



Founding Principles and Declaration of Intent of the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network

We, the members of the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network (MWMN), agree on the following “Founding Principles and Declaration of Intent”.

Founding Principle

The aim of the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network (MWMN), launched in Rome on 26 October 2017, is to contribute to the prevention of conflicts and to the achievement of sustainable peace, which is inclusive, egalitarian and embedded in international human rights law and international humanitarian law. To this end, the Network will actively support women’s effective participation in peace-making during the entire conflict cycle, in line with Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and related resolutions, as well as UN Secretary-General Guterres’ focus on mediation and conflict prevention.

The Network **brings together** women mediators and mediation experts from UN Member States as well as non-Member States with observer status to the UN located in the Mediterranean area, including some lacking a direct outlet to the Sea, which nonetheless belong to the Mediterranean history and culture.

MWMN’s mission: Building inclusive and long lasting peace for tomorrow

MWMN’s mission is to fulfill the imperative need to increase the number of women involved in peace-making efforts in the Mediterranean region, and to facilitate the appointment of women mediators, including in high ranking positions, at local and international level.

By bringing together a multigenerational group of women mediators and women mediation experts from the four shores of the Mediterranean Sea, the Network envisages to reduce and **fill a networking capacity gap in the Mediterranean area**, a key region for global peace and stability. In this particular area, with its complex socio-cultural context, women mediators can bring strategic knowledge and contribute to conflict resolution and sustainable peace, with a view to fostering security, including human security, and stability.

The activities of the Network will be carried out in close **synergy and coordination with other stakeholders and similar groups active in this field**, as appropriate and as relevant, including, *inter alia*, the African Women Mediators for Peace, the Nordic Women Mediators Network, and the Spanish/Moroccan MedMed initiative. The Network will also strive for a coherent approach in close cooperation with the UN (in particular, DPA, UN Women and the UN System Staff College), the European Union, OSCE, the African Union and the Arab League.

MWMN's objectives

In line with its mission, the MWMN will pursue the following objectives:

1. To strengthen women's participation in peace processes at all levels by:

- Addressing the causes of exclusion of women from formal mediation processes while recognizing the important contribution of informal women's peace initiatives;
- Promoting a stronger role for women in mediation and peace negotiations, not only at Track II and III level, but also at the more influential Track I level;
- Amplifying the voices, impact and presence at the peace negotiating table of women mediators and peacemakers in conflict affected areas;
- Advocating for all peace processes to be gender sensitive and gender inclusive;
- Generating more visibility for and raise awareness on the important role women mediators play in securing successful peace agreements by highlighting good practices of inclusive peace processes with sustainable outcomes, sharing and documenting lessons learned and developing innovative strategies;
- Seeking the support of governments and civil society organizations in building further synergies and partnerships, to ensure the utility and sustainability of the network, and to advocate for the adoption of relevant mechanisms, reforms and policy measures.

2. To build capacity of Mediterranean women involved in local, regional and international mediation efforts by:

- Engaging with Universities and Research Centers to promote gender sensitive research;
- Developing training *curricula* both in formal and informal education;
- Developing mentoring and leadership programs aimed at supporting local women peacemakers;
- Organising training for trainers and for women mediators, in cooperation with the UN and with civil society organisations, in order to contribute to expanding the UN-DPA managed roster of Mediation experts and other rosters at national level;
- Creating opportunities and providing incentives for women's involvement in international and regional organizations and in their high-level mediation missions.

3. To provide networking opportunities by:

- Creating synergies and partnerships with other mediation networks and with international, regional and sub-regional organizations active in the field of conflict prevention and resolution;
- Enabling the sharing of experiences and lessons learned, knowledge and expertise among women from the participating countries;
- Supporting members in developing joint activities among themselves and with external partners in order to promote gender inclusive peace activities;
- Supporting and contributing to policy discussions on increasing women's participation in mediation;
- Involving the media in communicating the added value of women's contribution to sustainable peace and ensuring visibility of women's peace initiatives.