



Arab International Women's Forum

المنتدى العربي الدولي للمرأة

With the valued co-operation of
The League of Arab States

The Third Annual AIWF Conference 2004
Women in the Arab World
Partners in the Community and on the World Stage

المرأة في العالم العربي
شريك في التنمية وشريك في التواصل مع المجتمع الدولي

The Arab International Women Forum hosts the Third Annual AIWF Conference, **Women in the Arab World: Partners in the Community and on the World Stage**, with the valued co-operation of The League of Arab States, **6-9 June 2004 at the Headquarters of the League of Arab States, Cairo.**

Leading speakers from business, government, academia and non-governmental organisations are invited to address senior and executive women from the Arab world, Europe, the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Africa, South America, Japan and Australia. The two hundred women attending will reflect geographical and cultural diversity, business and professional sectors and, just as importantly, government and civil society.

His Excellency Mr Amre Moussa, Secretary General of The League of Arab States will be the Honoured Guest Speaker at the Conference Opening. AIWF has the privilege of extending an invitation to **HE Mrs Suzanne Mubarak**, First Lady of the Arab Republic of Egypt to be the Guest of Honour at the Conference Official Dinner.

From the Arab world, it is our distinct honour to invite **HRH Princess Adelah bint Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud**, Saudi Arabia; **HE Mrs Noora Al Sweidi**, Director, General Women's Union, UAE; **Sheikha Hessa Al Sabah**, President, Arab Businesswomen Council, Kuwait; **Mrs. Nouzha Chekrouni**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Morocco; **H.E. Mrs. Seham Dellou**, Minister of Labour & Social Affairs, Syria; **H.E. Sheikha Ahmed El Mahmoud**, Minister of Education, Qatar; **H.E. Dr. Roaida El Moaita**, Former Minister of

Social Affairs & Head of the Executive Council of Arab Women's Organization, Jordan; **Dr Rafia Obaid Ghubash**, President, Arabian Gulf University, Bahrain; **Mrs. Bahiya Hariri**, Member of Parliament, Lebanon; **H.E. Zahira Kamal**, Minister of Women's Affairs, Palestine; **H.E. Samia Ahmed Mohamed**, Minister of Social Care & Development, Sudan; **H.E. Dr. Bothaina Sherit**, Delegate Minister in charge of Family & Women's Issues, Algeria; and **H.E. Mrs. Naziha Ben Yedder**, Minister of Women & Family Affairs, Tunisia. From Iran, we have invited **Dr. Zahra Shojaie**, Advisor to the President and Head, Center for Women's Participation, and **Ms Shirin Ebadi**, Nobel Peace Prize Winner 2003.

Invitations have been extended to several other important international guest speakers including **Hon Mary Bashir**, Governor General of New South Wales, Australia; **Mrs. Fifi Benaboud**, Senior Advisor to Executive Director, North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, Portugal; **Ms. Renate Bloem**, President, Conference of Nongovernmental Organisation in Consultative Relationship with UN, Switzerland; **Mrs. Micheline Calmy-Rey**, Foreign Minister, Switzerland; **Mrs. Anna Diamantopoulou**, EU Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs, Greece; **Ms Diane Elson**, Professor, Department of Sociology & the Human Rights Centre, University of Essex, UK; **Dame Rennie Fritchie OBE**, Commissioner for Public Appointments, UK; **Ms Maria E. Giron**, Chief Executive Officer, Carrera Y Carrera, Spain; **Baroness Helena Kennedy QC**, Chairman of the British Council, UK; **Mrs. Julie Mellor**, Chair, Equal Opportunities Commission, UK; **Mrs Elizabeth Plum**, Programme Director, International

Leadership Programme for the OECD, Denmark; **Ms Viviane Reding**, EU Commissioner for Education and Culture, Luxembourg; **Rt Hon Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean**, Minister of State for the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, UK; **Ms Jumana Trad**, Presidenta de la READI, Fundacion Promocion Social de la Cultura, Spain; **Ms. L.M.T. Xingwana**, MP, JMC Improvement of Life & Status of Women, South Africa; and **Dr. Linda Yueh**, Department of Economics, London School of Economics, UK.

From the United States, we have extended invitations to **The Hon. Patricia Harrison**, Acting Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy, State Department; **Mrs Noeleen Heyzer**, Executive Director, UNIFEM; **Mrs. Hanifa Mezoui**, Chief Non-governmental Organizations Section, United Nations; **Ms Alina Romanowski**, Director Middle East Partnership Initiative, State Department; and **HE Mrs Margaret Tutwiler**, Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy, State Department.

Conference sessions will include topics in the areas of public life, civil society, women in business, education and community development. **Partners** will look at partnerships on several levels. At a micro-level, we will look at ways in which women and men work together in the community. At the regional level conference participants will discuss partnerships across the Arab world and at the international level, we will discuss the mechanisms in which women in the Arab world and other international markets advance their respective interests. At all three levels we will see how women ignite economic growth and foster community well-being.

Building Bridges - Building Business

As the Arab International Women's Forum goes from strength to strength, it consistently delivers crucial messages that Arab women are playing an important role in business and public life.

The Arab International Women's Forum has ably demonstrated that it is the voice of Arab women showcasing their development, breaking stereotypical images and creating greater public awareness of their success and prospects within an international context.

Set up as a non-profit organisation in London, with a non-political and non-religious position, AIWF links Arab business and professional women in the 22 Arab countries with each other and with their counterparts in the international community. Through AIWF members have the opportunity to widen key contacts and friendships, foster co-operation, enhance their business, marketing and investment skills and keep up to date with current issues.

Working at the highest levels, AIWF's growing role is acknowledged in very many leading international organisations – among them, the United Nations, the European Commission, Commonwealth Business Council, UNESCO, The British Council, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, UNIFEM, National Women's Commission in the UK, and the National Council of Women in Egypt. AIWF has been represented at meetings and conferences of the Arab Labour Organisation, the World Economic Forum, the Gorbachev Foundation, the Arab US Economic Forum, the Council of Europe, the Foundation for the Social Promotion of Culture, the First and Second Arab Women's Summits sponsored by the First Ladies of the Arab World, and the

Women for Peace Initiative led by HE Mrs Suzanne Mubarak.

The Arab International Women's Forum has forged partnerships with a number of corporate sponsors including Shell Middle East, Procter & Gamble, Pepsico International and HSBC. Their ongoing support and collaboration contributes to the success of AIWF. At the same time, it expands corporate diversity, helps AIWF to develop training programmes and assists companies in their quest to reach local communities. Truly a global partnership!

AIWF also welcomes the opportunity to work in close co-operation with The League of Arab States. Again, it demonstrates the ability of AIWF to work with institutions and governments in order to benefit women in the Arab world. Together – and in partnership – the Arab International Women's Forum and The League of Arab States will contribute greatly to enhancing local, pan Arab and international knowledge. This remarkable conference will continue "Building Bridges, Building Business".

We look forward to welcoming you on the 6th of June!



Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani
Chairman
Arab International Women's Forum

The Arab International Women's Forum would like to thank the 2004 Conference Partners for their valuable support:



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The League of Arab States

The League of Arab States, an association of independent Arab-speaking countries, was founded in 1945 in Cairo by Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Jordan and Yemen, to strengthen ties among its member states, co-ordinate policies and promote common interests. Twenty-two countries are now member states.

The Arab League is involved in political, economic, cultural and social programmes designed to promote its member states. The Arab League serves as a forum for coordinating policy positions, deliberating on matters of common concern, and promoting economic integration. It fosters cultural exchanges and youth programmes, advances the role of women in Arab societies and promotes child welfare activities. The League has launched literacy campaigns, shapes school curricula, preserved cultural heritage, encourages measures against crime and drug abuse and deals with labour issues.

The Arab League Council convenes twice a year and in special sessions at the invitation of two member states as the need arises. It is supported by a number of Permanent Committees and a General Secretariat which is divided into 14 departments concerned with political, economic, environmental, social and legal affairs. As part of their women's initiative, The League of Arab States has founded the Arab Organisation for Women which has been ratified by twelve Arab countries to date.

Conference Agenda

Sunday 6 June

2.00pm Registration Opens at the Inter Continental Hotel

6.00pm Official Opening Conference Reception

Monday 7 June Conference Day One

9.00 am Registration

10.00am Conference Official Opening Session

Welcome and Introduction to Conference **Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani**, Chairman, Arab International Women's Forum

Keynote Address by the Conference Guest of Honour **His Excellency Mr Amre Moussa** Secretary General, The League of Arab States

11.00am Special Addresses by Honoured Guest Speakers

12.30 pm Plenary Session 1: Partnerships in Public Life

Partnerships in public life are essential on a myriad of levels. Women and men collaborate and work together on public projects. Governance, accountability, transparency and social inclusion are watch words requiring expansive collaboration and creative co-operation. Partnerships between people in public life and people in the private sectors are increasingly more prevalent in western society. In local communities, across regions and internationally, the increased participation of women in government, politics and official institutions requires varying strategies for greater success. How can partnerships at these levels create greater awareness and increase women's involvement in public policy? What inhibits and limits women? How can Arab women make a larger impact on social development in the Arab world? What are the social dynamics and implications of partnerships in Arab society?

2.00pm Networking Lunch

3.30pm Plenary Session 2: Partnerships in the Private Sector

Moving around the many circles in business, this session will examine partnerships within the corporate culture, both between businesses and between business and civil society. Speakers will also raise issues about partners operating at local, regional and international levels. How to make and break partnerships? This session will explore the coming together, negotiation and the exit strategies of partnerships in the private sector. How can Arab women take advantage of the very many opportunities to promote their business, expand market access and profile their acumen as business leaders? This session will look at the exacting ways in which the non-profit sector must interact with the bottom line in business and how business can accelerate social development with government.

5.30pm Adjournment

8.30pm Conference Reception and Official Dinner

Tuesday 8 June Conference Day Two

10.00am Plenary Session 3: Building Local Communities: Partnerships in Civil Society

Guest speakers will take a look at partnerships necessary to build local communities. We will explore women as community leaders and their relationships in civil society. How can education and community development foster greater participation of women? At the micro-level, this session will share best practices for Arab women and men working together for more prosperous, safer, and sustainable communities. In this session participants will explore civil society-business partnerships and civil society-government partnerships from the perspective of non-profit associations. How can NGOs catapult their agenda onto the radar screen of

government? How can women take advantage of the career and social development opportunities in civil society?

11.30am Keynote Addresses

1.00pm Networking Lunch

2.30pm Plenary Session 4: Reaching Out to the International Community

Civil society, public life and the private sector meet at international levels. Speakers will discuss how to reach out to the international community and how to get the issues, resolutions and products to international audiences. Who are the target audiences? Where can organisations, institutions and businesses interact to meet their respective objectives? What marketing strategies are required to attract international audiences? At which point are organisations, institutions and businesses ready to expand beyond their borders?

4.00pm Plenary Session 5: International Organisations - A World With Experience

This crucial session will highlight the very many women's programmes in international organisations. The League of Arab States, the European Commission, the Commonwealth, Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation, OECD, and the United Nations are just a few of the international organisations which impact on local, regional, and international programmes. This session compares contrasts and finds the similarities between organisations. What are the best practices? What are the areas of common interest? How do these international agencies interact among themselves? How can regional and national organisations attract the attention of international agencies and can international organisations be of benefit at the local level?

5.30pm Conference Summary and Closing Remarks

8.00pm Cultural Evening

Registration

Conference places are limited. Reservations can be sent by post, email or fax. To guarantee your registration, kindly complete the Registration Form and return with your registration fee to the Arab International Women's Forum. Deadline for applications is 1 June 2004.

Registration fees

AIWF Member £125 GBP Sterling
Non-member £175 GBP Sterling

Registration fees cover all conference costs as well as the opening reception, tea breaks, lunch and official dinner as scheduled. The Arab International Women's Forum (AIWF), as a non-profit organisation, follows the policy of keeping registration fees at a minimum cost to allow maximum participation by all its members and friends.

Confirmation of your registration will be sent with further conference details by email. In order to secure your registration, payment of registration fees must accompany your registration form. AIWF reserves the right to withhold registration.

Three ways to register

• By mail:

Please send registration form together with conference payment to AIWF, P.O. Box 36114, London SW7 1YB, United Kingdom.

• Online at:

www.aiwfonline.com/activities.htm or send email to debradavis@eh-communications.com.

You must send full payment before your registration is confirmed.

• By fax:

Please fax your registration form to Debra Davis – Conference Director at +44 (0) 1672 516 557 and send full payment to AIWF. Alternatively, you may fax AIWF at +44 (0) 20 7581 2186.

Three ways to pay

• By cheque:

Please make cheque payable to the **Arab International Women's Forum** and forward with registration form to AIWF. Travellers Cheque – payment in GBP Sterling – also accepted.

• Bank transfer payment:

Please send your request with details of delegates to debradavis@eh-communications.com. We will send you details for a bank transfer.

• By credit card:

Credit card facilities are available. Please complete the registration form clearly, include your credit card particulars and sign the registration form before returning it to the Arab International Women's Forum.

Full payment must accompany your registration form. Invoices and/or receipts will be made available on request.

Contacting AIWF

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VISA Applications

All Visas must be obtained from the Embassies of the Arab Republic of Egypt in the various countries. Please ensure you apply in good time and refer to the Arab International Women's Forum conference being held at headquarters of The League of Arab States in Cairo.

Hotel Accommodation

Registration fees do not include travel or hotel accommodation.

For room reservations, please contact the hotels directly.

The Arab International Women's Forum is recommending two hotels - The Inter Continental Hotel and The Cairo Nile Hilton - which are in close proximity to the headquarters of The League of Arab States. Both are offering favourable rates. Please indicate to reservations that you are an AIWF conference participant.

Local Tours - Enjoy the best Egypt has to offer

For the convenience of international conference participants who are interested in making side trips following the conference, we are delighted to refer you to Abercrombie & Kent – a local travel agent who is available to make ancillary arrangements on your behalf.

Contact details for Hotel Accommodation and Local Tours are available on the registration form.

The Arab International Women's Forum – Membership at a Glance!

The membership is drawn from women from who are owners, directors, managers and consultants in every sphere of business and the professions. Among the fields represented are engineering, information technology, e-business, textiles, banking, financial planning and investment, accountancy, development and marketing of property, hotels, fashion, publishing, health and medical services, journalism, the media, training and the design and manufacture of diverse items from marine parts and engines to silverware, porcelain and glass. Other members contribute their experience as parliamentarians, diplomats, leaders in government linked and non-governmental organisations and economic, trade and social forums. Many of our members are involved locally in their respective business and women's associations, Chambers of Commerce and NGOs.

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