



Kingdom of Morocco  
Ministry of the Interior  
**General Directorate of Local  
Communities**

**Roundtable on:  
Women Leading Political Participation, Public  
Service, and Transitional Justice  
in the Arab Region**

**In Partnership and with the support of:**



**Investing in Human Capital  
by Training**

*Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 November 2012  
at the Conference Center of the Ministry of the Interior*

## CONTEXT

International commitments on gender equality and the coming together of vibrant local, national and international women's groups have led to the emergence of a dynamic global women's movement. The Beijing Conference and the Beijing Platform of Action call for the active participation of women at every level of decision making. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) calls upon States parties "to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country". In 1997, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women adopted General Recommendation 23 regarding the participation of women in political and public life. It emphasized that States' parties should ensure that their constitutions and legislation comply with the principles of the Convention and that they are obliged to take all necessary measures, including temporary special measures, to achieve the equal representation of women in political and public life.

Goal 3 of the Millennium Development Goals aims specifically to advance gender equality and women's empowerment. The road map of UN Women affirms five priorities including strengthening the influence, leadership and participation of women and setting priorities for gender equality at the heart of planning, budgeting and national, local and sectoral statistics.

In 2012, women accounted for 19.7 per cent of parliamentarians worldwide, nearly a 75 per cent increase since 1995, when women held 11.3 per cent of seats worldwide, and a 44 per cent increase over the 2000 level. While the trends point to an increase in women's parliamentary representation, the rate of representation remains low overall. Arab countries have for varying degrees engaged with international conventions and harmonized national laws with international laws. Significant reforms have been made to mainstream gender into constitutions and public policies and advance women's participation in the public sphere. More must be done to seize the opportunity for reform to ensure the translation of international norms into national action during this period of historic political transformation in the region.

The Kingdom of Morocco with the support of His Majesty King Mohammed VI aspires to consolidate and strengthen its institutions through the advancement of women in political participation, public service and civic engagement. Several steps have been taken to achieve the goals of women's full and equal participation in public life. Some of these recent measures include:

- ***The Constitution of Morocco 2011***, in Article 19 states that "The men and women enjoy equal human rights and freedoms in civil, political, economic, social, cultural and environmental statements in this Title and in other provisions of the Constitution and in international pacts and conventions duly ratified by Morocco and in

compliance with the provisions of the Constitution and of the Kingdom's laws. The State shall work to achieve parity between men and women. It is created for this purpose, an Authority for Equality and the fight against all forms of discrimination":

- The harmonization of national laws with international commitments (Family Code, Law on the Civil Code of Nationality Act, Political party, Electoral Code, Penal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure, the General Statute of Public Service, working code and communal charter etc.;
- The integration of a gender perspective in the State Budget; and The current finalization of Governmental Action Plan on gender parity (2012-2016);
- The provision of incentives for the promotion of women (adoption of quota at national and local levels including a support fund for political representation of women)
- Training, capacity building, skills development and networking for women in Public Administration and Local Authorities.

The Strategic Rabat Roundtable held in May 2011 at the Ministry of the Interior (General Directorate of Local / Directorate of Administrative and Professional Training Techniques in partnership with the Wellesley Centers for Women at Wellesley College) recommended that current political transitions and law and institutional reform initiatives bring to the forefront the profound need to consolidate and sustain gains in advancing women's leadership in all decision making processes. Following these recommendations made at the Roundtable, the Ministry of Interior in partnership with the Women in Public Service Project at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and with support from the Wellesley Centers for Women at Wellesley College is organizing a second event on **“Women Leading Political Participation, Public Service, and Transitional Justice in the Arab Region”** at the Headquarters of the Ministry of the Interior on 26 and 27 November 2012.

This meeting brings together the participation of a hundred women representing the following countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, United States of America, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia and Yemen. The participants represent their countries parliaments, public service, local authorities, Public/Private partnerships, academic institutes, civil society and the media in the Arab region. The conference will also be joined by well-known international experts in the field of promotion of women's leadership.



## Main Goal

The promotion of Women's Leadership and Political Representation in the Public Sector in the Arab Region, and the sharing of best practices and strategies with partners from around the world.

## Specific goals

- Sharing and exchange of good practices and strategies on women's leadership in the current international and regional context (affirmative action plans; caucuses; national action plans; and strengthening the rule of law);
- Addressing challenges to women's leadership, whether in the public sector or in political participation;
- Develop platform on promoting the role of women in decision making;
- Identify a Task Force to monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference.

## Audience

- Parliamentarians;
- The Presidents and Councilors in Local Authorities;
- Officials of Public Service;
- Representatives of Civil Society;
- Representatives of Universities;
- Private Sector Representatives;
- Media Representatives.

## Terms of Organization

- Plenary Sessions;
- Workshops;
- Brainstorming.

## Date and Place

Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 November 2012 at the Conference Centers of the Ministry of Interior

## Agenda

Dates & times	Activities
<b>November 25, 2012</b>	
Arrival and Welcome at Hotel "Tour Hassan"	
<b>November 26, 2012 at the Conference center of the Ministry of the Interior</b>	
<b>09:00 to 10:00</b>	Official Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Address of Mr. Mohand Laenser</b>, Minister for the Interior of the Kingdom of Morocco</li> <li>• <b>Remarks by Ms. Bassima Hakkaoui</b>, Minister of Solidarity of Women and Social Development (TBC)</li> <li>• <b>Remarks by Mr. Abdelâdim El Guerrouj</b>, Delegate Minister to the Head of Government for Public Functions and the Modernization of the Administration (TBC)</li> <li>• <b>Remarks by Mrs. Laila Rhiwi</b>, Representative of UN Women - North Africa</li> <li>• <b>Remarks by Dr. Rangita De Silva De Alwis</b>, Director, Global Women's Leadership Initiative, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars</li> </ul>
<b>10:00 to 10:30</b>	Coffee break
<b>FIRST PLENARY SESSION: Women's Leadership: Mapping Changes, Challenges and Prospects in the Arab Region</b>	
<b>Moderators:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Malika Malak</b>, journalist and consultant, Morocco</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Rangita de Silva de Alwis</b>, Director, Global Women's Leadership Initiative, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, United States of America</li> </ul>	
<b>10:30</b>	<b>"Women's Leadership: Achievements, Opportunities, Challenges and Issues for Moroccan Women"</b> with <b>Ms. Latifa Jbabdi</b> , former Member of Parliament, Head of External Relations of the Union for Women's Action, Morocco
<b>10:45</b>	<b>Country Overviews: "Women's Leadership: Achievements, Opportunities, Challenges and Impediments for Women in the Arab Region"</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bahrain:</b> Wajeeha Al Bahrna, Founder of Bahrain Women's Association for Human Development, Bahrain</li> <li>• <b>Egypt:</b> Dr. Moushira Khattab, Former Minister for Family and Population, Egypt</li> <li>• <b>Iran:</b> Dr. Haleh Esfandiari, Director of the Middle East Program at The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, United States of America</li> <li>• <b>Iraq:</b> Dr. Sundus Abass, Senior Gender Specialist at the United Nations Development Programme, Iraq</li> <li>• <b>Lebanon:</b> Myriam Aucar, Leading Lawyer and Campaign Manager, Lebanon</li> <li>• <b>Libya:</b> Dr. Wafa Bugaighis, Chair of Ministry of Education, Libya</li> <li>• <b>Tunisia:</b> Judge Anware Mnasri, Judge, Tunisia</li> <li>• <b>Yemen:</b> Dr. Nafisa Al-Jaifi, Secretary-General of Council for Motherhood and Childhood, Yemen</li> </ul>



<b>12:00</b>	<b>Debate</b>
<b>13:00</b>	<p><b>Lunch Debate</b></p> <p><b>Keynote Speaker: Ms Fatima-Houda Pépin</b>, Parlementaire – Parlement de Québec, Former Minister of Solidarity, Family and Social Development, Morocco</p> <p><b>Introduced by: Dr. Najat Zarrouk</b> Governor, Director of Professional Training in Administrative and Technical Department of the Interior, Morocco; Chair of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration; Member of the Board of AWLI</p>

**WORKSHOPS**  
**COMPLEXE ADMINISTRATIF DU MINISTERE DE L'INTERIEUR – HAY RIAD**

<b>14:30 to 16:30</b>	<p><b>Workshop 1 : Women in Political Representation: Challenges and Best Practices</b></p> <p><b>Moderators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Moushira Khattab</b>, Former Minister for Family and Population, Egypt</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Sundus Abass</b>, Senior Gender Specialist at the United Nations Development Programme, Iraq</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Fatna El Kihel</b>, Parliamentary, President of the Commune of ARBAWA, Morocco</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Workshop 2 : Women in Public Service and Decision making: Strengthening the Rule of Law</b></p> <p><b>Moderators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Myriam Aucar</b>, Leading Lawyer and Campaign Manager, Lebanon</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Rangita de Silva de Alwis</b>, Director, Global Women's Leadership Initiative, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, United States of America</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Rabha Zeidguy</b>, former Secretary General of IICPC and the former Director of Modernization of the Administration, Morocco</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Workshop 3 : Parity, quotas and caucuses: Challenges and Best Practices</b></p> <p><b>Moderators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Nouzha Skalli</b>, Parliament, Morocco</li> <li>• <b>Judge Anware Mnasri</b>, Judge, Tunisia</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Wafa Bugaighis</b>, Ministry of Education, Libya</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Workshop 4 : Drafting National Action Plans: Insights from the Region</b></p> <p><b>Moderators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Haleh Esfandiari</b>, Director of the Middle East Program at The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, United States of America</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Jamila Al Moussaly</b>, Member of Parliament, Morocco</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Nafisa Al-Jaifi</b>, Head of Council for Motherhood and Children, Yemen</li> </ul>



<b>16:30</b>	Coffee break
<b>16:45</b>	<b>Workshop discussions continue</b>
<b>20:00</b>	Dinner <b>Narratives of Leadership: A Conversation with Women Leaders</b>

**November 27, 2012**

**SECOND PLENARY SESSION  
RESTITUTION OF WORKS AND MONITORING PROCEDURES**

**Moderators:**

- **Dr. Haleh Esfandiari**, Director, Middle East Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
- **Dr. Rangita de Silva de Alwis**, Director, Global Women's Leadership Initiative, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, United States of America
- **Mrs. Sabah Chriaibi**, University Professor and Gender Expert, Morocco

<b>09:00</b>	<b>Session 1: Presentation of the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Plenary Session and Workshops</b>
<b>10:00</b>	<b>Session 2: Development of a Platform in Advancing the Role of Women in the Public Sector, in Policy-Making, and in Political Participation in the Arab world.</b>
<b>11:00</b>	Coffee break
<b>11:30</b>	<b>Session 3: Establishment of a Task Force for the Implementation and Monitoring of Recommendations</b>
<b>12:30</b>	<b>Session 4: Closing Session of the Conference</b>
<b>13:00</b>	Lunch break
<b>14:30</b>	Free time