



**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  
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4-5 May, 2016

Plenary of the Jordanian Parliament

Amman, Jordan



UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF  
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."*

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

4-6 MAY 2016

PLENARY OF THE PARLIAMENT OF JORDAN

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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## 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

Ring 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
- **Olfa 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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Plenary of the Jordanian Parliament

Amman, Jordan



## 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](http://www.womeninparliaments.org)

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