



PROMOTER.....



WOMEN'S FORUM

NOVEMBER 29TH 2017

WOMEN IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION: DRIVERS FOR CHANGE

UPD 17.11.2017

2.30 | 3.15 pm OPENING

- **Elisabetta Belloni**, Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy

Keynote speeches

- **Naziha Laabidi**, Minister of Women, Family and Children, Tunisia
- **Princess Firyal of Jordan**, Special Advisor to the Director General of UNESCO

3.15 | 5.00 pm First Session

Fostering women's socio-economic empowerment: breaking the glass ceiling

5.15 | 7.00 pm Second Session

Building new networks: the role of women in peace and security

7.00 pm | Conclusion

- **Elisabetta Belloni**, Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy

Networking Buffet

The Rome MED Women's Forum will be held at the same venue of MED2017: Grand Hotel Parco dei Principi, Via Frescobaldi 5, Rome – Farnese Room. It has been conceived as an open debate among all the participants, sitting at the same table. The schedule is flexible except for opening and closing hours.

Working languages will be Italian, English and French.

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1. Ghosson **AL KHALED**, Deputy CEO, Acico Industries Company, Kuwait
2. Hend **AL KHALIFA**, President, Bahrain International Federation of Business & Professional Women, Bahrain
3. Shatha **AL ABOSI**, MP, Adviser for the President of Iraqi Council, Iraq
4. Saeda **AL-ATRASH**, Director, Mehwar Center, Palestine
5. Rajaa **ALTALLI**, Co-founder and Co-Director, Center for Civil Society and Democracy in Syria, USA
6. Lea **BAROUDI**, Co-Founder and Director, March, Lebanon
7. Elisabetta **BELLONI**, Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy
8. Lina **BEN MHENNI**, Activist, Blogger and Assistant Lecturer, Tunis University, Tunisia
9. Saida **BENHABYLES**, President, Algerian Red Crescent, Algeria
10. Ornella **BERTOROTTA**, Member, Committee for Foreign Affairs and Emigration, Senate of the Republic, Italy
11. Nicoletta **BOMBARDIERE**, Diplomatic Advisor to the Minister of Defence, Italy
12. Delphine **BORIONE**, Permanent Representative of France to the Food and Agriculture Organisation, the World Food Programme and the International Fund for Agricultural Development,
13. Marina **BROGI**, Co-Chair Italy, WomenCorporateDirectors
14. Sara **CRISTALDI**, Senior Advisor and Co-Head Geoeconomics, ISPI, Italy
15. Marta **DASSÙ**, President, WE - Women Empower the World; Senior Director of European Affairs, The Aspen Institute, Italy
16. Dina **FAKOUSSA**, Head of Program, Middle East and North Africa Program, DGAP - German Council on Foreign Relations, Germany
17. Irene **FELLIN**, President, WIIS Women in International Security, Italy
18. H. R. H. Princess **Firyal**, Jordan
19. Karnit **FLUG**, Governor, Bank of Israel, Israel
20. Silvia **FRANCESCON**, Head of Rome Office, European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR), Italy
21. Gioia **GHEZZI**, President, Ferrovie dello Stato Italiane, Italy
22. Amira Daoud Hassan **GORNASS**, Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan to Italy
23. Mariacristina **GRIBAUDI**, CEO, Keyline; President, Fondazione Musei Civici di Venezia, Italy

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24. Rachida **JEBNOUN**, *President, International Women Entrepreneur Council, Tunisia*
25. Hind About **KABAWAT**, *Director of Interfaith Peacebuilding Center for World Religions, Diplomacy, and Conflict Resolution, School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, George Mason University, USA*
26. Maryam **KHANSARI**, *General Manager - HR COO, Herison Construction Company Head Office; International Relations Manager, Iranian Syndicate of Construction, Iran*
27. Naziha **LAABIDI**, *Minister of Women, Family and Children, Tunisia*
28. Pia Elda **LOCATELLI**, *Member, Committee for Foreign and European Community Affairs, Chamber of Deputies, Italy*
29. Sirpa **MAENPAA**, *Ambassador, Peace Mediation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland*
30. Giovanna **MELANDRI**, *President, HUMAN Foundation Giving and Innovating; President, MAXXI National Museum of 21st Century Arts, Italy*
31. Inge **MOUS**, *Founder, Women of Power and Change, Netherlands*
32. Saida **NEGHZA**, *President, General Confederation of Algerian Enterprises; President BusinessMed, Algeria*
33. Federica **OLIVARES**, *Publisher; Board Member, Piccolo Teatro di Milano, Italy*
34. Fatma **OUSSEDIK**, *Professor of Sociology, University of Algiers II, Algeria*
35. Nicoletta **PIROZZI**, *Head, Programme EU Politics and Institutions and Institutional Relations Manager, IAI Istituto Affari Internazionali, Italy*
36. Lia **QUARTAPELLE**, *Secretary, Committee for Foreign and European Community Affairs, Chamber of Deputies, Italy*
37. Alessandra **RICCI**, *CEO, Simest, Italy*
38. Serena **ROMANO**, *Co-Founder and President, Corrente Rosa, Italy*
39. Camilla **SCHIPPA**, *Director, Institute for Economic and Peace, Australia*
40. Soad **SHALABY**, *Director, Women Business Development Center, Egypt*
41. Wassyla **TAMZALI**, *Founder, Collectif Maghreb Égalité and Les Ateliers Sauvages, Algeria*
42. Francesca **TARDIOLI**, *Deputy Director General/Principal Director for the United Nations and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy*
43. Nathalie **TOCCI**, *Director, IAI Istituto Affari Internazionali, Italy*
44. Luisa **TODINI**, *President, Todini Finanziaria, Italy*
45. Doa M. **WADI**, *Executive Director, Business Women Forum, Palestine*

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46. Wendy **WYVER**, *Political Counsellor, British Embassy to Italy, UK*

47. Giuseppina **ZARRA**, *Diplomatic Advisor to the Minister of Infrastructures and Transport, Italy*



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MED is the annual high-level initiative promoted by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and ISPI (the Italian Institute for International Political Studies), aimed at drafting a "positive agenda" for the Mediterranean Region. The event engages key leaders of Mediterranean governments, businesses, civil society, media and academia.

The third edition will be held in Rome **from November 29 to December 2**. The program will include sectorial meetings for selected audiences on aspects related to the enlarged Mediterranean (Youth, Women, Business, Media, Think Tanks, etc.). This will again turn Rome into a **global hub for high-level dialogue on the Mediterranean**, offering institutional actors, experts, and representatives from civil society, the opportunity to come together and discuss viable options to enhance intraregional cooperation.

In this context, the **Women's Forum** - scheduled for the afternoon of November 29 - aims to bring together **50 influential women** coming from all over the Mediterranean region at large and international organizations in order to exchange ideas, experiences and best practices.

In particular, the Forum will be focused on two main topics, as follows.

1) Women's socio-economic empowerment: breaking the glass ceiling

Several constraints to fostering women's empowerment have been identified in recent studies and research. Gender-based social and cultural barriers, in particular, seem to represent the toughest challenges to overcome. For instance, in many regions of the world, women who want to start a business - or even those who are already in one - encounter a number of obstacles and difficulties in terms of access to finance and credit, access to business support services, lack of education and training opportunities, etc. In addition to this, a general difficulty in reaching out and joining existing networks must also be highlighted.

Women's empowerment represents a top priority in the region, which bears potential to boost economies and enterprise competitiveness in MENA countries.

- How do we address these challenges?
- How can we facilitate business opportunities for women?



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- How could we break down gender-based discrimination in accessing finance and funds?
- How can we put women in contact with existing networks?

2) Building new networks: the role of women in peace and security

Women are a fundamental part of our societies, yet too often they are marginalized from politics. Despite discrimination and scepticism however, women have demonstrated great potential in this field. Research shows that involving women in peacebuilding processes increases the probability for violence and conflict to cease. This is why Italy has decided to establish a Mediterranean Women Mediators Network. If we look at the MENA region, ensuring female participation in politics seems to be as necessary as it is urgent. Involving women in security policies and making them protagonists of peace negotiations are major steps that need to be taken.

- How do we make female participation a priority in peace processes?
- How can women's Civil Society Organizations contribute to prevention and resolution of conflicts?
- How can we strengthen the role of women in the security sector?