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EastWest
INSTITUTE

In partnership with



Konrad
Adenauer
Stiftung

Advancing the Role of Women Political Leaders in Peace and Security

Rabat, Morocco
November 17-20, 2014

Conference Booklet



Acknowledgements

The EastWest Institute's Parliamentarians Network for Conflict Prevention (PN) and Women's Action for New Directions (WAND) wish to thank the Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF) for funding this conference.

We would also like to thank Loubna Amhair MP, Member of the Moroccan House of Representatives, and the office of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung in Rabat for their kind support in preparing this conference.

In addition we would like to thank the United States Department of State, the U.S. Embassy in Rabat, and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Morocco for their support.

Objectives

Women's Action for New Directions (WAND) and the EastWest Institute's Parliamentarians Network for Conflict Prevention (PN) have established a coalition of U.S. women legislators and women parliamentarians in Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

Since the coalition first met in spring 2013, the humanitarian and security situation in parts of the Middle East has dramatically deteriorated with the increase in violent extremism, exemplified by the rise of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), and with a U.S. led military intervention in the region. Against this background, it is more important than ever to continue our common work to build trust between female legislators from the U.S. and the MENA region as well as within the region itself, and to further strengthen the role of women in building sustainable peace.

Building on two in-person meetings held in 2013, the conference "Advancing the Role of Women Political Leaders in Peace and Security" in Rabat will focus on concrete ways for coalition members to implement the principles of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in their own countries and as a coalition. This will include:

- Country updates, experience sharing and identification of security issues and priorities.
- Providing a variety of legal frameworks that can be drawn upon to build peace and promote women's rights and participation and identifying key areas of legislation that secure comprehensive rights for women and advance the women, peace and security agenda; with strategies for enacting and implementing them.
- Identifying and holding accountable national institutions that are key in implementing the 1325 agenda.
- Building strategies for working with civil society and communities to promote legislation, establish National Action Plans, and advocate for implementation of UNSCR 1325.
- Developing action plans for next steps in participants' countries and as a coalition.

Agenda

As of November 14, 2014

Monday November 17

Arrival of participants

19:00-21:00 **Welcome Reception**
Venue: Hotel Le Diwan
Place de l'Unité Africaine
10005 Rabat – Morocco

Tuesday November 18

Venue: Conference Room Diwan I
Hotel Le Diwan
Place de l'Unité Africaine
10005 Rabat – Morocco

9:00-9:30 **Opening Remarks**
Introduction of staff and participants, overview of program
Julie Arostegui, Women, Peace and Security Policy Director, Women's Action for New Directions & Women Legislators' Lobby
Anna Mitri, Program Coordinator, Parliamentarians Network for Conflict Prevention, EastWest Institute
Dr. Ellinor Zeino-Mahmalat, Project Coordinator, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), Morocco

09:30-10:45 **Key Note Addresses, Followed by Q&A**
Ambassador Martin Fleischer, Vice-President, Director for Regional Security, EastWest Institute
Dana Mansuri, Mission Director for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Morocco
Prof. Fatima Sadiqi, Co-Founder, International Institute for Languages and Cultures (INLAC); Director, Isis Center for Women and Development, Morocco

10:45 **Family photo**

11:00-11:15 **Coffee Break**

Press is welcome from 09:00 to 11:15.

11:15-12:15 **Experience Sharing:** Participants divide into groups to discuss country updates and share their experiences as lawmakers dealing with peace and security issues.
Senator Sandra Pappas, President of the Minnesota Senate

- What are the most significant developments over the past year?
- How does the spread of violent extremism in the MENA region affect your work and the possibility for democratic solutions to pressing issues?
- How does U.S. policy factor into your experience/work?
- What are some of the challenges you have faced?
- What are some of your successes and how have you accomplished them?
- What are your main priorities?

- 12:15-13:15 **Lunch**
Venue: Hotel Restaurant “La Brasserie”
- 13:30-14:30 **Report Back and Discussion:** Participants give brief country backgrounds, discuss major security issues in the MENA region, and identify common challenges and priorities.
Senator Nan Orrock, Georgia State Senate
- 14:30-15:30 **Discussion of the Role of Lawmakers and Legal Tools that Can Be Used to Advance the Women, Peace and Security Agenda**
Julie Arostegui
- Using international and national instruments
 - Key areas of legislation to ensure comprehensive rights for women
 - Challenges
 - Working with closing political spaces
 - Advocacy strategies
- 15:30-16:00 **Coffee Break**
- 16:00-17:00 **National Action Plans and Key Institutions Necessary to Implement Laws and Policies to Ensure Women’s Rights and Equality:** Discussion of key institutions and strategies for developing National Action Plans (NAP) and implementing the principles of UNSCR 1325.
Julie Arostegui
- Case studies: Examples of the development of National Action Plans in countries such as the U.S. and Iraq, NATO and examples of localization efforts.
- 19:00 **Dinner**

Wednesday November 19

- 8:30-8:45 **Review of Day 1**
Venue: Conference Room Diwan I, Hotel Le Diwan
- 8:45-9:30 **Preparation for Day’s Meetings:** What do we want to accomplish? What information do we want to obtain? For what do we want to advocate?
Loubna Amhair MP, Speaker of the Committee of Foreign Affairs and National Defense, House of Representatives, Morocco
- National laws that have been passed or need to be passed
 - What Morocco is doing in the region related to peace and security and especially to combat the rise of extremism
 - Role of women
- Venue: Conference Room Diwan I, Hotel Le Diwan
- 10:00 **Meeting with H.E. Mr. Chafik Rachadi,** Vice-President, House of Representatives, Morocco
- 11:00 **Meeting with Mr. Mehdi Bensaid MP,** Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Islamic Affairs, Diaspora & Immigration & National Defense, House of Representatives, Morocco

- 13:00-14:00 **Lunch**
Venue: Hotel Restaurant “La Brasserie”
- 14:00-15:00 **Group Debriefing Session on Meetings**
Venue: Conference Room Diwan I, Hotel Le Diwan
- 15:00-15:30 **Coffee Break**
- 15:30-17:00 **Movement Building: Working with Civil Society and Communities**
Fatima Outaleb, Union de l’Action Féminine

Free evening

Thursday November 20

Venue: Conference Room Diwan I
Hotel Le Diwan

8:30-9:00 **Discussion, Overview of Day**
Julie Arostegui and Anna Mitri

9:00-10:30 **Activity: How Participants Can Advance the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in their Countries**
Julie Arostegui and Senator Sandy Pappas
Working in small groups, participants reflect on actions that they can take in their own countries/constituencies and work together on a set of recommendations and joint Op-Eds.

- Key entry points in legislation
- Target institutions
- Movement building: stakeholders, allies, threats and strategies

10:30-11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:00-13:00 **Discussion of Coalition Strategies**
Building on the outcomes of the previous activity, the group discusses strategies for the coalition.
Julie Arostegui and Donya Aziz, Former Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan

- How can regional and U.S. cooperation help push this agenda and where are areas of common collaboration?
- Addressing the major security issues in the region: What can be done and what are alternatives to some of the current policies and actions?
- Mapping out of stakeholders, entry points, tools, and strategies
- Opportunities for advocacy in 2015
- Development of a set of recommendations for lawmakers, the U.S. Congress/ Government, national governments, civil society, donors, international agencies

13:00-14:00 **Lunch**
Venue: Hotel Restaurant “La Brasserie”

- 14:30 **Meeting with Mrs. Zakia El Midaoui**, Director of Multilateral Cooperation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Morocco; **and Mr. Azzedine Farhane**, Director of the Department of the United Nations and International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Morocco
- Venue: Conference Room Diwan I, Hotel Le Diwan
- 16:00 **Meeting with H.E. Mrs. Bassima Hakkaoui**, Minister of Solidarity, Women, Family and Social Development
- 17:30-18:30 **Summing Up and Discussing the Way Ahead**
Julie Arostegui, Women, Peace and Security Policy Director, Women's Action for New Directions & Women Legislators' Lobby
Anna Mitri, Program Coordinator, Parliamentarians Network for Conflict Prevention, EastWest Institute
- 18:30-20:00 **Closing Reception**
Venue: Hotel Le Diwan

Please use #womenmakepeace to tweet about or follow the event.

Participants



Loubna Amhair
Member of the House of Representatives of Morocco

Loubna Amhair has been a Member of the Moroccan House of Representatives since 2011, serving on the Committee of Finance and Economic Development, and now as speaker of the Committee of Foreign Affairs and National Defense. Prior to her election as an MP, Loubna Amhair was an advisor to the State Minister on communication and technical matters, law projects and protocol issues. From 2007 to 2009, she was Head of the Studies Service at the Directorate for Education, Research and Development of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Loubna Amhair has hands-on experience in rural development and the socio-economic promotion of rural women.



Donya Aziz,
Former Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan

Donya Aziz, a medical doctor, began her political career with the PML-Pakistan Muslim League in 2002 and was elected to Pakistan's National Assembly. During her first tenure in parliament, she was appointed Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Population Welfare. In addition to serving on various committees, she was also parliamentary representative on the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council as well as on the Pakistan Nursing Council. From 2008 to 2013, Donya Aziz served as a member of the working council of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus, President of the Young Parliamentarian's Forum, and on the Executive Board of Parliamentarians for Global Action.



Karen Camper
Tennessee House of Representatives, United States

Representative Karen D. Camper serves as Democratic Floor Leader, Chair of the Legislative Women's Caucus, Chair of the Veterans Caucus of the TN General Assembly, and as a member of the House Finance, Ways & Means committees and the House Transportation and Ethics committees. She is a board member of Women's Action for New Directions Education Fund, Chair of Region IV of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL), Second Vice-President of the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women (NOBEL Women), Vice-Chair of the Tennessee Economic Council on Women and a life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).



Rakiya Eddarhem
Member of the House of Representatives of Morocco

Born and raised in Laayoune, Rakiya Eddarhem is a member of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces Party (USFP) and one of the youngest members of Morocco's Parliament. She serves as Vice President of the Committee of Foreign Affairs, Islamic Affairs and Moroccans Living Abroad, and is very involved in promoting economic development and education for young entrepreneurs in Morocco, with a particular focus on supporting emerging female entrepreneurs.



Bushra Gohar
Former Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan

Bushra Gohar served as member of Pakistan’s National Assembly from 2008 to 2013, and was elected as the chair of the National Assembly’s Standing Committee on Women’s development in 2009. She has been a member of the Working Council of the Women Parliamentary Caucus and has also served on the National Assembly’s Standing Committees on Finance and Revenue, Interior and Kashmir Affairs. Since 1994, Bushra Gohar has been the Director of the Human Resources Management and Development Center (HRMDC). Bushra Gohar holds a master’s degree in Human Resource Management from Wilmington College, U.S.



Ana Sol Gutiérrez
Maryland House of Delegates, United States

Delegate Gutiérrez has represented District 18 in the Maryland House of Delegates since 2002, when she made history as the first Latina elected to the Maryland General Assembly. Gutiérrez was born in El Salvador but has lived in Maryland most of her life. She completed her postgraduate studies in applied engineering at George Washington University and executive management at The Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. She currently sits on the House Appropriations Committee, the Joint Committee for Children, Youth and Families, and was the founder of the New American Caucus. She is also the co-chair of the Maryland Democratic Latino Caucus.



Joni Jenkins
Kentucky House of Representatives, United States

Representative Joni Jenkins, a Women Legislators' Lobby (WiLL) state director, has represented the Kentucky 44th House District since 1995. She was recently appointed to chair a special task force on the Foreclosure Crisis in Kentucky. Her history of legislation reflects her concerns for the safety of women and children, from the establishment of the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (S.A.N.E.) program to workplace safety to legislation to strengthen the Sex Offender Registry. Additionally, Rep. Jenkins has passed legislation dealing with Elder Abuse, High School Athlete Safety and Alternative Education Reform. She works at the Jefferson Community and Technical College with at-risk students.



Shinkai Karokhail
Member of the National Assembly of Afghanistan

Shinkai Karokhail has been a Member of the National Assembly of Afghanistan, Wolesi Jirga, since 2005, where she works towards conflict prevention and promotes women’s rights. Shinkai was one of the founding members of the Afghan Women Educational Center (AWEC) in 1991, worked as a teacher in the first years and held various positions throughout the development of the NGO. In September 2012, Karokhail was honored by the EastWest Institute with the H.H. Sheikha Fatima bint Mukarak Values-based Leadership Award in recognition of her unwavering efforts in advocating women’s rights.



Amina Maelainine
Member of the House of Representatives of Morocco

Amina Maelainine has been a member of the Moroccan National Parliament since 2011. She is a member of the Party of Justice and Development (PJD) and serves on the committee on legislation, justice and human rights. She is also the president of the association “Equity of Women, Children and Family”.



Marianne Malak
Former Member of the Constituent Assembly of Egypt

Marianne Malak, a Coptic-Christian, was appointed to the Egyptian Parliament in 2011-2012 as the youngest Member of Parliament in Egyptian history. With a degree in law, a master's degree in human rights, and a PhD in international law, Marianne Malak was a member of the Constituent Assembly, which drew up a new constitution for Egypt. She was one of the first women to sit on the platform of the Egyptian Parliament, and is a member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. In September 2012, Marianne Malak was appointed by the Shura Council, the Upper House of the Egyptian Parliament, to serve on Egypt's National Council for Human Rights (NCHR).



Golalai Nur Safi
Member of the National Assembly of Afghanistan

Golalai Nur Safi has been a Member of the Afghan National Assembly, Wolesi Jirga, since 2005, where she represents the Balkh province in the North of Afghanistan. She holds a medical degree from the Ukraine Medical University and after the fall of the Taliban in 2001, she worked as a doctor for Medica Mondiale. She has also worked as an ophthalmologist at the Kabul Medical Hospital. Golalai is a member of the High Peace Council, of which only nine of the 70 members are women.



Nan Orrock
Georgia Senate, United States

Senator Nan Orrock is the President of the Women Legislators' Lobby (WILL). After ten terms in the Georgia State House of Representatives, serving as the first female House Majority Whip, she was elected in 2006 from Atlanta's downtown neighborhoods to the State Senate and serves on Health and Human Services, Higher Education, Government Oversight, Urban Affairs, and Agriculture & Consumer Affairs committees. Sen. Orrock's legislative expertise includes health policy, women's issues, child/family policy, workplace issues, civil liberties, civil rights, and environmental issues. She is a founder of both the Georgia Legislative Women's Caucus and the Working Families Agenda caucus.



Fatima Outaleb
Human Rights and Gender Advocate, Morocco

Fatima Outaleb is a founding member and executive board member of Union de l'Action Féminine (UAF), a non-profit women's association in Morocco created to advocate for women's rights and stop discrimination and marginalization. Fatima is a human rights and gender advocate with over 25 years of experience in national and regional women's issues with UAF, along with other regional and international organizations that focus on gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment. She currently directs the implementation of the UAF shelter management program on advocating for women victims of gender-based violence.



Sandy Pappas
Minnesota Senate, United States

Sandy Pappas was first elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives in 1984. In 1990, she was elected to the Minnesota Senate and currently serves as Senate President. Throughout her career, Senator Pappas has been a fervent advocate for human rights. She is a lifelong progressive, a supporter of women, has held several leadership positions in the Minnesota Senate, and nationally recognized for her legislative accomplishments. Senator Pappas serves as the Vice President of the Women Legislators' Lobby of Women's Action for New Directions (WAND).



Joseline Peña-Melnyk
Maryland House of Delegates, United States

Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk is a proud mother of three, devoted wife, and a true advocate for the people. Graduating from Buffalo State Law School, she pursued a career both as a defense attorney and as an Assistant United States Attorney prosecuting criminal cases. An immigrant from the Dominican Republic, she found an interest in politics. Serving with Casa de Maryland, she eventually worked her way to a two-term tenure on the College Park City Council. A member of the Maryland House of Delegates since 2006, Delegate Peña-Melnyk continues to fight for women's rights, the environment, and the betterment of her district.



Diane Russell
Maine House of Representatives, United States

Diane Russell serves the people of Portland, Maine in the Maine State House of Representatives. She is an unapologetically working class populist progressive who has championed weatherization to address Maine's heating crisis, while also being one of the nation's clearest state political voices for the responsible end to marijuana prohibition. She often partners with organizations across the country to oppose anti-choice and anti-voting movements. In 2011, The Nation named her the Most Valuable State Representative in its Progressive Honor Roll.



Jennifer Seelig
Utah House of Representatives, United States

Jennifer Maurine Seelig, a Women Legislators' Lobby (*WiLL*) state director, was elected by District 23 residents in November of 2006 to serve in the Utah House of Representatives. She currently serves on the House Political Subdivisions, Legislative Management, House Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice committees, Executive Appropriations Committee, as well as on the Executive Offices and Criminal Justice Appropriations Subcommittee. In 2010, she was elected the House Minority Whip. In 2012, Jennifer Seelig was elected as the first woman House Minority Leader by the Utah House Democratic Caucus.



Lena Taylor
Wisconsin Senate, United States

Senator and attorney Lena Taylor won an Assembly special election in 2003 and won her Senate seat in 2004. She serves on several committees, including Agriculture, Small Business, and Tourism, Economic Development and Local Government, and Elections and Urban Affairs. In 2012, she became the first African-American woman to be appointed co-chair of the Joint Finance Committee and second African-American to hold the chairmanship. In 2011, Sen. Taylor took a stand against Governor Walker's goal of ending collective bargaining as part of the "Wisconsin 14" – the fourteen Democratic Senators that left the state in order to uphold collective bargaining rights for public employees.



Patricia Torres Ray
Minnesota Senate, United States

Patricia Torres Ray is the first Hispanic woman to serve in the Minnesota Senate. She is a member of the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party and represents District 63. She has 18 years of experience in public service and community organizing. She also serves as a state program administrator for the Minnesota Department of Human Services. Patricia Torres Ray is originally from Colombia and holds two degrees from the University of Minnesota: a B.A. in Urban Studies and a Master's Degree in Public Affairs from the Humphrey Institute. Patricia is married with two children.

Key Note Speakers

Mr. Mehdi Bensaid

Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Islamic Affairs, Diaspora and Immigration, and National Defense; House of Representatives, Morocco



Mr. Mehdi Bensaid has been a member of the House of Representatives since November 2011 and serves as the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Islamic Affairs, Diaspora and Immigration, and National Defense. He is a member of the Party of Authenticity and Modernity (PAM) and a member of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).

Mr. Bensaid is the founder of Circle of Young Moroccan Democrats, an organization which aims to promote human rights and universal democratic values. He is also a founder of the Citizen Vigilance Movement and Vice President of the Center of Studies and Political and Strategic Research of Saharan Affairs.

Mr. Bensaid holds a bachelor's degree in economic and commercial action from Le Lycée René Descartes in Rabat. He also has a bachelor's degree in law from the University of Social Sciences in Toulouse, where he later received his master's degree in international criminal law and conflict analysis.

H.E. Mrs. Bassima Hakkaoui

**Minister of Solidarity, Women, Family and Social Development
Morocco**



Mrs. Bassima Hakkaoui is Morocco's Minister of Solidarity, Women, Family and Social Development. She is a member of the Justice and Development Party (PJD) and has served as a Member of Parliament since 2002. Last November, she won her third consecutive term in the parliamentary elections.

Between 2006 and 2007, Mrs. Hakkaoui, considered one of the most active MPs of the last two parliaments, was head of the Committee on Social Sectors in the House of Representatives. Within the Justice and Development Party, she has held several positions, including President of the women's organization of the PJD. She is also a member of the EU-Morocco Joint Parliamentary Committee and several Arab and Islamic organizations.

Mrs. Hakkaoui teaches science education and holds a bachelor's degree in social psychology. She is also the author of a series of research publications on women, the gender approach and education and has contributed to a number of collective works dealing with the same issues.

Ambassador Martin Fleischer
Vice President and Director for Regional Security
EastWest Institute



Martin Fleischer majored in electrical engineering, English and educational science. He has worked as an engineer in Saudi-Arabia and in South Korea, and as a junior researcher at Hannover University. After a two years' postgraduate at the Academy of the German Foreign Service, he assumed his first diplomatic posting with the German Embassy in Beijing in 1987. He subsequently served in Bonn as desk officer for nuclear non-proliferation, in Abuja as head of the Embassy Office, in Brussels as political counsellor with the permanent mission of Germany to NATO, in Berlin as head of division for peacekeeping and conflict prevention, in New York as economic counsellor with the permanent mission of Germany to the UN and, until summer 2011, again in Beijing as minister-counsellor with the German Embassy. Martin Fleischer then returned to Berlin to assume the newly established position of International Cyber Policy Coordinator at the Federal Foreign Office.

Since August 2014, Martin Fleischer has been seconded to the EastWest Institute as its Vice President for Regional Security and Director of its Brussels office.

Martin Fleischer is married and has two grown up sons. He is an active jazz-musician, a passionate sailor and a visiting professor at the University of Qingdao/China.

Ms. Dana Mansuri
Mission Director
U.S. Agency for International Development, Morocco



Ms. Dana Mansuri was appointed U.S. Agency for International Development's Mission Director for Morocco in September 2013. During her 20-year career at USAID, she has served in a variety of positions as a Career Foreign Service Officer including Executive Officer in Morocco from 2001 to 2006, Assistant Director/Program Officer in Morocco in 2006, and Deputy Mission Director to Jordan from 2006 to 2011.

Ms. Mansuri's other assignments have included Executive Officer positions in Tanzania and Ethiopia, Program Officer for the Africa Bureau, and Project Manager and Information Technology Specialist for the Office of Information Resources Management in Washington D.C. She also served as the Mission Director for USAID/Nigeria from 2011 to 2013.

Prior to joining USAID, Mansuri was a Project Manager for Executive Resource Associates, a Senior Management Analyst at Booz, Allen & Hamilton, Inc., and a Peace Corps Volunteer in Burkina Faso. She holds a Master of International Business Administration from the American Graduate School of International Management (Thunderbird) in Arizona and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Washington in Seattle.

Prof. Fatima Sadiqi
Senior Professor of Linguistics and Gender Studies
Director, Isis Center for Women and Development, Morocco



Fatima Sadiqi is a recipient of a Harvard Fellowship. She is a Professor of Linguistics and Gender Studies, author and editor of, among other works, *Moroccan Feminist Discourses* (2014), *Women, Gender, and Language in Morocco* (Brill, 2003), *Women and Knowledge in the Mediterranean* (Routledge, 2012), *Women in the Middle East and North Africa: Agents of Change* (Routledge, 2010), *Gender and Violence in the Middle East* (Routledge 2011), and *Women Writing Africa: The Northern Region* (The Feminist Press, 2009). Fatima Sadiqi founded the first Moroccan Centre for Studies and Research on Women in 1998 and the first graduate program on Gender Studies in 2000 at the University of Fez. In 2006, she founded the Isis Centre for Women and Development (with the aim of bridging the gap between the university and civil society) and in 2009 she was elected President of the National Union of Women's Associations. In the same year, she co-founded the International Institute for

Languages and Cultures (INLAC).

Union de l'Action Féminine

L'Union de l'Action Feminine (UAF), or the Union of Women's Action, is a Moroccan nongovernmental, non-profit women's association created in 1987. UAF began as an informal group of young women activists who published the first women's newspaper, called *March 8th*, in 1983.

In 2003, UAF gained consultative status at the United Nations' Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which allowed UAF to bring the national debate on women into the international sphere.

Since its establishment, UAF has played an important role in ongoing reform and democratization processes and has drawn public attention to violence against women through its "one million" petition in 1992. Its twelve Annajda centers, including the first Moroccan-established women's shelter, have contributed to publicize the problems and gradually change attitudes and practices related to gender-based violence.

Dr. Ellinor Zeino-Mahmalat **Project Coordinator, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Morocco Office**

Ellinor Zeino-Mahmalat is the project coordinator in the Morocco office of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung since 2012. She holds a master's degree in political science, law and economics and has obtained her PhD from the University of Hamburg and the GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies on Saudi Arabia's and Iran's Iraq policies. She regularly publishes on regional security issues of the Persian Gulf and the Sahel-Saharan region.

Organizers / Staff

Julie L. Arostegui, J.D.
Women, Peace, and Security Policy Director
Women's Action for New Directions (WAND)



Julie leads WAND's Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Program, which empowers women politically, both in the U.S. and abroad with a focus on the Middle East/North Africa, as leaders on critical issues of conflict prevention, peace building, violence against women, and national and global security.

Prior to joining WAND, Julie worked with groups in the Great Lakes region of Africa to integrate gender equality and women's rights into post-conflict legal structures in order to further the women, peace and security framework. She has managed programs related to women's rights in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America, and has advised, trained, and published extensively on women's rights, human rights, women, peace and security, and human trafficking. Julie has worked with the Stockholm International Peace Institute – SIPRI North America, the US Institute of Peace, Freedom House, National Democratic Institute (NDI), the International Association of Women Judges, the American Association of People with Disabilities, Internews, and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.

Julie holds a J.D. in international human rights law from the University of Cincinnati College of Law and a Masters in International Relations and Communications from the Universidad Complutense of Madrid, Spain. She completed her undergraduate studies at Brandeis University.

Anna Mitri
Program Coordinator
Parliamentarians Network for Conflict Prevention, Regional Security Program
EastWest Institute (EWI)



Anna Mitri is Program Coordinator to the Parliamentarians Network for Conflict Prevention at the EastWest Institute (EWI). Prior to joining EWI, she worked as an intern and associate at Centre Européen de Recherches Internationales et Stratégiques (CERIS), a Brussels-based post-graduate school, for their MA program in Governance and Development Policy.

Anna holds a master's degree in European Studies, specializing in EU external relations, from the Catholic University of Louvain-la-Neuve in Belgium and a bachelor's degree in French-German Studies from the University of Regensburg in Germany and the University of Clermont-Ferrand in France. In addition to her native German, she is fluent in English, French and Dutch, and has working knowledge of Spanish.

Adzi Vokhiwa
Senior Program Associate
Women's Action for New Directions (WAND) & Women Legislators' Lobby (WiLL)



Adzi is responsible for assisting with the coordination and implementation of program and field work, including event planning, media publications, member recruitment, and outreach. Originally from Fort Collins, CO, Adzi formerly resided in Atlanta and graduated from Georgia State University, where she earned a B.S. in Public Policy with a Concentration in Planning & Economic Development.

Practical information

Airport pick-up

For participants who will arrive at **Casablanca** airport:

We will organize an airport pick-up. A person with a blue sign of the EastWest Institute will wait for you in the arrivals hall.

In case you cannot find the driver, please contact the hotel “Le Diwan” at (+212) 537 26 27 27.

For participants who will arrive at **Rabat** airport:

For those who will arrive on November 17 at 14:45, we will organize an airport pick-up. A person with a blue sign of the EastWest Institute will wait for you in the arrivals hall.

In case you cannot find the driver, please contact the hotel “Le Diwan” at (+212) 537 26 27 27.

Participants, who arrive at Rabat airport at another time than November 17 at 14:45, are kindly asked to take a taxi to the hotel. On your request, the organizers will reimburse this expense upon presentation of a valid receipt.

Airport drop-off

You will receive further information about your airport drop-off during the conference.

Reimbursement

Reimbursement for visa fees and taxi transport from the airport to the hotel will be done (upon presentation of a valid receipt) by cash during the conference days or via bank transfer.

Hotel and Conference Venue

Hotel Le Diwan
Place de l'Unité Africaine
10005 Rabat – Morocco
Tel. (+212) 537 26 27 27
Fax. (+212) 537 26 24 24

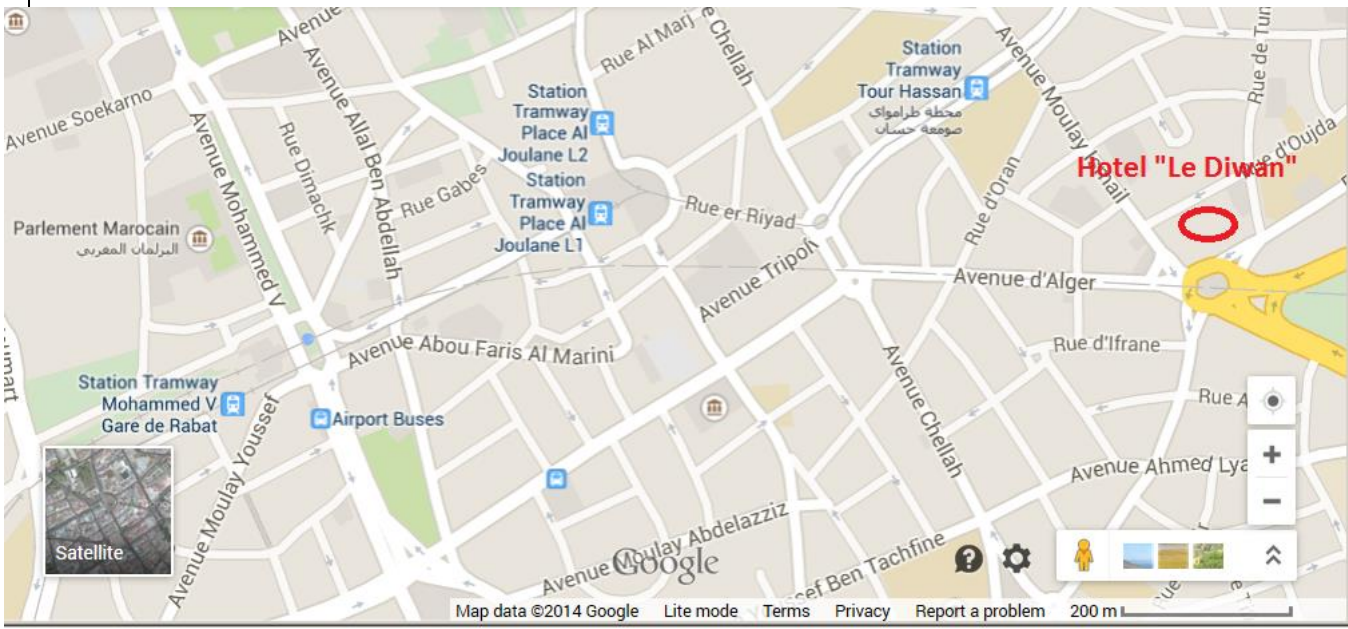
<http://www.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-2820-le-diwan-rabat-mgallery-collection/index.shtml>

If your taxi driver does not know the address, indicate that the hotel “Le Diwan” is located near the hotels “La Tour Hassan” and “Hotel Rabat”.

WiLL/WAND and the EastWest Institute’s Parliamentarians Network for Conflict Prevention will cover lunch and dinner for the duration of the conference.

Any extra hotel charges (such as additional meals, laundry, valet, telephone, mini-bar, etc.) shall be borne by the participant. Upon checking in, participants will be required to provide a credit card or cash deposit as a guarantee for extra charges.

Check-in time is from 14:00. Check-out time is 12:00 (noon).



Internet

The hotel “Le Diwan” offers wireless internet in rooms.

Important Notice Regarding Security

For security reasons, participants are obliged to carry their passport or other official identification document at all times.

The U.S. Consulate periodically sends out messages to alert the American Community in Morocco about security issues, Embassy and Consulate closures, and other information of interest. If you wish to receive these messages via email, please enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at <https://step.state.gov/step/>.

The United States warn its citizens of the continuing threat of terrorist actions and violence against U.S. citizens and interests throughout the world. According to the United Kingdom’s foreign travel advice, the Moroccan authorities have warned of an increased threat linked to the growing number of Moroccans belonging to international terrorist organizations operating in Syria and Iraq. In response they have put in place increased security measures and deployed additional security personnel throughout the country.

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For further details, please consult the website of the United States Diplomatic Mission to Morocco at http://morocco.usembassy.gov/service/emergency/emergency_us_citizens.html and the website of the government of the United Kingdom at <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/morocco>.

Please be aware that Rabat – like every large city – has petty criminals and pickpockets. Therefore, we advise you to keep a close eye on your personal belongings and not to leave them unattended.

Average Weather

Winters in Rabat (November to February) are generally mild with little precipitation. The average amount of rainfall for November is 22mm (about .87 inches). The temperature ranges from 10 to 18 degrees Celsius (50 to 64 degrees Fahrenheit), with slightly cooler temperatures possible at night.

BBC weather forecast for Rabat: <http://www.bbc.com/weather/2538476>.

Appropriate Dress for Women

Moroccan women wear the entire range from the traditional conservative djellabas or kaftans to blue jeans to Western business suits. Dress is modest with skirts at least knee-length or longer and shoulders covered. You should avoid tight-fitting clothing or low-cut tops. It is not necessary to cover your hair.

Currency

The currency of Morocco is the Moroccan Dirham (MAD or dh).

100 Santimat = 1 Dirham

Exchange rate: 1 U.S. dollar = 8.75 Moroccan Dirham; 1 Euro = 11.03 Moroccan Dirham

For the current exchange rate, please consult <http://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/>.

Electricity

The voltage in Morocco is generally 220 V, and outlets will fit the two-pin plug known as the Europlug. Europlugs are included in most international plug adapter kits. Most American appliances are made to use with 110V. That means that even with an adapter, plugging them into a 220V socket may damage them. If your appliance is "dual-voltage", it should be fine (it's designed for both 110 and 220V). If not, you will need a power converter as well as an adapter.

Tap Water

Moroccan tap water is considered to be relatively safe. While some travel guides say that tap water can generally be consumed (although the taste of the tap water in some cities may be unpalatable to some), others recommend that tourists drink bottled or boiled water only and avoid drinking from public fountains.

Tipping

You are expected to tip – among others – waiters in cafés (1dh per person) and restaurants (5dh or so in moderate places, 10-15 percent in upmarket places); museum and monument curators (3-5dh); and porters who load your baggage onto buses (5dh). Taxi drivers do not expect a tip, but always appreciate one.

Local Laws and Customs

Local laws reflect the fact that Morocco is an Islamic country. You should respect local traditions, customs, laws and religions at all times and be aware of your actions to ensure they do not offend. Homosexuality is a criminal offence in Morocco. Sexual relations outside marriage are also punishable by law. It is not uncommon for hotels to ask couples to show evidence of marriage at the time of check-in, and if such evidence is not available, to insist on separate rooms. It is against the law to carry bibles in Arabic, to attempt to distribute any non-Muslim or evangelical literature, or to be involved in any such activity. Since March 2010 and as recently as February 2014, several U.S. citizens have been expelled from Morocco for alleged proselytizing.

Photographing Sensitive Locations

Taking photographs of anything that could be perceived as being of military or security interest may result in problems with the authorities. As a general rule, you should not photograph palaces, diplomatic missions, government buildings, or other sensitive facilities and, when in doubt, you should ask for permission from the appropriate Moroccan authorities.

Organizers / Staff

Julie L. Arostegui, J.D.

Women, Peace and Security Policy Director Women's Action for New Directions & Women Legislators' Lobby

jarostegui@wand.org

Ph: +1 202-544-5055 ext. 2604

Mobile: +1 202-276-2363

Anna Mitri

Program Coordinator, Parliamentarians Network for Conflict Prevention, EastWest Institute

amitri@ewi.info

Ph: +32 2 743 4628

Mobile: +32 489 52 08 44

Adzi Vokhiwa

Senior Program Associate

Women's Action for New Directions & Women Legislators' Lobby

avokhiwa@wand.org

Ph: +1 202-544-5055 ext. 2603

Mobile: +1 404-934-8761

Tourist Attractions in Rabat

Chellah

In 1150, Romans abandoned the area to pursue more profitable olive productions more inland. Later, it was used as burial grounds for the royalty. Now, there is a series of gardens to accompany the ancient walls, tombstones, stone minaret, and mosque ruins.

Hassan Tower

The Almohad ruler Yaqub al-Mansur had the Hassan tower originally built as the minaret of a large mosque. Although the mosque was intended to be the second largest, when Yacoub Al Mansur died in 1199, the tower's construction stopped as well. In 1755, an earthquake destroyed the hall of the mosque, but the Tower and some ruins are still present. The unfinished Hassan Tower now stands at 44 meters, half of its intended height with ascending ramps intended to allow the Muezzin to ride a horse to the top to call for prayer.

Kasbah des Oudaias

The Kasbah de Oudaias, a neighborhood of Rabat, looks different from the rest of Rabat because of its distinct white and blue exterior on the buildings. This part of Rabat offers the most stunning views of the Atlantic Ocean and its neighboring city, Sale. You can take a stroll through the beautiful and fragrant Andalusian Gardens and visit the Oudaias Museum.

Medina of Rabat

Until the French expansion, the medina was the only part of Rabat. There are many traditional shops and cafes. You can do plenty of shopping in the medina of Rabat.

Mohamed V Mausoleum

Commissioned in 1962 by King Hassan II and completed in 1971, the Mohamed V Mausoleum now serves as a mosque and the burial grounds for Sultan Mohamed V and his two sons, King Hassan II and Prince Abdallah. King Hassan II intended it for his late father who ruled over Morocco for two terms (1927-1953 and 1957-1961) and was a significant part of Morocco's fight for independence. It is located in the Yacoub Al Mansour Square and stands across from the Hassan Tower. This holy site is open to the public.

Museum Mohammed VI of Modern and Contemporary Art (MMVI)

After 10 years of construction and many more years of plans and debates, the Museum Mohammed VI of Modern and Contemporary Art (MMVI) opened on October 7, 2014. Located in the city center of Rabat, the three-level building with a covered surface area of 9400 m², conceived by the architect Karim Chakor, provides space and infrastructure for a permanent collection and temporary exhibitions, auditorium, art & multimedia libraries, conservation lab, education department, offices, service, storage and technical areas, as well as a restaurant. As stated on the MMVI's Facebook in French, it is the first museum in Morocco dedicated entirely to modern and contemporary arts, and the first public institution following international museological standards. The Museum aims to cover the evolution of Moroccan artistic creation in the visual arts, from the beginning of the 20th century to our days.

Address: Angle Avenue Moulay El Hassan et Avenue Allal Ben Abdallah, Quartier Hassan, Rabat, Morocco
Ph: +212 5377-69047

Parliamentarians Network for Conflict Prevention (PN)

Founded in 2008 by the EastWest Institute and several of the world's renowned peacemakers, the Parliamentarians Network for Conflict Prevention mobilizes members in parliaments across the globe to find pioneering ways to prevent and end conflicts. As it emerges from its vibrant infancy, this non-partisan network continues to grow and welcomes current and former parliamentarians in regional, national or supranational parliaments. Learn more at <http://pncp.net/>.

Women's Action for New Directions (WAND) and Women Legislators' Lobby (WiLL)

For more than 30 years, Women's Action for New Directions (WAND) has educated the public, opinion leaders, and policymakers about the need to reduce violence and militarism and redirect excessive military spending toward unmet human and environmental needs. Since 2012, WAND's Women, Peace and Security (WPS) program has been working to increase women's political leadership on critical issues of conflict prevention, peace-making, peace-building, gender-based violence, and national and global security. Learn more at www.wand.org.

Women Legislators' Lobby (WiLL) is a national, nonpartisan network of women state legislators who work together to influence federal policy and budget priorities. Learn more at www.willwand.org.

The **Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)** is a political foundation with offices in Germany and abroad, working on over 200 projects in more than 120 countries. Our civic education programs aim at promoting freedom and liberty, peace, and justice. We focus on consolidating democracy, the unification of Europe and the strengthening of transatlantic relations, as well as on development cooperation. Learn more at <http://www.kas.de/wf/en/>.