

WOMEN AND WATER SECURITY FOR PEACEBUILDING IN THE ARAB REGION



INTEGRATING ACROSS THEMES

- Develop ways in which women are recognized as **agents of change**
 - Strengthen capacities of national and local governments to promote integrated gender programs
- **Share knowledge** and learning on innovative practices in engaging and empowering women, summarized in an edited **policy brief**
- Foster regional/multilateral **cooperation and partnerships** that support gender-sensitive water security in conflict and post-conflict contexts
- Within the UN, **increase inter-agency cooperation** to pursue women's empowerment and sustainable water management

Expected Outcomes of the Symposium

- **Audience:**
 - Policymakers in governments, international organizations, general public
- **Dissemination:**
 - Outreach to policymakers and media outlets in the Arab region
- **Content:**
 - Based on a synthesis of symposium's discussions and recommendations and expert inputs
 - Led by PWRC, together with UNDESA and UNESCWA, contributions by a writing team
- **Format:**
 - Professionally edited and designed
 - Disseminated electronically
 - (Arabic version? Printed copies?)

Symposium Output: Policy Brief

- Enabling policies for women as agents of change
- Awareness raising at the community level
- Utilize the SDG framework
- Integration across SDGs

Points to address

- What successes have been achieved within the Arab region in integrating gender and water security dimensions?
- Which approaches have been most successful in overcoming the social and cultural inertia around women's engagement?
- What is the role for regional and external organizations in re-shaping the policy landscape?

Enabling Policies for Women as Agents of Change

- How are the approaches to empower women as agents of change broadly viewed in the Arab societies?
- How best can the community level awareness-raising lead to practical information for women?
- How might we scale community-based action to correlate to supportive national and regional policies?
- Which are the most influential organizations in the Arab region?

Awareness Raising at the Community Level

- How can we ensure that the implementation of SDG5 and SDG 6 in the Arab region will produce mutually complementary results?
- What are the most significant roadblocks?
- What are the ways in which UN Member States can be facilitated and supported in achieving greater gender equity in their water policies?
- What are some of the best ways to mobilize resources – financial and technical?

- What are the ingredients for capacity development and supportive initiatives by the international community for ensuring integrated policy formulation and comprehensive SDG implementation?
- Are there elements of gender inclusion in the SDG implementation processes that are unique to the Arab region?
- What are the most effective modalities for engagement of international and UN organizations and agencies in integrated implementation of the SDGs?

Integration Across SDGs