions.

The discussion began with the understanding that 45% of women worldwide do not take part in the formal workforce. This already demonstrates the disadvantage that women face in terms of getting into the workforce and, once in, to flourish and truly have an impact. There is a difference in women joining the workforce to women remaining in the workforce. As such, not only is the empowerment of women to enter required but also a follow up by ensuring influence in their workplaces. In this matter technology plays a role in enabling the increased involvement of women. Iceland was also brought up as a positive example in regards to closing the gender gap in the workforce. Iceland provided an insightful look into potential policy changes that could beneficial impact women in the workforce, especially through maternity and paternity laws. Another potential positive driving force could be the introduction of quotas in order to smash the glass ceiling, as examples from politics and business in regards to female entrepreneurship illustrate.

When discussing women in the workforce it is impossible to ignore the huge social and economic benefit that would come from gender parity. A motivating reality is that if gender parity were reached in a country such as, for example, Jordan it could bring in an extra 15 billion dollars per year. When looking at the potential and the current situation, all panellists agreed that gender parity is something to strive for not only for women but for the advancement of the whole community.

Moderator:

- **Samar Obaid**, Partner, EY

Speakers:

- **Majd Shweikeh**, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Jordan
- **Ragnheiður Elín Árnadóttir**, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Iceland
- **Karim Kawar**, President of Kawar Group, Jordan
- **Gülzar Turan**, Member of the Senate, Flemish Parliament, Belgium
- **Rohan Malik**, Deputy Global Government and Public Sector Leader, EY



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Lessons on Leadership

Being a woman in a position of leadership in the political sphere can often be met with some specific obstacles that must be overcome. Having learnt from these experiences as well as calling upon the experiences of several other woman leaders, including themselves, the panellists set out to discuss what a woman can learn from their leadership.

In the discussion, the stories of 15 women leaders, including Margaret Thatcher, were brought up. All of these women pointed out how difficult it is for women leaders as they are constantly scrutinized in their political career. This led to the outlining of the differences between men and women in politics, confirming the idea that women state legislators introduce different legislations than men. Moreover, there is the unfair fact that women's professional policies are overshadowed by personal scrutiny and therefore it takes a lot of courage and strength for women to become leaders and to have ideas publicly stated. "Never underestimate your role as a role model" stated Liswood and highlighted four main traits of leaders: they have a true, unyielding sense of values, they have the ability to communicate their ideas and convey them in a comprehensive way, they are willing to challenge authority, they travel outside their own worldview.

It was agreed by all participants that women striving to gain and/or maintaining a successful leadership position must stand firm against the challenges they face, including gender specific obstacles and stereotypes, and must be encouraged to gain power positions especially within politics. This means that the women who have managed to become leaders and who wish to follow a similar path must understand the importance of perseverance, endurance and patience as qualities of a good leader.

Speakers:

- **Laura Liswood**, Secretary General of CWWL
- **Jennifer Smith**, Premier of Bermuda (1998-2003)
- **H.E. Reem Abu Hassan**, Minister of Social Development of Jordan



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Women's Economic Empowerment and Health: What is the Policy Link and How can we address it?

This panel addressed the relationship between women's economic empowerment and health. Panellists discussed examples of relevant policy initiatives that can be implemented at the country level, sharing experiences from Rwanda, and Mexico. The panellists used the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals as the point of departure for the discussion, especially focusing on Goal 3 "Good Health and Well-being" and Goal 5 "Gender Equality".

The participants of the session highlighted the need for tangible deliverables and concrete actions on national level as well as specific measures to raise awareness about health policies among citizens. As an example, in Mexico, access to health services for indigenous women in rural areas has been improving over the past years. Discussions also focused on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and the fact that 18 million women globally die annually from NCDs. Specific programmes in Jordan addresses NCDs by focusing on behavioural change, prevention rather than intervention, counselling and awareness raising.

The discussion concluded with the quote "It pays to invest in women's health" and the agreement that both the public and private sector and societies at large benefit from the economic empowerment of women as it also results in flourishing economies. However, to systematically

enhance women's economic empowerment, their health and relevant social policies cannot be ignored. To this, there is a need for continuous and comprehensive evidence on what works, where the good practices are and what countries can learn from each other.

Moderator:

- **Linda Lanzillotta**, Vice President of the Senate, Italy, Member of WIP Executive Board

Speakers:

- **Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea**, Member of the European Parliament
- **Diane Gashumba**, Minister for Gender Promotion and Family Affairs of Rwanda
- **Sarbani Chakraborty**, Senior Director, Global Public Policy, Merck
- **Hanin Odeh**, Director General of Royal Health Awareness Society
- **Sonia Rocha Acosta**, Senator, Mexico



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Politics in the Digital Age

Technology, although often negatively thought of as a disruptive force, can be said to have a profoundly transformative role to play in politics. Especially as a means to create opportunity and access for all, including women. Technology provides an amazing tool for empowerment, due to its 24/7 and largely indiscriminate accessibility.

Information and communication technologies allows for widespread impact, and as such is an immensely powerful tool for raising awareness. Removing the geographic boundaries to said information, distance is no longer an issue. Moreover, technology provides a new manner of participation in public life and political debate. Due to global access and the widespread reach, campaigning has changed; electoral processes are under profound changes, individual and collective activism has transformed. This is a result of the fact that information and communication technologies are particularly useful in three key areas: freedom of expression, participation, social and political empowerment. However, it is important to note that disparities in access still persist.

Digital inequality is simply a reflection of the real life situation for women, be it in their political participation or economic, social life. However, due to the interconnected nature of the online

and offline world, one cannot progress without the other also feeling the positive effects. Hopefully with the creation of a global women community of Parliamentarians, activists and creatives, and the continued breakdown to allow for universal access, huge strides can be made to bridge the gap and promote women in Parliament.

Moderator:

- **Hala Hanna**, Head, Impact and Strategy, World Economic Forum (2012-2016)

Speakers:

- **Zita Gurmai**, Special Gender Advisor to EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica
- **Haifa Najjar**, Member of Senate, Jordan
- **Julie Ward**, Member of the European Parliament



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Inclusive Electoral Systems and Processes

This session, organised by the OECD and the Jordanian National Commission for Women (JNCW), setup as a roundtable discussion, explored which electoral systems are the most conducive to women's increased political participation and success in elections, providing country comparisons and highlighting good practices.

Discussion, revolved around a variety of factors that influence the development of good practices, the importance of developing sustainable electoral management capacities, undertaking periodic reviews of electoral laws and legislation, as well as auxiliary laws that affect women's participation, and success, in elections. The advantages and disadvantages of various voting systems (i.e. proportional representation, block voting etc.) and their impact on women candidates were also examined.

Participants highlighted that electoral institutions often lack the capacity to adequately reflect women's interests, equal opportunities and conditions. Indeed, several limitations can be identified within existing electoral systems - which may result in women being disempowered or too easily excluded in the electoral process such as: the incentive structure (positive or negative) built around voluntary or mandated quota systems for political parties, the format of voting cards, access to voting, tribal influence on candidate selection and how votes are cast, how lists are setup,

methods used for the allocation of seats and determining electoral zones, and the technical capacities of electoral commissions. Emphasis was placed on the importance of gender mainstreaming across the board for Electoral Commissions – from how policies are formulated to ensuring gender-balance of technical staff that man polling stations and head Electoral Commissions.

Moderator:

- **Virginie Herz**, senior journalist for France 24.

Speakers:

- **Asma Khader**, Vice-Chair, Independent Elections Commission, Jordan (2014-2016)
- **Richard Chambers**, Chief Technical Advisor, UNDP Electoral Assistance Programme in Jordan
- **Omar Marwan**, Acting Secretary General, Supreme Elections Commission, Egypt
- **Khadija Ezzoumi**, Member of the Chamber of Advisors, Morocco



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4-5 May, 2016

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REPORTS FROM PARALLEL WORKING GROUPS

THURSDAY, 5 MAY

Disaster Risk Reduction

Natural disasters have increased in frequency and intensity due to the effects of climate change. The session addressed how Parliamentarians can ensure that disaster risk reduction (DRR) is adequately reflected in a country's legal framework and institutional arrangements. The session also pondered on how best to encourage female Parliamentarians to actively advocate for the importance of gender sensitive disaster resilience in their countries.

During the discussion that took place the WIP Working Council on Disaster Risk Reduction was announced, stressing the importance in establishing a mechanism for DRR and identifying women as change makers. A key point in being able to facilitate an increase in women in DRR is to have international communication and improved relations. Nations that are willing to provide relief or reduce risk need to be partners with countries at risk of disaster, not to simply impose programmes upon them. For nations that do not currently have a DRR programme, pressure from Members of Parliament must be applied to push the government into introducing one. Moreover, the gender specific struggles that women face during disasters were brought up. Often times women have a higher hurdle to overcome when fleeing or surviving disasters, as many, for example, have not had the opportunity to learn to swim or other skills, which results in a greater gender imbalance. It was further highlighted that

DRR programmes must have a gender focus lens, examples highlighted such as pregnancy must be considered when devising adequate DRR plans by governments across the world.

Thus, in order to effectively construct DRR programmes and policies, gender specific issues must be taken into consideration and addressed.

Moderator:

- **Jane Dudman**, Editor Public Leaders Network, The Guardian

Speakers:

- **Robert Gasser**, Secretary General, UNISDR (video message)
- **Irina Gekht**, Member of Parliament, Russia
- **Pauline Latham**, Member of Parliament, UK
- **Alexandra Rosen**, Senior Director, Women in Parliaments Global Forum



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Increasing Consultation between Parliament and Women's Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)

The Jordanian National Commission for Women (JNCW), the OECD's implementation partner for its G7 Deauville Partnership project "Promoting Women in Parliaments and Policy-making in Jordan," organised this session, which focused on how to effectively strengthen the mechanism of dialogue between Parliament and civil society organisations (CSOs). During this session, participants focused on how to effectively improve open consultations, the benefit of them, and how to strengthen the link between Parliaments and CSOs that are working to increase women's participation in public life.

The OECD and panellists stressed the importance of open consultation between Parliament and civil society organisations in the law drafting process which can reap multiple benefits. Doing so increases the likelihood of public acceptance of laws and creates healthy competition between Parliamentarians and CSOs in drafting policies that are comprehensive, inclusive, and representative of society's needs. Consultation with women's associations that have pioneered the fight for women's rights in the MENA region was considered especially important to ensure that laws developed are gender-sensitive, non-discriminatory toward women and provide them with equal opportunities. It was highlighted that open consultation provides an opportunity to engage in a dialogue about the needs of both men and women, for the advancement of society as a whole.

Important attention was given to changes to discriminatory laws (including citizenship laws)

and the implementation of laws related to violence against women (VAW) that were developed through open consultations between civil society and legislatures. Participants agreed that more efforts need to be made by civil society organisations, women's associations, and Parliaments to undertake constructive dialogue.

Moderator:

- **Dr. Salma Nims**, Secretary General, Jordanian National Commission for Women (JNCW)

Speakers:

- **Tatyana Teplova**, Deputy Head of Division, Governance Reviews and Partnerships, Senior Policy Analyst, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD
- **Soukaina Bouraoui**, Director of Centre for Arab Training and Research (CAWTAR), Chair of OECD Women in Government Platform, Tunisia
- **Fouzia Elbayed**, Member of the House of Representatives, Morocco
- **Mona Mounir**, Member of Parliament, Egypt
- **Mai Abu Al Samen**, Member of Senate, Co-Founder and Secretary of the Jordanian National Forum for Women (JNFW), Jordan



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Political Violence Against Women

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's network of women members, Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP), aims to encourage women to stand for election to representative bodies by advocating the removal of barriers to their participation and to facilitate their professional contribution as members.

The CWP also works to ensure that gender continues to be mainstreamed across all activities to assist Legislatures to ensure no less than 30 percent of decision-making positions are occupied by women.

The CWP delivered a Working Group session on 'Political Violence Against Women' at the WIP Conference held in Amman, May 2016. The session focused on the following key issues: harassment and intimidation by the media and public figures; ineffective policies and legislation to protect women and/or implementation of these; and the targeting of women candidates and voters during elections.

Key Recommendations:

1. Parliamentarians should ensure that national and regional legislation encapsulates international obligations as signatories to international declarations and conventions protecting women from violence and discrimination;
2. Women Parliamentarians should consider forming gender caucuses to discuss the issue of political violence against women in a cross-party forum adding legitimacy to the issue;

3. Parliamentarians should advocate for awareness raising initiatives to ensure that people understand political violence against women in all its forms; and
4. Parliamentarians should use Regional CWP and CPA fora to raise the issue of political violence against women in their capacity as CWP Steering Committee Members.

In conclusion, all Parliamentarians can take steps to ensure that political violence against women is a thing of the past.

Moderator:

- **Catherine Cusack MLC**, Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Australia Region

Speakers:

- **Bushra Abu Shahout**, National Democratic Institute (NDI)
- **Clare Doube**, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative
- **Shirley Osborne MLA**, Speaker of the Montserrat Legislative Assembly, Vice-Chairperson of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association



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Social Media Training for Female Parliamentarians

Facebook has gained a position in social media as platform for serious discussion and topics. Following along with this, many politicians and a surprising number of Parliamentarians are signed up to, and actively using, Facebook. In fact, a staggering 87% of governments have a presence on Facebook. As a result of the widespread visibility Facebook can provide as well as its potential for engagement this workgroup focused on manners in which those attending can improve their use and understanding of Facebook.

Initially a standard overview of the workings of Facebook, from the comments, to the posts to the algorithms. As explained the settings of a page allow for the filtration of any violations of policies put in place to ensure an appropriate and positive foundation for engagement with the audience. In order to gain visibility, posts must end up on people's newsfeeds. What ends up on a newsfeed is chosen by the engagement of the user with a particular page and the number of posts liked, commented on etc. In order to attract people having a variety of posts is key, speeches, Q and As, behind the scenes, are all various video formats that can apply to politicians. Lastly, algorithms also consider how much of a 'trending topic' something is, meaning how many users are currently talking about the issue/topic. Posts that can attract users best include the above mentioned formats as well as breaking news, photos, and videos (a tip concerning videos is to allow for captions and text within the video).

However, Facebook is also a platform that effectively allows for text and slightly longer posts, while still capturing user's attention.

When creating a Facebook page, one must consider their desired outcome and intentions. Who do you want to target? What are your goals? How do you want to go about targeting your audience? Once you have answered these questions the next step is to measure and optimise results. Optimisation can occur through an increased engagement with one's audience, learning from underperforming posts, paying attention to trending topics, looking for trends and reconsider the answers to the questions originally asked. Thus allowing all to walk away with not only a comprehension of how Facebook works but also how to use it to their own advantage.

Trainer:

- **Katie Harbath**, head of Facebook's Politics and Government Outreach Team



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WIP ROLLING PROGRAMME

- **17th-20th January:** WIP at the African Union Gender Pre-Summit; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- **21st January:** WIP at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting; Davos, Switzerland
- **3rd- 5th February:** WIP Session in the Context of the OECD Parliamentary Meeting; Paris, France
- **1st - 3rd March:** World Bank Group Fragility, Conflict and Violence Forum; Washington DC, United States
- **8th March:** International Women Day, WIP Leadership Campaign
- **13th - 26th March:** WIP Exhibition at the UN, New York, United States
- **10th - 12th April:** WIP at the Global Parliamentary Conference, Washington, D.C., United States
- **12th - 13th April:** WIP at the OECD Global Parliamentary Network Meeting, Tokyo, Japan
- **26th - 28th April:** WIP at the Annual Regional Conference of Women Parliamentarians, Tirana, Albania
- **4th - 5th May:** WIP Global Summit; Amman, Jordan
- **May/June:** Screening of the documentary "He Name Me Malala" at the European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium
- **12th - 13th July:** African WIP Ambassadors conference co-hosted with African female Foreign Ministers at the African Union Summit on Human Rights, Kigali, Rwanda
- **25th - 27th July:** WIP Delegation to the Third Preparatory Committee for the Habitat III Conference; Surabaya, Indonesia
- **13th September:** WIP at The UN General Assembly, New York, United States
- **17 - 19 November:** WIP at the APEC Women Leaders convention; Lima, Peru
- **November 2016:** WIP and European Institute of Gender Equality: launch of Parliamentary Index, Vilnius
- **December 2016:** WIP in Israel
- **19th January 2017:** WIP Sessions in the Context of the World Economic Forum, Davos, Switzerland
- **February 2017:** Munich Security Conference, WIP Sessions
- **26th - 27th April 2017:** Conference: Women in Defence and Security, in cooperation with Maltese EU Presidency, La Valetta, Malta
- **22nd - 26th May 2017:** WIP at the UNISDR Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, Cancun, Mexico
- **May 2017:** WIP Global Summit
- **Spring 2017:** WIP and BOGK: Event Surrounding the Reduction of Food Waste in the European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium

Please note that an updated programme of WIP activities is available at:

www.womeninparliaments.org

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ANNEXE – SPEECHES

Ms. Silvana Koch-Mehrin, Founder of WIP

WIP Global Summit 2016

Your Excellencies,
Honourable Members of Parliament,
Dear Friends of the Women in Parliaments Global Forum

Nobel Peace Laureate and President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, once said: “If you are not scared of your dreams, they are not big enough.”

The dream of a WIP Global Summit in Jordan, that dream was a big dream. A beautiful dream. It is a dream that today comes true.

Why dreaming of Jordan? Of course - it is a beautiful country, with rich cultural heritage and amazing landscapes. For a politician it is an important destination: The main political issues on the world agenda are all in one way or another connected to Jordan: peace and security, flight and migration, religious tolerance, the importance of societal change towards more gender equality.

During the WIP Global Summit we will address all these issues, and more. We will discuss them with perspectives from different continents, different political ideas, always with the voices of women leaders. We will be a catalyst of political messages, and create impact by exchanging experience and knowledge.

“Women should be active agents of peace, not passive victims of war”, says Zainab Bangura, the UN Special Representative on Violence in Conflict, and former Foreign Minister of Sierra Leone.

So:

- How do we get women to the table, where peace is negotiated?
- How can women be equally involved in maintenance and promotion of peace?
- What are best practice examples? We will debate this tomorrow.

What are women leaders’ policy answers to Flight, Migration and Integration? Challenges faced by women as refugees, as migrants, and as citizens of destination countries are different to those of men. And questions that are more and more imminent. We will debate tomorrow, what are successful answers.

And of course: Women’s equal participation in politics is a Human Right, and a cornerstone of democratic governance.

The Women in Parliaments Global Forum Mission is to increase the numbers of women in Parliaments, and their influence. WIP is the international network of female Parliamentarians. It’s Today, around 80% of Parliamentary Seats are held by men. 95% of Heads of State are men. Dear friends, there is a lot to do!

We will also together celebrate progress and achievements that have been made in the Middle East North Africa Region. The Women in Parliaments Global Forum highlights positive results, even (or especially) when they have been achieved in a difficult environment.

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The Women in Parliaments Global Forum highlights positive results, even (or especially) when they have been achieved in a difficult environment. Today in a Ceremony here in the Parliament, the Members of the WIP Executive Board will present WIP Certificates of Recognition to Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and of course Jordan for achievements in each respective country.

It is wonderful to see the participation of so many distinguished female political leaders from all parts of the world come together to this truly historic meeting. It is for the first time, that an international Summit of female Parliamentarians is taking place in a country of the Middle East North Africa Region. Let me congratulate the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and indeed the Parliament of Jordan, for the leadership and graciousness of warmly hosting the WIP Global Summit 2016 here in Amman. Jordanians worldwide are famously known for their hospitality, and we are experiencing this now. Schucran, your Excellency Faisal Al-Fayez, your Excellency Atef Tarawneh, and all Jordanian Representatives present here.

Our highly appreciated cooperation with the OECD further underlines the international importance of this Summit. Picture this: an organization, that focuses on economic issues, makes gender equality in leadership a priority. Women as leaders: it is not only a human right, but also makes economic sense, for the benefit of all of society – that is what the OECD underlines. Mari Kiviniemi, Deputy Secretary General of the OECD and former Prime Minister of Finland, represents this perfectly herself. Kiitos, Mari.

Finally, let me praise the partnership with the Council of World Women Leaders. It is the network of current and former Presidents and Prime Ministers. As much as all of you, dear female Parliamentarians, are role models to girls and women around the world, these powerful women are the ultimate role-models. They are role-models to women Parliamentarians. We are delighted to have you as integral part of the WIP Global Summit, and share with you, insights on policy issues, as well as leadership. Aciu, President Grybauskaite,

Closing, I would like to quote His Majesty King Abdullah II: "We need more women in parliaments and as political leaders because no lasting positive change can ever be achieved unless women are an integral part of it."

So - as we want this positive and lasting change, it means: Women in Politics: fast forward!

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Ms. Mariët Schuurman, NATO Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security

WIP Global Summit 2016 at the Plenary Panel: “The Promise of Peace - the Impact of Women on Conflict Prevention, Peacekeeping and Conflict Resolution”

Much has been said already about the why of enhancing the role of women in preventing and resolving conflict, in peace-making and peacekeeping. Let me focus on the how: if there would be only one thing we should do to increase the impact of women on keeping the peace, what would that be? What would be the magic wand?

From my experience as NATO’s Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security, I would say that that one thing is: Learn to Listen - with an open mind and open ear, without assuming, and without boxing women. Which is easier said than done, as reality seems easier to handle when we box things and people. When we can ‘box’ also women, either as victims, as mothers, as jihadi brides or as foreign fighters - to name a few. But the uncomfortable truth, particularly for peacebuilders and peacekeepers, is that women are not only vulnerable victims who need our protection, but first of all agents - in their own right, and individuality: full members of society who have an equal right to a seat at the table; whose experience, knowledge and aspirations are as valuable as those of the male half of the population.

Bringing those experiences and aspirations to the table may seem to complicate peace processes, but in reality results in more comprehensive, more inclusive and lasting solutions. There now is ample evidence of the effectiveness of being inclusive.

And still, the global study on 15 years of implementing UNSCR 1325 demonstrates that we are far from achieving the Resolution’s aim of inclusive and lasting peace and security. A lot of attention has been given to protection, but little to the other two Ps of the Resolution: Prevention of conflict and equal Participation, at all levels of decision-making, from conflict prevention to conflict management and post-conflict reconciliation and reconstruction.

Hence, at the fifteenth anniversary of UNSCR 1325, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2242. I like to call that the ‘Back to Basics Resolution’, as it reminds us of the BASICS of UNSCR 1325, notably that the only way to prevent and protect is to empower women, and that gender equality should be core to all our peace and security strategies. Because we can only be free, secure and at peace when we are inclusive and use the full potential our societies have to offer to strengthen the resilience of those societies.

UNSCR 2242 forces us to go back to basics, and reaffirm gender equality as fundamental to lasting peace and a hard core security interest. ‘Back to basics’ also means that promoting equal participation in decision-making and incorporating gender perspectives in our security strategies should be core business for every security provider and professional, be it military or civilian, national or international.

That is what we try to realise at NATO: making gender equality core business. Let me now get back to the ‘how’. How can we foster equal participation, and strengthen the role of women as agents in their own right?

By securing an enabling environment, as we did through the training of Afghan female searchers and election monitors - allowing Afghan women to come out and vote, resulting in a historically high turn-out of female voters in the last presidential elections.

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- By expressing our political support to women's equal participation.
- By providing practical support, financial or logistical, for the active participation of women - like NATO's Jordan III TF which among other things assists in building appropriate training facilities for Jordan servicewomen.
- By providing platforms, for instance through conferences that give women a voice.
- By our leaders engaging with women leaders and representatives.
- By leading by example, by being inclusive ourselves and involve women professionals -also as role models.

But it all starts with recognising the agency of women; with the right person asking the right questions to the right persons; and then to listen.

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Ms Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, President of Malta WIP Global Summit 2016

It is my pleasure to join you here today, to address you at this plenary session of the Women in Parliament Global Forum in Jordan.

I shall speak about the realities of migration as experienced by women. I shall also speak regarding the urgent need for us women to put all our efforts towards building a global culture of peace.

We are the mothers of our communities, our nations, and our regions. We must be peace builders, peacemakers and peacekeepers, and transform our countries into peace loving societies. I believe we can transform the world.

The urgent need for peace must shape our thoughts and direct our actions. It is only in this way that we can act seriously and credibly, to achieve sustainable peace and meaningful wellbeing in the lives of all.

The complex causes of migration often stem from a diversity of conflicts: from inequalities, from poverty, from discrimination, from the effects of egocentrism and from long drawn-out disputes. Even if the topic of migration is unpopular in many of our countries, we must be brave. We must speak the truth. We must face this reality courageously as women leaders, striving to make a positive, effective, and deep-rooted change.

It is only by rising to meet our responsibilities towards the most vulnerable that we shall discover how each one of us, in our roles as decision makers and active citizens, must unite to change this unfolding humanitarian situation for the better.

As President of a nation in the centre of the Mediterranean Sea, and as a woman of that region, my identity connects across diverse cultures and peoples. I have always believed that it is a source of strength and continual reflection in my life.

In the same way, we each bring something of ourselves and our identity to the issue of migration. It is this inclusive sense of who we are, and our collective potential, that must inform our discussions. I hope that my reflections will not only remind us of the situation currently developing, but also offer a space for further dialogue.

The movement of refugees is a global challenge that no nation is equipped to deal with alone. People will always be on the move for whatever reason.

Migration has been our history; it is our present and will be our future. This is why I believe that the international community cannot be passive, or continue to manage this challenge by a crisis approach.

We must create and develop strategies to proactively respond to this phenomenon.

Refugees and migrants must themselves be part of our conversations, if we are to hope for a sustainable strategy that can deal with all the facets of this reality.

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The Mediterranean remains the main access path for migrants coming from various areas of the African continent. In the words of Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament, at the Valletta Summit on Migration last year, he stated that: “The Mediterranean is the most dangerous route.” It is sad to recognise that this route is also responsible for the largest number of reported fatalities.

If people are fleeing in this way, because of whatever adversity instigates their journey, we are duty bound to find ways of addressing their struggles. Impeding the illegal work of smugglers and traffickers is crucial if we are to become active agents in saving lives. This should be part of a larger process that must include safer border crossing, and person-centred legislation to protect and safeguard the rights of the vulnerable.

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees reports that over 182,000 people have already crossed the Mediterranean this year. Of these arrivals, 82% come from the world’s top ten refugee countries of origin. Many lives have been lost, with over 1,261 people reported dead or missing so far in 2016. According to the International Organisation for Migration, some 3,000 people died crossing the Mediterranean Sea last year.

In light of these horrible facts, we must work together, in our capacity as women leaders, to propose new strategies and define new policies. We must bring the uniqueness of our position as women leaders, to respond to those who argue that borders and fences are the only way to deal with the growing numbers of vulnerable people.

I believe that during our deliberations we must ask, and find answers, to the following questions:

We are becoming so accustomed to news reports of the dead and dying, that we seem to be rendered immune to suffering. This surely cannot go on. We must direct our discussions and our efforts to discover what can be done to improve protection, to alleviate discrimination, and to replace paradigms of exploitation with a global culture of human dignity and peace.

The role of the media in achieving such a change is crucial, as is the mobilisation of all contributors within civil society. The transformation of our cultures is only possible if we work together, aiming for authentic equality and equity.

Let us also consider the situation of work for those who migrate, whether seeking asylum or not, and the many disadvantages faced by women as compared to men.

According to a report released by the International Labour Organisation on Decent Work and Migration, women tend to be concentrated in a more limited number of occupations.

They lack the proper information on processes of migration, and procedures for employment opportunities that would empower them.

The risks faced by women may also be made worse, due to particular psycho-social needs. Other risks include: the impact of family relationships, financial difficulties, and employment related problems, that are specific to the realities experienced by women in migration. These are only compounded by the growing threat of violent conflict that has escalated in so many regions of our world. If we believe in a global culture of peace,

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then we must begin with a transformation of our own societies. If we were to ask our children to choose between peace and conflict, I am convinced that they would choose peace.

We must stand together to end cycles of inequality, of gender violence, and abuses of power. These do not only take place in conflict zones. They are also present within our families and our communities. We must begin with our own attitudes towards gender and power. All of society must work together, across national borders, or the lines drawn by our cultural and faith traditions.

We need to encourage governments to unite with civil society in tackling the needs of women, and more particularly, the needs of vulnerable women such as refugees. We must also recognise the danger of discrimination, which has led many receiving countries to view refugee women as inferiors, or potential threats to stability. This poisonous mentality is gaining ground within many of our communities and nations, and it must be challenged at every opportunity. We must replace it with a counter-narrative that recognises and celebrates the positive contributions of these women to our societies. We must acknowledge their potential to be productive contributors in society.

I here quote Ness Asplund, who, according to a report by the Guardian, chose to make a difference. I quote "Courage is not the absence of fear but rather the judgement that something else is more important than fear". We must not be afraid. Together, we can make a difference.

We must nurture the special ability of these women to become agents for peaceful transformation within their own families, networks, and nations, for the ultimate benefit of all. The participation of women and girls is essential. Women and girls are key drivers of the deep-rooted change in mentalities, institutions, and cultures that we so much need. Without the empowerment of women, there can be no global culture of peace — this is only possible through a global social inclusion approach, universal education, sustainable economic and social development, democratic participation, and the upholding of fundamental human rights.

We also need to continue to strengthen existing international principles and instruments that uphold fundamental human rights. It is our duty to foster cultures that are rooted in basic principles of equality, non-discrimination, protection, and peace.

Most of our countries are committed to international conventions such as the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. According to the international principles within these conventions, destination countries are not only obliged to refrain

from violating the rights of individuals, but also to take positive actions to ensure that individuals of all genders are able to enjoy their rights.

These principles are also reflected in our global commitment to the United Nations sustainable development goals.

With the aim of these goals in mind, my Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society has facilitated a Refugee-Led NGO Platform, to give greater visibility and create a space of empowerment for asylum seeker groups

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and communities in Malta. Through this platform, we have been better able to target specific areas of concern within these communities, and bring them to the attention of the relevant authorities, and the public at large.

My Foundation also assisted in the launch, last year, of a publication produced by the Jesuit Refugee Services of Malta. The book recounts the experiences of six women who are seeking asylum in Malta. They shared their fears and dreams, calling for solidarity, for freedom, and for dignity.

One refugee said, and I quote, "In my country my rights were violated. I could not go to school. I could not choose who to marry. My life was not mine but dictated by someone else. In the desert, it was the same, and here too I find myself in the same situation, in detention, without any control over my life, at the dictates and mercy of someone else... If I am to be respected, first I need to be free, free from the bars surrounding me, free from being controlled by someone else, free to run my life."

The resilience of these women is an encouragement for us to keep pushing against the agendas of those who would ignore the suffering of our fellow human beings. Those who would turn their backs on this crisis, and fail to do all that is possible to ensure that innocent lives are not lost. The suffering of refugee women is inevitably connected to the suffering of children.

During my time as Minister, I worked to ensure that the detention of unaccompanied asylum seeking children was ended, and that families would no longer be fragmented. Malta now has a designated space to take in asylum seeking families, where families and children can receive emergency psychosocial support.

It is by witnessing the struggles of mothers, risking all to cross the Mediterranean in search of a better life for themselves, their families, and their children, that further strengthened my resolve. It is this mutual solidarity that continues to inspire me in my efforts as a leader. In order to nurture resilient communities, we must be resilient leaders. We must be adaptable to fast-changing situations, and provide practical responses to meet both our short-term and long-term objectives.

We must reflect the values of peace building, of respect, of sharing, and of authentic concern that we wish to see flourish in our societies, our nations and our regions. We must recognise the essential importance of access to fundamental human rights in the lives of all citizens. These rights must be celebrated, protected, and enforced if we are serious about securing the wellbeing of present and future generations. We must acknowledge that we are responsible for one another. We must practice solidarity with

the most vulnerable and the oppressed, and recognise the disproportionate inequalities faced by so many migrant women in their struggle to achieve a better life.

We must participate in the building of a global culture of peace. People, no matter their differences, must feel included in society, and ready to create communities that provide, as well as receive, support, learning, and care. It is our duty to ensure that the individual dignity of the asylum seeker, of all persons, is at the heart of our discussions. It is from this firm foundation that we can then reach out to build sustainable peace within our communities, societies, and entire nations.

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Last week, I attended the launch of an autobiography written by a Somali youngster who, at sixteen years of age, leaves his familiar, yet oppressive, surroundings in search of a culture that tolerates his sexuality and aspirations. It is a first-hand chronical of what it means or a minor to cross half the African continent, including the vast Sahara Desert; then, risking everything at sea and finally reaching Malta after the third attempt. Central to the story the youngster wished to tell is the role of strong women; of mothers, sisters, and friends. It is the strength of these women that stopped the youngster from falling into despair. It is the strength of these women that continues to inspire her journey, as it also inspires my own.

This is the story I wish to leave with you today.

It is a reminder of the need for gender issues to inform our thoughts on migration. Women must be able to fully participate in processes of social, political, and cultural transformation. Women must be included at every level of society, and recognised for their special role as potential peace builders, peacemakers and peacekeepers. Our experiences must be honoured and our truth celebrated, in order to ensure lasting equality within our nations for all women, including the most vulnerable.

Let us commit ourselves to nurturing resilient individuals, families, and communities that are capable of securing the fundamental dignity and human rights of each person.

Thank you for your presence here today, for your solidarity in trying to achieve an authentic transformation of our world, and your commitment to building a global culture of peace and wellbeing.

We must stand up for human rights to prevail for all. We must not be afraid. We must be brave. We must unite. I wish you all a fruitful Forum.

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Ms Åsa Regnér, Minister for Children, The Elderly and Gender Equality of Sweden WIP Global Summit 2016

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished delegates and excellences in the audience and in the panel,

Our world is bleeding. We are faced with unprecedented humanitarian needs and levels of global forced displacement. Today, more than 59.5 million people are displaced worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict, generalized violence, or human rights violations – the highest number since the Second World War. UNHCR estimates that the average length of displacement has stretched to around an astonishing 17 years. This means that for many, becoming displaced is a life sentence.

This situation certainly concerns us all – and is a fitting reminder as we speak about Flight and Migration. It is also a fitting narrative for me as the representative of the world's first Feminist Government.

Among the unprecedented numbers of refugees and internally displaced people, there are tens of millions of women and adolescent girls. Natural disasters and conflict impact women, girls, men and boys differently. In crises, patterns of gender discrimination can be exacerbated leaving women and girls uniquely vulnerable. The risk for women and girls to become targets of sexual and gender based violence is furthermore multiplied. A specific vulnerability in some contexts is child marriage.

Policy answers to the current refugee crisis need both short-term and long-term interventions.

In the short-term, all humanitarian responses should include a gender perspective and address the occurrence of sexual and gender based violence, a key protection concern and lifesaving activity. Sweden is honoured to take on the leadership of the "Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies". A central priority is to promote the inclusion of the initiative's principles and actions in the outcomes of the World Humanitarian Summit.

We must all increase our efforts to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in humanitarian settings. The Call to Action constitutes an important platform for this work. I encourage all those here present today – governments, parliamentarians and other stakeholders - to join the Call to Action and to make concrete commitments to implement the initiative's Road Map.

In the long-term, it should be underlined that women should not be seen only as victims, but also as important actors for peace, stability, security and prosperity. Therefore, I want to emphasise that the agenda on women, peace and security is a top priority for the Swedish Government. For Sweden, the women, peace and security agenda is about promoting change. For that to happen it takes committed and pro-active political leadership. We need to act differently to create peaceful and secure societies for all. It is precisely at times like these – times of crisis and unrest – that we must not hesitate, but instead be persistent in our efforts to strengthen women as agents for peace.

The rights of women and girls must be ensured in their countries of origin, along the migrant route, as well as in the country of destination.

I look forward to further discussion on this theme by our distinguished panellist. Thank you.

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Bineta Diop, the African Union Commission's Special Envoy on Women

WIP Global Summit 2016, at the Plenary Session: "The Impact of Women in Conflict Prevention, Peacekeeping and Conflict Resolution"

Your Excellency, Dalia Grybauskaite, President of Lithuania and Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders
Your Excellency Atef Tarawneh, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Hachemite Kingdom of Jordan,
Your Excellency Ms. Silvana Koch-Mehrin, Founder of WIP
Your Excellency Mari Kiviniemi, Deputy Secretary General, OECD and Former Prime Minister of Finland
Your Excellency, Faisal Al-Fayez, President of the Senate On behalf of His Majesty King Abdullah II
Honourable Ministers,
Honourable Member of Parliaments,
Your Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is for me a great pleasure and honour to be part of this Women in Parliaments Summit, a unique gathering of women representatives of citizens across the world. Allow me to start with thanking the organizers who have convened this forum and to bring greetings from Her Excellency Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, who has not been able to attend. She conveys her best wishes for a fruitful and forward looking summit.

Our session aims to look at the role and impact of Women in conflict prevention, peacekeeping and conflict resolution. It is a timely reflection, as indeed, many a time, the focus has been on women as victims, ignoring the determinant role that they play in finding solutions to conflicts, both during violent conflicts and almost on daily basis in our communities.

As you are aware, Africa has been the theatre of violent conflicts for many decades. The dark picture has drastically evolved since the 1990's when the continent was labelled "the Hopeless continent" but recent conflicts such as the war in South Sudan and the terrible devastation caused by Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab continue to maintain Africa in the conflict arena.

In these dire times of conflict, women of Africa have not been welcomed by the fighting factions to be part of the negotiations, but have forced their way as they realized that the peace sought by the warring factions is not very often the peace that addresses the core issues of the people, but rather the interests for power and wealth.

Way back in the 1990, the women of Mano River imposed themselves on the negotiations to end wars in Sierra Leone and Liberia.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the women came together as women for peace during the Sun City negotiations that ultimately put on track the efforts to end war.

In Burundi, during the Arusha talks, women also together as women and championing one agenda, of catering first and foremost for the common people.

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More recently, I was invited to South Sudan to participate in a forum of South Sudanese women who gathered to analyse the peace agreement and find best ways to utilize the agreement to path the way for a lasting peace in that country.

Women have provided beyond a doubt their capacity to mobilize for peace. A recent example is the case of the Central African Republic. The government led by Interim President Catherine Samba-Panza and composed of a sizeable number of women, including portfolios such as Defence, has, against all odds, organized elections in a generally peaceful situation. The new President of CAR has been sworn in, thanks to the determination of women of CAR who worked tirelessly to mobilize voters and conduct civil education

The adoption in 2000 of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 marked a watershed moment in the world approach on women, peace and security agenda. The resolution put on the table the necessity to prevent violence against women, to protect them and to recognize their participation in peace processes.

Africa embraced and integrated the dispositions of the resolution into its own instruments such as the Maputo protocol that clearly stipulated that Peace is a right for women.

Today the continent is moving even further with the development of its Agenda 2063, a people-centred agenda in which Aspiration 4 aims at a peaceful and secure Africa-which includes prosperity, security, and safety for all citizens, as well as a culture of gender equality, inclusion, and peace.

Securing women is critical, indeed cardinal to a durable peace in Africa. The drive to silencing the guns and keeping quiet, is only possible if the full peacebuilding potential of Africa's women is taken into consideration. Agenda 2063 provides for that.

A Sine qua non for the achievement of the aspirations is to ensure that we walk the talk. In all my interactions with women in conflict zones, in CAR, Nigeria, Somalia, the Sahel Region and elsewhere, they have told very clearly that they want concrete actions that they want to see delivery on the numerous commitments. My Office is developing a Continental Results Framework, mandated by the Peace and Security Council, to galvanize a systematic monitoring and reporting on the women, peace and security agenda on the continent. Africa is convinced that Securing Women is Sustaining Peace and Transforming Societies. We must deliver on the promise.

I thank you.

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Mari Kiviniemi, Deputy Secretary General, OECD, Prime Minister of Finland (2010-2011) WIP Global Summit 2016

What a fantastic showing of Parliamentarians from all over the world.

In this room – we have representatives from 86 countries and an outstanding showing from across the MENA region – 17 countries in all.

We are pleased to have delegations from OECD member countries and members of our MENA-OECD Governance Initiative and to be hosting the first regional dialogue within the OECD's MENA Transition Fund Project – “Promoting Women in Parliaments and Policy-making” here in Amman, Jordan, under Jordan's Parliamentary Dome.

The OECD extends warm thanks to our gracious hosts – the Jordanian Parliament and to His Royal Highness, King Abdullah II for his patronage of this important event.

Thanks are also due to the Jordanian National Commission for Women – our project implementation partner here in Jordan, as well as champion for gender equality and Jordanian women.

Indeed, teaming with Women in Parliament's Global Forum and the Jordanian Parliament – as well as collaboration with a number of international institutions – will provide great opportunities for you to network, and exchange experiences and stories with counterparts from all over the world.

We do hope you will take advantage of this unique opportunity to learn from one another and foster unity between women leaders from across the globe.

The mission of the OECD is to promote policies to improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world. Drawing on facts and real-life experience, we recommend policies designed to improve the quality of people's lives.

The gender-sensitivity of these policies is a core component to ensure they reflect the needs of both men and women - be it health, education, employment, entrepreneurship, public governance or taxation.

Therefore, central to the OECD's work on gender is to propose policy options and operational recommendations to obtain results.

Gender inequality has many different roots, including social norms and practices. But inequality also comes from policies, economic incentives, laws and regulations.

And we can impact and influence policies by identifying the right incentives needed and evaluating laws and regulations from inception to implementation. Further, we can ensure they provide for equal opportunity and are not gender blind.

This is our raison d'être at the OECD. Our reports are thus about solutions, about policy measures that work. We have learned over the past 30 years which policies work and can build on this.

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This is why Parliamentarian's play such an important role. You are the ones who draft policies, define them, and enforce them – make the rules.

This makes you a key and important stakeholder to the OECD, which is why we have a Global Parliamentary Network, which we invite all of you to join.

We want you to see the OECD as a resource for the policies that you are fashioning.

You can benefit from OECD analysis and recommendations on the very issues you are working on, both in the process of law-making and in Parliament's subsequent oversight role in monitoring policies.

The OECD has a wealth of independent information, comparative studies, economic and other data, as well as policy advice on a wide range of issues. These can help countries address the challenges they are facing, especially when it comes to closing gender gaps.

The gender imbalance found in senior levels of central government and in legislative bodies limits the role of women in the decision-making process.

They also negatively affect the fairness of public policies and laws, limiting progress of a broader gender equality agenda, the achievement of development goals and inclusive economic growth.

This is true for Middle East North Africa region, it is true for OECD countries and it is true globally.

The OECD understands that increasing the number of women in Parliament is not the only objective – in fact it is half the battle.

Often, political parties and governments can view gender parity and inclusion of women as a box-ticking exercise.

If a certain number has been reached, the presumption may be that there is no more work to be done. This is far from the case. Women do not sit in Parliament as decoration.

We are under no illusion that our current institutions have a long way to go to ensure that they are gender-sensitive, provide equal opportunity for women to engage in discussions, debate and decision-making and create an enabling environment for women to be effective leaders.

We know that gender bias creates outcomes that favour men, undermining inclusive growth and creating an unfair playing field for women.

So we are here, because we know that governance is at the centre of women's empowerment. The OECD realises that Parliamentary bodies – and the public sector as a whole -- serve a tripartite role – as a role model, employer and policy-maker.

That means that institutions themselves, and the practices and processes within them – should be conducive to equal participation of both men and women to ensure representative and fair outcomes.

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Reaching that goal – whereby government institutions and legislative bodies are gender-sensitive, where there is a gender balance – is not easy.

Tools and mechanisms are needed to make governments accountable for gender neutral outcomes.

These include gender equality strategies that are applied horizontally, quotas, disclosure requirements, work-life balance and family-friendly initiatives, regular data collection, gender-responsive budgeting, monitoring and oversight mechanisms.

The OECD's 2015 Recommendation on Gender Equality in Public Life provides concrete tools that governments can use to close gender gaps in public life.

Each of you have received a copy and we are very proud as an organisation, to have launched the Recommendation during this year's International Women's Day.

We look forward to working with OECD member and non-member countries to develop a roadmap toward implementing it. If you see an OECD official running around – do not hesitate to stop them and discuss it.

Part of the reason we are here – is due to the progress women have made across the MENA region in such a short period of time.

OECD member countries have been working toward gender parity for over half a century and though inching closer, not one legislative body has 50% women.

Look at Algeria where women's representation in Parliament grew from 6% in 2005 to 32% today. The Palestinian Authority, which appointed two women to its Sharia courts.

Egypt's most recent election where women's representation grew from 2% to 15% -- 89 women in all – there is real power there if you manage to harness it and create an alliance. A new quota of 25% for women and youth respectively in Egypt, will come into force in upcoming local elections – where women stand to gain over 13,000 seats.

In Jordan, women managed to capture 36% of seats on local elected councils and are gaining ground in their ability to capture Parliamentary seats via competitive elections, outside the quota.

Before 2002, women had no political rights, could not vote in elections or stand as candidates in Bahrain – now women make up 23% of the Shura Council and represent the highest level of women in top-management positions in the public sector than any other MENA country – at 45%.

Tunisia has introduced the parity principle in its Constitution. Its new electoral law also requires an equal number of men and women candidates on electoral lists.

This is bolder than what many OECD countries have managed to muster in their electoral laws.

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One-third of all regional and municipal council seats were reserved for women candidates in Morocco's recent local elections. This strongly reinforces women's participation in the management of local affairs and provision of services.

There is much more to say – but we have a programme full of both thought-provoking and practical sessions that will cover a lot of ground.

I wish you an enjoyable experience and luck in choosing which ones you will participate in.

I will leave you with a quote by Margaret Sanger that embodies the type of change we hope to summon over the next couple of days and push forward afterwards: "Woman must not accept; she must challenge. She must not be awed by that which has been built up around her; she must reverence that woman in her which struggles for expression."

Thank you and I look forward to meeting and getting to know many of you.

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Mari Kiviniemi, Deputy Secretary General, OECD, Prime Minister of Finland (2010-2011) WIP Global Summit 2016

Your Excellencies, Ministers, Parliamentarians, Ambassadors, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to be here with you on the second day of the Summit. This Summit really underscores the power of uniting female Parliamentarians with their counterparts from across the globe and the importance of capitalising on existing networks.

First of all, I would like to say thank you to all of those in attendance. 20 OECD member countries are present, as well representatives from countries acceding into the OECD – Latvia, Colombia and Lithuania, and our key-stakeholders – Brazil, Indonesia and India. We have an incredible showing of 17 countries from across the MENA region who have also made the effort to be with us.

This makes us confident that our discussions here will be carried across the world and as a result women's needs will be more fairly reflected in policies across the globe.

Thank you also to the Jordanian Parliament, Mr. Speaker, the Women in Parliament's (WIP) Global Forum and the G7 countries for their generous support and engagement in our MENA Transition Fund project.

I would also like to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to His Royal Highness King Abdullah II for his patronage of this event. I think we all feel the warmth of Jordanian hospitality.

OECD Reports show that countries are making inroads in closing gender gaps in public life. But progress is tarrying and the higher up the ladder of power we go, the smaller women's representation gets.

Currently, women hold only 22.6% of seats in legislative bodies worldwide and 17.5% in the MENA region. Numbers are even more bleak for female Presidents of Parliament. Women represent 17.8% of Presidents of Parliament worldwide, or a ratio of 49 women to 226 men.

In the MENA region, out of 23 countries there is one female Speaker of Parliament, Dr. Amal Al Qubaisi, Speaker of the United Arab Emirates' Federal National Council, who has made history as the first female Speaker of Parliament in the Arab World. This is impressive for a country where women did not gain suffrage until 2006.

Certainly we should celebrate such successes, but be mindful that a lot still needs to be done.

Given the tremendous gains women have made in education, there remains no defence for women's under-representation in decision-making. The opportunity costs of not supporting women's participation are great. There is little continuity in the sorts or percentages of quotas that are set at different levels of governance – from the local, to provincial, to national and executive level.

We must ask ourselves why that is. For instance, why might a country have a 25% quota for women within local elections, but perhaps only 10% for Parliament and no quota at the executive level?

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In order to accelerate progress, these sorts of questions must be asked regularly and at full volume by Parliamentarians, who are the representatives of their constituencies and most importantly, role models for youth who will shape our future.

Empowering and encouraging women to participate more fully in the public sphere is essential. Now, promoting more women to leadership positions is not necessarily about making politics better, it is about making politics more representative.

Giving women their deserved political representation makes policy-making processes across countries more inclusive and democratic. Ensuring that decision-making bodies reflect the diversity of the societies they represent guarantees a balanced perspective in designing and implementing rules that govern all of us.

That being said, OECD work has also found correlations between higher representation of women in political leadership positions and lower inequality, as you can see here, increased public health spending and higher levels of trust, as is shown on the next slide¹.

Promoting women in parliaments also directly supports the fifth UN Sustainable Development Goal. This calls for ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.

The low representation of women in legislatures is particularly problematic because these institutions represent the public they serve and create policies that affect people's well-being.

In this regard, parliaments are key institutions to drive change and help advance the gender agenda.

This can be done by:

- Establishing legal frameworks with gender sensitive laws, policies, budgets and electoral arrangements.
- Providing oversight for the implementation of gender and mainstreaming policies horizontally across governments.
- Establishing fair electoral systems and processes that provide equal opportunity for women's political participation.
- Fostering the increased participation of women in parliaments and local elected bodies is essential to advance Inclusive Growth.

The Middle East and North Africa region is a very important region in the world with a population of 381 million people, half of which are women. As such, it is evidence that economic growth cannot be resilient, durable and inclusive without taking into account women.

Of course, MENA countries are aware of this and there are positive trends in newly formed constitutions and laws across the region that support and enable women to equally participate in public life. But turning policy

¹ ["Women, Government and Policy-Making in OECD countries: Fostering Diversity for Inclusive Growth" \(2014\)](#)

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into practice is the real challenge. Emphasis must be put on the way laws are designed – to ensure they can be effectively implemented and monitored.

Closing gender gaps is a challenge every country faces but to varying degrees. The OECD's analysis of OECD and MENA countries shows that women's participation in public life continues to be hampered by a range of legal, institutional and social barriers.

Let me elaborate on a few of them:

Firstly, a legal framework must be in place to provide a foundation for to achieving gender equality. It should ensure women's security, eliminating discrimination, providing equal access to public services, justice and resources, and guaranteeing opportunity for political and personal freedom are essential. In the MENA region – we still see legal barriers that significantly affect the agency of women.

Unequal rights remain, such as women may not pass on their nationality to their children if married to a foreigner but the same rule does not apply to men. Also women's freedom of movement can be restricted and they may require a husband's or male guardian's permission to setup a bank account or to travel.

Particularly, progress has been limited in family law. Such legal discriminations continue to serve as major barriers to women realising their full potential in public life.

Further, even when laws do exist – there are challenges in their implementation. This often goes hand-in-hand with little awareness raising among the public to increase acceptance and compliance.

Secondly, there can be a lack of institutional support to provide oversight, enforcement and monitoring. This is key for ensuring accountability and to measure the impact of gender equality policies. To achieve this coordination between institutions and government entities is also critical.

Thirdly, gender stereotypes are still prominently reflected in social institutions. The internal barriers that women face are very real and powerful including self-doubt and lack of confidence. It can be very difficult to shed these internal preconceptions that are deeply embedded in the societies in which we live.

Other barriers that hinder greater gender balance in Parliaments and political life include:

- Candidate supply and uneven access to financing
- Family-friendly policies rarely being practiced at high executive levels limited political encouragement
- Internal party dynamics and media bias as well as voter preferences that gravitate toward me

Addressing these barriers will require concentrated and comprehensive efforts.

The OECD experience and our Recommendation on Gender Equality in Public Life highlights that to break the glass ceiling in politics– governments should:

Firstly, consider transitional or correctional regulatory or voluntary measures to close gender gaps.

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Secondly, introduce family friendly policies – such as reconsidering traditional working hours, facilitating access to childcare facilities and developing schemes to support the balancing of family and professional obligations.

Thirdly, facilitate capacity development – mentoring and other training programmes for women in politics. These include media and awareness raising campaigns about the importance of gender equality for a society. Or even campaigns to change traditional attitudes about child-rearing and unpaid care work.

Lastly, collecting gender-sensitive data and monitoring progress is also essential – with a focus on barriers associated with institutions, the law and gender stereotypes. This must be done in order to consistently inform policy, assess its impact and measure progress.

In our view, policy tools to promote gender equality cannot be disconnected from the overall strategies for better governance and more economic efficiency. On the contrary, there is a continuum between the general institutional, policy and legal frameworks, and those that have a specific impact on women.

Assessing the state of play is also important for understanding what the bottlenecks are to gender balanced leadership.

It is important to assess the practices within Parliaments that allow for effective policy making and to understand how policies are designed, conducted and monitored.

For instance, do they take into account gender considerations and is there an evaluation to determine if they negatively impact women or empower them? Similar questions are also applicable to local councils.

In this regard, the OECD is working with parliaments and local councils to make them more open and gender-sensitive.

This is building the capacities of female candidates, parliamentarians and council women to be effective leaders. We aim to strengthen the public consultation capacity of parliaments and women's CSOs in law-making processes.

Our goal is to ensure women's needs are met in the policy-making process and to promote regional dialogue to sustain these efforts.

The OECD pays special attention to the issue of gender equality and access to leadership. Our recently launched 2015 OECD Recommendation on Gender Equality in Public Life identifies a set of policy options, which aims to support countries in closing gender gaps and ensuring gender-balanced and inclusive participation in the public sector.

This includes public administration, the judiciary, the political executive and legislative bodies.

The Recommendation also focuses on gender equality delivery mechanisms to ensure effective implementation and impact. It promotes a government-wide and whole-of-society approach for gender equality reform, sound mechanisms to ensure accountability and sustainability of gender initiatives, and tools and evidence to inform policy decisions.

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In the MENA region, in 2009, we also established the MENA-OECD “Women in Government Platform”, which has been providing a forum for policy dialogue on all of the mentioned factors included in the Gender Recommendation.

The OECD looks forward to continued engagement with stakeholders and governments in the MENA region, and stands ready to support countries to make gender equality in public and economic life a reality.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to congratulate your efforts to build a gender-balanced and gender-sensitive government which takes skill, determination, and courage.

Only through concerted action and good governance can we accelerate progress, and foster sustainable and inclusive economic growth. Women are gaining momentum and will reach parity with men in decision-making– it is now that we should make the choice to be on the right side of history.

Shukran jazilan

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