



A NEW-MED SEMINAR

Women, Peace and Security: A Gender Perspective on the Future of the MENA Region

Palermo, October 23, 2017

*Palazzo dei Normanni
Piazza Indipendenza, 1 – Sala La Torre (third floor)*

AGENDA

12:30-13:15 Light buffet – Internal Bar (third floor)

13:15-13:40 REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS

13:40-13:50 WELCOME GREETINGS

Paul Bekkers, Director, Office of the Secretary General, OSCE

Lorenzo Kamel, Scientific Head of New-Med Network and Istituto Affari Internazionali, Italy

13:50-15:10 **SESSION I - SECURITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR ENHANCING THE ROLE OF WOMEN**

Social, political and cultural equilibria in the Mediterranean basin underwent a major reshaping in recent years. The 2011 uprisings, in particular, have had a considerable impact in shaking the social order and putting into question traditional gender roles. In some cases, new political structures appeared, and new constitutions and laws were adopted bringing women's rights at the core of political agendas. Indeed, the role of women within societies is a meaningful parameter to assess social and political change. The first

session will focus on opportunities to promote women's needs and aspirations that can emerge from the complex political, cultural, and demographic processes that are unfolding in the Mediterranean region. The discussion will trace ongoing dynamics with a particular reference to the role that women can play in enhancing the security of their own countries and of the region in key fields: from gender and migration to peace building and conflict mediation, from conflict prevention to political participation.

Chair: **Charlotte Brandsma**, Program Officer, Mediterranean Policy, The German Marshall Fund of the United States, Belgium

Panelists: **Leena Avonius**, Gender Adviser, OSCE
Khalid Chaouki, Member of Parliament, House of Deputies, Italy
Hafida Benchehida, Senator, Algeria
Assia Bensalah Alaoui, Ambassador at Large of King Mohamed VI of the Kingdom of Morocco

15:15-16:35 SESSION II – WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN: ASSESSING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNSCR 1325 AND RELATED RESOLUTIONS

The adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) in 2000 was a ground-breaking achievement for the recognition of women's vital contribution to peace and security. As the adoption of UNSCR 1325 was not immediately followed by the implementation of the WPS agenda by the Member States, in 2005 the Security Council called on individual states to create National Action Plans (NAPs) detailing their strategies to fulfil their commitments under UNSCR 1325.

The session will discuss the results of a research conducted on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and the WPS agenda within the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation with the goal of assessing advantages and challenges for Nations to develop 1325 NAPs. Taking into account other possible tools that Nations can put in place to implement the WPS agenda, the panel will discuss if the 1325 NAPs are still the best tools available and how twinning projects and international and regional organisations can support this process.

Chair: **Ettore Greco**, Executive Vice-President, Istituto Affari Internazionali

Panelists: **Irene Fellin**, WIIS Italy President
Neziha Labidi, Tunisian Minister of Women, Family and Childhood
Abdessamad Dialmy, Sociologist and expert in gender, sexuality and Islamism, Morocco
Ann-Sofie Stude, National focal point for Women, Peace and Security, Finland

16:35-17:00 CONCLUDING REMARKS

Fatiha Hassouni, Program Manager/Gender & Social Affairs, Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean

Eleonora Insalaco, Programmes Manager, Anna Lindh Foundation

Paul Bekkers, Director, Office of the Secretary General, OSCE

Alessandro Azzoni, Permanent Representative of Italy, OSCE

17:00 END OF THE SEMINAR

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