

# SUSTAINABLE MEDITERRANEAN

MEDITERRANEE DURABLE • ΒΙΩΣΙΜΗ ΜΕΣΟΓΕΙΟΣ • MEDITERRANEO SOSTENIBILE

المتوسطة المستدامة

## Gender and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean

• • •

## Genre et Développement Durable en Méditerranée

Quarterly newsletter produced by the  
**Mediterranean Information Office**  
for **Environment, Culture** and  
**Sustainable Development**  
in collaboration with  
the **European Environmental**  
**Bureau** and  
the **Arab NGO Network for**  
**Environment and Development**

Issue no **43**  
3/2006

This issue of Sustainable Mediterranean was  
financed by **MIO-ECSDE** with the support of the  
European Commission.



## EDITORIAL

This issue of *Sustainable Mediterranean* is dedicated to particular on-going initiatives towards the promotion of gender mainstreaming and the enhancement of the role of women in the Euro-Mediterranean society.

Gender mainstreaming is a relatively new concept indicating the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in any area and at all levels. Indeed, it is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally, and inequality is not perpetuated.

The ultimate goal is to give value to differences and diversity and to achieve gender equality, securing that it becomes a full part of common policies.

As experience shows that there is still a long way to go towards this goal and that inequality and bias often continue being perpetrated towards women, the present issue focuses on particular events, actions and projects dealing specifically with the strengthening of women's role in the Euro-Mediterranean society.

Cette édition du bulletin *Méditerranée Durable* est dédiée à des initiatives en cours qui favorisent l'intégration de la dimension du genre et le renforcement du rôle de la femme dans la société euro-méditerranéenne.

L'intégration des questions liées au genre est un concept relativement neuf consistant de l'évaluation de la participation des femmes et des hommes à toute action planifiée, y compris la législation, les procédures ou les programmes dans tous les domaines et à tous les niveaux. Cette stratégie permet d'intégrer les préoccupations et les expériences des femmes et des hommes liées à la conception, à la mise en oeuvre, au contrôle et à l'évaluation des procédures et des programmes dans toutes les sphères politiques, économiques et sociales pour qu'ils en bénéficient de manière égale et que l'inégalité ne soit pas perpétuée.

L'objectif principal est de valoriser les différences et la diversité et d'obtenir l'égalité des genres, en assurant qu'elle devienne une partie intégrante des politiques communes.

Comme l'expérience montre qu'il y a encore beaucoup à faire pour atteindre ce but et que les femmes sont encore trop souvent victimes d'inégalités et de préjugés, cette édition présente des événements, activités et projets ayant spécifiquement trait au renforcement du rôle de la femme dans la société euro-méditerranéenne.



## CONTENTS

<p>■ <b>“STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY” AT EURO-MEDITERRANEAN LEVEL</b> <span style="float: right;">4</span></p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p>■ <b>SUBMISSION BY MIO-ECSDE, ENDA AND MEDNET AT THE EURO MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY</b> <span style="float: right;">4</span></p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p>■ <b>DOCUMENT SOUMIS PAR MIO-ECSDE, ENDA ET MEDNET A LA CONFÉRENCE EURO-MEDITERRANÉENNE SUR LE RENFORCEMENT DU RÔLE DE LA FEMME DANS LA SOCIÉTÉ • RABAT 14-16 JUNE</b> <span style="float: right;">7</span></p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p>■ <b>RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MARRAKECH EUROMED CIVIL FORUM</b> <span style="float: right;">10</span></p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/>	<p>■ <b>RECOMMANDATIONS POUR LA CONFÉRENCE EURO MÉDITERRANÉENNE D’ISTANBUL</b> <span style="float: right;">11</span></p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p>■ <b>MINISTERIAL CONCLUSIONS ON STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY</b> <span style="float: right;">12</span></p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p>■ <b>MAINSTREAMING GENDER DIMENSIONS INTO WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION (GEWAMED)</b> <span style="float: right;">15</span></p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p>■ <b>INTÉGRATION DE LA DIMENSION DE GENRE DANS LE DÉVELOPPEMENT ET LA GESTION DES RESSOURCES EN EAU DANS LA RÉGION MÉDITERRANÉENNE (GEWAMED)</b> <span style="float: right;">17</span></p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/>
--	--

The views and opinions expressed in *Sustainable Mediterranean* by individual contributors do not necessarily reflect those of MIO-ECSDE or those of our sponsors.

## **“Strengthening the Role of Women in Society” at Euro-Mediterranean Level**

In the Commission’s Communication to the Council and the Parliament of 12 April 2005 the idea of holding a Ministerial Conference on “Strengthening the Role of Women in Society” at Euro-Mediterranean Level was launched. Coinciding with the momentum reached in the region concerning the ongoing reform processes as well as the international political context, an opportunity was provided to establish an appropriate framework to help advance the implementation of the provisions stated in the 1995 Barcelona Declaration regarding gender issues.

Guidelines for the improvement of women’s status and situation in the Euro-Mediterranean area were developed by the inclusion of specific actions in the Five-year work plan adopted at the Barcelona Summit of Heads of State and Government, in November 2005. This attested to the commitment of partner countries to *Increase the participation of women in decision-making in political, social, cultural and economic positions...Euro-Mediterranean Partners will take measures to achieve gender equality, preventing all forms of discrimination and ensuring the protection of the rights of women.*”

The Ministerial Conference on “Strengthening the Role

of Women in Society”, that recently took place in Istanbul on 13/14 November, 2006, aimed at issuing concrete and practical proposals for actions on the matter of gender issues. The conference discussions were structured around three main subject areas identified during the Barcelona +10 Conference on Women. They are the following:

- 1) Women’s rights as a guarantee of human rights and deepening democracy;
- 2) Women’s access to education and employment;
- 3) The role of culture and the media as key-instruments for changing perceptions of gender.

The Ministerial Conference was prepared during a Conference in Rabat (Morocco), 14 – 16 June, 2006, which included government, civil society, academic and media responsible for gender issues from the Euromed region. This preparatory debate was prepared by research and analysis undertaken by three leading Euro-Mediterranean institutes. Research papers from EuroMeSCo, Femise, and the Anna Lindh Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures helped the discussions in Rabat. The research papers of these three institutes are available on line: The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership - Euromed and Women - documents



### **SUBMISSION BY MIO-ECSDE, ENDA and MEDNET at the Euro Mediterranean Conference on the Role of Women in Society Rabat 14-16 June**

This statement is submitted by three of the members of the Comité de Suivi<sup>1</sup>, a network of Mediterranean environmental NGO networks, representing several hundred organizations from North and South Mediterranean countries.

*For nearly 10 years, the Comité de Suivi network of seven Mediterranean environmental NGO networks has campaigned for the mainstreaming of sustainable development, including related gender issues into the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership*

<sup>1</sup> Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED), Environment and Development Action in the Third World (ENDA), European Environmental Bureau (EEB), Friends of the Earth (FoE/MedNet Programme), Mediterranean NGO Network for Ecology and Sustainable Development (MEDForum), Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), WWF Mediterranean Programme (WWF MedPO)

## INTRODUCTION

We welcome the organisation of this conference, while regretting that it takes place in Year 11 of the Euro Mediterranean Partnership, rather than year 1, which would have been just after the 1995 United Nations World Conference on the Advancement of Women in Beijing - surely the right moment to launch a Mediterranean Strategy for Women..

We wish to raise three points: a) the issue of sustainable development, b) the gender impacts of the proposed Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area and c) the need to mainstream gender and sustainable development considerations throughout all EMP programmes, policies and financial operations.

**1. Sustainable development** can be defined as the balance between economic, social and environmental objectives involving gender equity, full respect of human rights, participatory governance, and the management of natural resources to ensure their continued availability to future generations.

All EMP states have made broad international commitments at the United Nations to sustainable development, most recently at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, 2002, within the UN Millennium Development Goals of 2000, as re-endorsed at the UN Summit last September (2005). The European Union is expected to adopt a revised version of its Sustainable Development Strategy at its Council meeting on 15 and 16 June in Brussels.

EMP states have also made a regional commitment – under the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), 2005. Last November, in Barcelona, the Euro-Mediterranean Summit of the Heads of State and Government (Barcelona + 10) agreed to implement the MSSD which had been adopted earlier that month by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (the European Community, seven EU Mediterranean states, and sixteen south and eastern Mediterranean nations.) *The CdS campaigned throughout 2005 for the Summit to issue its strong support to MSSD (which did not appear probable at the start of the year).* [http://www.unepmap.org/Archivio/All\\_Languages/WebDocs/documents/mssd\\_eng.pdf](http://www.unepmap.org/Archivio/All_Languages/WebDocs/documents/mssd_eng.pdf)

The MSSD aims to place sustainable development at the heart of the Partnership, and ensure that the present unsustainable trends within our region, whether in terms of natural resource use, environmental degradation, or extensive poverty, are replaced by a sustainable future. The

strategy covers seven key areas of action, and incorporates commitments to gender equality, equity and mainstreaming. Mediterranean environmental NGOs played a key role in persuading governments to adopt these gender commitments.

The MSSD is also the overall regional holistic framework within which national strategies for sustainable development (NSSDs) are being developed. Progress in achieving MSSD goals is to be monitored yearly by the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD), whose membership includes 5 seats for NGOs, and every two years by the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

**Yet, none of the oral presentations or documents for this conference make any mention of the MSSD, nor address the many critical environmental problems facing the citizens of the Mediterranean, and in particular its women.** Such as access to water, and soil and biodiversity in rural areas.

**2. The sustainable development/gender impacts of the proposed Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area.** While welcoming the FEMISE report, we are concerned at the summary treatment of the key issue of trade liberalization in the Mediterranean. (paragraph 31), which moreover presents this as an entirely beneficial process.

The FEMISE report does not address in concrete terms the proposal for full free trade in the Mediterranean area by 2010 (the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area) contained in the Barcelona Declaration (1995), and makes no mention of the Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) of the EMFTA, which the European Commission entrusted to the University of Manchester in 2003. The SIA EMFTA's interim conclusions indicate that marginal gains in economic welfare (less than 1% of GDP) from full free trade would be accompanied by major adjustment costs, job losses and environmental dislocations in South Mediterranean countries. <http://www.sia-trade.org/emfta/en/> also in French and Arabic.

The SIA-EMFTA Phase II report warns of: “adverse effects on the status, living standards and health of rural women, associated with accelerated conversion from traditional to commercial agriculture... changes employment levels by number of women, skill level geographic location”.

Quoting United Nations research, including the Arab Women's Report, the University further warns **that other trade liberalization experiences have not improved the situation of women or their employment condi-**

tions overall, since they have borne most of the costs of economic adjustment, and assumed more welfare activities due to reductions in social security expenditures.

The final recommendations of the SIA EMFTA will be issued by March 2007 – but meanwhile the EMP governments have already launched this March wide-ranging trade liberalization negotiations in agriculture and services to complement liberalization in industrial goods trade already underway. *In a letter to the 35 Euromed Trade ministers, the CdS urged that these negotiations be frozen* The CdS is actively involved in the stakeholder consultation aspects of SIA-EMFTA campaigning for the full incorporation of the SIA EMFTA recommendations into trade negotiations, and we are encouraged by the recent concern about impacts shown by the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly (EMPA).

A central concern of the CdS is the possible effects of EMFTA on both the environment, in particular, soil, water and biodiversity resources and poverty levels in the region. The SIA EMFTA states that “long term effects on poverty are expected to be small but positive, arising primarily from better economic performance overall. In the short term, the liberalisation of distribution services may have adverse effects if not appropriately mitigated, through loss of employment in small retail outlets.”

As regards poverty, we would have welcomed a clearer focus from FEMISE on the problems facing those 100 million south Mediterraneans with less than \$2 a day income and how each Millennium Development Goal can be reached in the South by 2015. The struggle for survival of rural women, who vastly outnumber men in the South’s rural regions, is of particular concern, especially in view of the threat to so many of their livelihoods – such as they are - of agricultural trade liberalisation.

As stated by the SIA EMFTA: “The changes in production patterns may have significant gender impacts. In many MPCs (such as Morocco, Tunisia, Syria and Egypt), a large proportion of rural women work in traditional food production and are unpaid 48 . The commercial farms which are most likely to benefit from the export opportunities tend to employ a smaller proportion of women, as waged labour. Depending on local cultural factors, some export products such as fruit and flowers may employ a larger female workforce, but in conditions that may be less healthy and provide a poorer standard of living than traditional agriculture. Adverse effects of this nature occurred in Mexico after introduction of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) 49 , and similar impacts were identified in EU’s SIA of the EUChile trade agreement “

**3. The need for gender mainstreaming within the Euromed Partnership.** The CdS/ has been lobbying for gender mainstreaming and sustainable development mainstreaming throughout Partnership activities, since the EMP was launched in 1995. We welcome the strong call for gender mainstreaming in the EUROMESCO report. To date, neither gender nor sustainable development have been given adequate consideration – in several cases NO consideration - in the majority of the EMP’s sectoral activities – the ministerial conferences on trade, energy, industry, etc.

There is also a significant ‘gender and sustainable development’ deficit in the Mediterranean lending of the European Investment Bank and under the soon-defunct MEDA programme. How these issues are to be addressed under the new European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) is not known so far.

Moreover, present mechanisms under the Association Agreements and the European Neighbourhood Action Plans already adopted for six South Mediterranean countries do not offer any real opportunity for civil society consultation or participation in implementation.

## CONCLUDING RECOMMENDATIONS

We therefore submit to this conference in Rabat the following recommendations for inclusion in its final statement: This conference in Rabat should:

- invite the University of Manchester to **submit interim findings** on the gender impacts of trade liberalization, derived from its on-going Sustainability Impact Assessment, to the Istanbul conference.
- Invite the Istanbul conference to institute a follow-up mechanism, with full civil society participation, to monitor implementation of the SIA EMFTA recommendations relating to gender issues
- invite participants present in Rabat to develop contacts amongst themselves with a view to forming a **network on gender and sustainable development in the Mediterranean to monitor developments** at both national and regional levels.
- recommend that the title of the ministerial conference in Istanbul should be changed from the ‘strengthening the role of women in society’ to **‘ensuring the role of women in Mediterranean sustainable development’**. *As we have explained, sustainable development fully incorporates the concept of role ‘in society’ as one of its components.*
- Recommend to the Istanbul conference that it launch a **roadmap for the implementation of the gender aspects of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustain-**

able Development, and within that context, of the UN Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

- Recommend that the Istanbul conference should **mandate full gender mainstreaming** throughout the Euromed. Partnership programmes, activities, financial activities, including within the European Neighbourhood Policy, with a progress report to be made to each Conference of Foreign Ministers.
- Recommend that the above progress report above

should also **track progress at national level** on gender issues, and in particular to status of women in all key aspects (economic, social, human rights, educational).

Document presented by Vanya Walker-Leigh. Senior Advisor, MIO-ESCDE. [vanyaluc@waldonet.net.met](mailto:vanyaluc@waldonet.net.met)  
Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development, Athens.

## DOCUMENT SOUMIS PAR MIO-ECSDE, ENDA et MEDNET

**A la Conférence Euro-Méditerranéenne sur le Renforcement du Rôle de la Femme dans la Société** • Rabat 14-16 June

*Depuis bientôt dix ans, ces réseaux font campagne, comme membres du réseau de réseaux d'ONGs environnementales méditerranéennes 'Le Comité de Suivi', en faveur de la pleine prise en compte des aspects de développement durable, y compris les aspects 'genre' au sein du Partenariat Euro-Méditerranéen (PEM).*

### INTRODUCTION

Tout en approuvant l'organisation de cette conférence, nous regrettons qu'elle ait lieu en l'an 11 du Partenariat Euro-Méditerranéen, et non pas en l'An 1, juste après la conférence des Nations Unies à Beijing sur l'Avancement de la Femme de 1995. Le moment juste sans doute pour avoir lancé une stratégie méditerranéenne pour la femme.

Nous voulons soulever trois points: a) la question du développement durable b) les impacts 'genre' de la Zone de Libre Echange Euro-Méditerranéenne proposée pour 2010 c) le besoin d'intégrer pleinement les aspects genre à travers toutes les activités, programmes, politiques et financements du PEM.

1. **Le développement durable** peut se définir comme étant l'équilibre entre des objectifs économiques, sociaux et environnementaux ; un équilibre qui comprend également l'équité 'genre', le plein respect des droits humains, la gouvernance participative, et la gestion des ressources naturelles pour en assurer la disponibilité pour les générations futures. **Tous les pays membres du PEM ont as-**

**sumé des engagements internationaux sur le développement durable au sein des Nations Unies**, au Sommet Mondial sur le Développement Durable en 2002, ainsi que dans le cadre des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement (OMD) des Nations Unies de 2000, confirmés au sommet des Nations Unies en septembre dernier. L'Union Européenne adoptera une version révisée de sa propre stratégie au cours du Conseil du 15-16 juin. Les pays du PEM ont également assumé un engagement régional – dans le cadre de **la Stratégie Méditerranéenne pour le Développement Durable (SMDD), 2005**. [http://www.unepmap.org/Archivio/All\\_Languages/WebDocs/documents/mssd\\_eng.pdf](http://www.unepmap.org/Archivio/All_Languages/WebDocs/documents/mssd_eng.pdf)

En novembre dernier à Barcelone, le Sommet des chefs d'état et de gouvernement du PEM se sont accordés pour mettre en œuvre la SMDD, qui avait été adoptée précédemment par les Parties Contractantes de la Convention de Barcelone, (L'Union Européenne, sept états membres méditerranéens, Monaco, 13 pays du sud et de l'est méditerranéen). *Le CdS a fait campagne tout au long de 2005 pour que le Sommet déclare un fort appui à la SMDD – ce qui ne paraissait pas probable au début de l'année*

La SMDD se donne comme objectif primordial l'instauration du développement durable comme le principe conducteur du PEM, pour assurer que les tendances non durables de la région, que cela soit en termes d'utilisation des ressources naturelles, de la dégradation de l'environnement, ou de la pauvreté endémique, cèdent le pas à un avenir durable. La Stratégie couvre sept champs

d'action principaux ; elle englobe également l'égalité de genre, l'équité et la pleine prise en compte des aspects genre dans toutes les politiques sectorielles. *Le Comité de Suivi a joué un rôle clef pour persuader les gouvernements d'adopter ces engagements 'genre'.*

**La SMDD est aussi un cadre holistique régionale à l'intérieur duquel s'élaborent les stratégies nationales de développement durable.** Le progrès accompli vers l'atteinte des objectifs de la SMDD sera évalué annuellement par la Commission Méditerranéenne pour le Développement Durable, intégrée par cinq représentants des ONGs, en plus de 21 gouvernements, l'UE et les représentants de l'industrie et des autorités locales. Une évaluation bisannuelle sera effectuée par la conférence des Parties Contractantes de la Convention de Barcelone.

**Néanmoins, aucune des présentations orales, aucun des documents de cette conférence font mention de la SMDD, ni s'adressent aux nombreux problèmes environnementaux affrontés par les méditerranéens, et particulièrement par les femmes – tels que l'accès à l'eau, la dégradation du sol et de la biodiversité dans les zones rurales.**

## **2. Les impacts sur le développement durable/genre de la Zone de Libre Echange Euro-Méditerranéenne.**

Tout en accueillant le rapport FEMISE, nous sommes préoccupés par le fait que la question-clé de la libéralisation des échanges soit traitée d'une façon sommaire (page 31), présentée, qui plus est, comme un processus entièrement bénéfique.

Le rapport FEMISE ne s'adresse pas en termes concrets à l'établissement de la ZLEEM en 2010 dont fait état la Déclaration de Barcelone de 1995. Ce rapport ne mentionne pas non plus **l'Etude d'Impact de Durabilité de la ZLEEM, que la Commission Européenne (l'AIDCO même) a confié à l'Université de Manchester en 2003.** <http://www.sia-trade.org/emfta/en/> (existe en version française et arabe). Les conclusions intérimaires de cette étude indiquent des gains marginaux en termes de bien-être économique (moins de +1% du PIB) comme résultat de la libéralisation des échanges régionaux, gains que seraient accompagnés dans les pays de la Méditerranée Sud par des coûts importants d'ajustement, pertes d'emplois et dislocations environnementaux.

Notamment, en qui concernent les femmes, l'étude d'impact indique : *Des effets négatifs sur le statut, le niveau de vie et la santé des femmes rurales, associés à la conversion accélérée de l'agriculture traditionnelle vers l'agriculture commerciale....Des changements des niveaux*

*d'emploi des femmes, des niveaux de formation et de localisation géographique..*

L'Université cite des recherches en cours aux Nations Unies y compris le rapport sur la Femme Arabe selon lesquels **d'autres expériences de libéralisation des échanges n'ont pas amélioré la situation des femmes puisqu'elles ont assumé la plupart des coûts d'ajustement économique et pris en charge davantage de responsabilités sociales dû la réduction des dépenses publiques de sécurité sociale.**

Les recommandations finales de l'Etude seront émises en mars 2007 – mais entretemps les gouvernements des PEM ont lancé au mois de mars 2006 des négociations pour la libéralisation du commerce des produits agricoles et des services, pour accompagner la libéralisation déjà en cours du commerce des produits industriels. *Dans une lettre adressée aux 35 ministres de commerce le Comité de Suivi a demandé que ces négociations soient congelées jusqu'à la publication des résultats de l'Etude d'impact. Le CdS est actif dans les consultations des parties prenantes de l'Etude, et fait campagne pour que les recommandations de l'Etude soient pleinement incorporées dans les négociations. A cet égard, nous sommes encouragés par les récentes prises de position de l'Assemblée parlementaire Euro-Méditerranéenne.*

La préoccupation centrale di Comité de Suivi... concerne les effets possibles de la ZLEEM sur à la fois l'environnement – et notamment les sols, l'eau et la biodiversité – ainsi que sur les niveaux de pauvreté dans la région. Toujours selon l'étude d'impact **«les effets à long terme sur la pauvreté sont prévus comme minimes, mais positifs comme résultat de meilleures performances économiques dans l'ensemble. Dans le court terme, la libéralisation des services de distribution pourrait avoir des effets négatifs à défaut de mesures de compensation, à travers la perte d'emploi dans le petit commerce de détail.»**

En ce qui concerne la pauvreté, nous aurions préféré voir une attention plus claire de la part de la FEMISE sur les problèmes affrontés par les 100 millions de sud-méditerranéens avec des revenus en-dessous de 2 dollars par jour, ainsi que sur les voies à suivre pour que tous les OMD soient atteints dans la région en 2015. La lutte pour la survie des femmes rurales, qui dépassent de loin le nombre d'hommes dans les campagnes du sud, est un problème dramatique, en vue de la menace à leurs maigres sources de revenu de la libéralisation des échanges de produits agricoles.

Selon l'Etude d'Impact: **'les changements dans l'organisation de la production pourraient avoir des effets 'genre'**



considérables. Dans beaucoup de pays du Sud (comme le Maroc, la Tunisie, la Syrie, l’Égypte) une grande proportion des femmes travaille dans le secteur alimentaire traditionnel et ne sont pas rémunérées. Les exploitations commerciales de grande taille pourraient bénéficier des opportunités d’exportation, employant une proportion moins importante de femmes comme salariées. En fonction des facteurs locaux culturels, quelques produits d’exportation tels que les fruits et les fleurs pourraient employer davantage de femmes, mais sous des conditions que pourraient être moins salubres et offrir un niveau de vie moins élevée que l’agriculture traditionnelle. Des effets négatifs de ce type se sont produits au Mexique suite à la mise en vigueur de l’Accord de Libre Echange de l’Amérique du Nord (NAFTA) et des effets semblables ont été identifiés par l’étude d’impact de l’accord UE-Chili.

**3. Le besoin impératif d’intégrer pleinement les aspects ‘genre’ à travers toutes les activités du PEM.** Depuis 1995, le CdS a fait campagne en faveur l’intégration des aspects de développement durable et de genre au sein du PEM. Nous accueillons favorablement l’appel du rapport EUROMESCO dans ce sens. **Jusqu’à maintenant les deux aspects n’ont pas reçu suffisamment d’attention – dans plusieurs cas AUCUNE attention – au sein de la majorité des activités sectorielles du PEM, notamment les conférences ministérielles sur le commerce, l’énergie, l’industrie, l’agriculture etc**

Nous constatons un déficit semblable dans les opérations de prêt en Méditerranée de la Banque d’Investissements Européenne et sous le programme MEDA, qui disparaîtra bientôt. On ne connaît pas la façon dont ces aspects seront traités sous l’Instrument Européen de Voisinage et Partenariat (2007-2013).

De surcroît, les mécanismes existants sous les Accords d’Association et les Plans d’Action conclus sous la Politique Européenne de Voisinage n’offrent aucune possibilité de consultation de la société civile ni de sa participation dans leur mise en œuvre.

## RECOMMANDATIONS FINALES

Les organisations signataire soumettent donc à cette conférence à Rabat les recommandations suivantes à être incluses dans sa déclaration finale.

Cette conférence devrait:

- Inviter l’Université de Manchester à soumettre à la Conférence d’Istanbul ses conclusions intérimaires sur les impacts ‘genre’ de la libéralisation des échanges en Méditerranée, issues de l’Etude d’Impact sur la Durabilité de la ZLEEM,
- Inviter la conférence d’Istanbul d’instituer un mécanisme de suivi, avec la pleine participation de la société civile, pour surveiller la mise en oeuvre des recommandations dudit étude relatives aux aspects ‘genre’.
- Inviter les participants à la conférence de Rabat à nouer des contacts entre eux/elles en vue d’établir un réseau sur genre et développement durable en Méditerranée pour surveiller l’évolution de ces questions au niveau national et international.
- Recommander que le titre de la conférence d’Istanbul soit modifié, pour devenir ‘assurer le rôle des femmes dans le développement durable en Méditerranée’. (comme indiqué plus haut, le concept de développement durable englobe pleinement l’idée de ‘rôle dans la société’)
- Recommander que la Conférence d’Istanbul lance un appel pour la pleine prise en compte des aspects ‘genre’ à travers tous les activités/programmes/financements Euro-Méditerranéens y compris au sein de la Politique Européenne de Voisinage, accompagné d’un rapport soumis à chaque conférence des ministres des affaires étrangères.
- Recommander que ledit rapport devrait également rendre compte des progrès au niveau national, et en particulier en ce qui concerne le statut de la femme dans tous ses aspects principaux (économiques, sociaux, droits humains, éducatifs)

Document présenté au Groupe de Travail 2 par : Vanya Walker-Leigh, Senior Advisor, MIO-ECSDE. [vanyaluc@waldonet.net.mt](mailto:vanyaluc@waldonet.net.mt)  
Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development, Athens. 12 Kyrristou St. Athens 10556, GREECE. [www.mio-ecsde.org](http://www.mio-ecsde.org)



## RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MARRAKECH EUROMED CIVIL FORUM

**(4-7 November 2006) to the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference in Istanbul (14 - 15 November 2006) aimed at adopting a five-year action plan for strengthening the role of women in society**

Participants gathered at the EuroMed Civil Forum in Marrakech, 4-7 November 2006, discussed how to strengthen the role of women in society, and how equality between sexes and promoting and protecting women's rights is fundamental to the implementation of democracy, respect for human rights and lasting development in the Euro-Mediterranean countries.

The participants wish to remind the government representatives of their state's obligations, notably to:

- ★ Reaffirm their commitment to promote the principle and fundamental right of equality between men and women and act in accordance with international conventions relating to women's human rights and more specifically CEDAW ; the Beijing Declaration, the Barcelona Declaration, the conclusions and five year action plan adopted at the Barcelona Summit, 28 November 2005
- ★ Reaffirm the indivisibility and universality of human rights as well as the supremacy of international conventions over domestic laws;

### The participants ask that

- ▲ All states participating in the Barcelona Process should lift their reservations to CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women), bring their domestic laws and policies into line with the dispositions of this convention and proceed to ratify its optional protocol.

- ▲ The EU and the Partner states to fight all forms of discrimination and violence against women, including in the couple and the family, - while respecting human rights and stop treating women's rights essentially as a matter of « religious norms and cultural traditions».
- ▲ For the full integration of the gender dimension in all policies, programmes and projects of the EU, EMP and the ENP, at both the national and regional level. At the same time, affirmative action and programmes specifically directed at women must be established.
- ▲ the Partner states promote full participation, information and genuine consultation in the decision making process, at all levels and all pertinent mechanisms, with independent civil society, in particular associations promoting and protecting women's rights,

### The participants request that:

- ▼ The five-year plan be clear, explicit and specific about its objectives and conforms with principles of equality mentioned above;
- ▼ The conference sets-up a follow-up mechanism to the recommended measures in the five-year action plan, as well as a financial programme allowing the achievement of its objectives;
- ▼ Levels of responsibility for implementing the various measures recommended in this action plan as well as a time schedule are clearly identified.

## **RECOMMANDATIONS POUR LA CONFÉRENCE EURO MÉDITERRANÉENNE D'ISTANBUL,**

**le 14 - 15 Novembre 2006, pour l'adoption d'un plan d'Action quinquennal visant le renforcement du rôle des femmes dans la société**

Les participants et participantes du Forum Civil de Marrakech (du 4 au 7 Novembre 2006) ont discuté du renforcement du rôle des femmes dans la société et de l'égalité des genres et la promotion et la protection des droits des femmes en tant que condition sine qua non de la démocratie, du respect des droits humains et du développement durable dans les pays euroméditerranéens.

Les participants tiennent à rappeler aux représentants des gouvernements les obligations qui sont les leurs, à savoir :

- ★ Réaffirmer leurs engagements à promouvoir les principes et droits fondamentaux de l'égalité entre les hommes et les femmes et agir conformément aux conventions internationales relatives aux droits des femmes et plus particulièrement la CEDAW, la déclaration de Pékin, la déclaration de Barcelone de 1995, les conclusions et le plan d'action quinquennal adopté au Sommet de Barcelone le 28 Novembre 2005.
- ★ Réaffirmer l'indivisibilité et l'universalité des droits humains ainsi que la suprématie des conventions internationales sur les lois internes.

### **Les participants demandent :**

- ▲ Aux Etats participants au Processus de Barcelone de lever leurs réserves sur la CEDAW (Convention sur l'élimination de toutes les formes de Discrimination à l'égard des femmes), de conformer leurs législations et lois internes avec les dispositions de cette convention et de procéder à la ratification de son protocole optionnel.
- ▲ A l'UE et aux Etats partenaires de combattre toute

forme de discrimination et de violence, y compris domestique et conjugale à l'égard des femmes, dans le cadre du respect des droits humains et mettre fin au traitement des droits des femmes en les considérant essentiellement du point de vue des « normes religieuses et de traditions culturelles ».

- ▲ L'intégration entière de la dimension du genre dans toutes les politiques, tous les programmes et les projets de l'UE, du PEM et de la PEV et ce à la fois au niveau national et régional. Simultanément, des actions affirmatives et des programmes spécifiquement destinés aux femmes devraient être mis en place.
- ▲ Aux Etats Partenaires de favoriser la pleine participation, information et consultation effective, de la société civile indépendante et notamment les associations de promotion et protection des droits des femmes, au processus décisionnel à tous les niveaux et par les mécanismes appropriés.

### **Les participants demandent que :**

- ▼ La conférence adopte un plan d'action clair et explicite sur des objectifs conformes aux principes égalitaires précités.
- ▼ La conférence instaure des mécanismes de suivi des mesures recommandés dans un plan d'action quinquennal ainsi que dans un programme financier permettant d'atteindre ses objectifs.
- ▼ L'identification claire d'un agenda de réalisation des différentes mesures préconisées dans ce plan d'action et des niveaux de responsabilité de leur mise en œuvre.



## Ministerial Conclusions on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society

1. The partners at the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on “Strengthening the Role of Women in Society”, held on 14-15 November 2006 in Istanbul under the auspices of Finland’s EU Presidency, based on their shared international, regional and national commitments<sup>2</sup>, agreed to work within the following common framework of action to strengthen women’s role in political, civil, social, economic and cultural spheres, as well as to fight against discrimination.

2. The Conference was held in accordance with the Barcelona Declaration of 1995 and the Five Year Work Programme agreed upon during the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Euro-Mediterranean Summit in Barcelona 2005. It was then stated that partners would adopt "measures to achieve gender equality, preventing all forms of discrimination and ensuring the protection of the rights of women", while taking stock of the Rabat Preparatory Conference that was held on 14-16 June 2006.

3. Euro-Mediterranean Ministers stress that equal participation of women and men in all spheres of life is a crucial element of democracy and confirm that only by the inclusion of all people and determined action will the region’s women be able to fulfil their ambitions and aspirations and, by extension, contribute towards the realisation of the underlying objectives of the Barcelona Declaration: the attainment of a common area of peace, stability and shared prosperity in the Mediterranean region. This goal, based inter alia on democracy, respect for human rights and sustainable development, can only be achieved by guaranteeing all women full enjoyment of rights.

4. The Euro-Mediterranean partners will include women’s political, civil, social, economic and cultural rights in their dialogues including in the framework of the Association Agreements, the European Neighbourhood Policy action plans and in the EU programs and projects.

5. In this framework, the Ministers recognise that a strengthened dialogue and cooperation between governmental and non-governmental actors across the Euro-Mediterranean region is necessary. This will include the promotion of dialogue between Parliamentarians within the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, as well as with civil society organizations, women’s associations, youth, trade unions, business and professional associations, in accordance with national legislation as appropriate and cooperation between national, regional and local administrations.

6. All Euro-Mediterranean partners commit themselves to mobilise financial resources to support the implementation of this Framework of Action. In addition to national funding, the European Union will provide adequate resources for its implementation at national and regional levels through technical and financial assistance provided through the European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument (ENPI), bilateral contributions from EU Member States, FEMIP and other relevant financial instruments.

7. Recognising that the International Covenants on Human Rights include the obligation to ensure the equal rights of men and women to enjoy all economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights, the Euro-Mediterranean partners will embrace this holistic approach based on the

---

2. Those include inter alia:

The Treaty establishing the European Community (1957);  
The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), 1979;  
The Programme of Action of the United Nations International Conference on Population & Development in Cairo (1994)  
The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995);  
The Cairo Declaration issued by the First Arab Women’s Summit (2000);  
The Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals (2000);  
UNSCR 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security;  
The Arab Women’s Organisation Plan of action (2001);  
The Tunis Declaration adopted at the 2004 Summit of the Arab League;  
The Alger Declaration adopted at the 2005 Summit of the Arab League;  
The outcome of the twenty-third special session of the United Nations General Assembly and the Declaration of the Commission on the Status of Women at its 49th session (March 2005, Beijing +10)  
The Khartoum Declaration adopted at the 2006 Summit of the Arab League;  
The European Consensus on Development (2006);  
The National Constitutions of the partner countries which recognise the principle of non discrimination against women.

following interdependent and interlinked priorities:

- Women's political and civil rights;
- Women's social and economic rights and sustainable development;
- Women's rights in the cultural sphere and the role of communications and the mass media.

8. The Euro-Mediterranean partners, according to the shared internationally agreed commitments, will pursue the objective of strengthening the role of women through mainstreaming of full enjoyment of human rights by women and needs into all plans, projects and other relevant activities of the Euro Mediterranean Partnership and supporting specific measures in favour of women.

9. Euro-Mediterranean Ministers call on the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference in Tampere (Barcelona VIII) to welcome these commitments and to agree on regularly review of progress.

The Euro-Mediterranean Ministers agreed upon the following Framework of Action:

## **WOMEN'S POLITICAL AND CIVIL RIGHTS**

10. In accordance with the spirit and the letter of the Barcelona Declaration and the Five-Year Work Program, the Euro-Mediterranean partners will work towards taking measures that:

- a) Enable the full and effective implementation and translation into legislative and policy reform of UN conventions related to human rights of women to which they are party, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol.
- b) Provide equal access for women and men to justice at all levels.
- c) Combat all forms of violence against women, guarantee women protection and redress in case of violation of their rights; protect the fundamental rights of women victims of all forms of violence, especially domestic violence, trafficking in human beings, harmful traditional practices and violence against migrant women.
- d) Enhance women's full and equal participation in conflict prevention, crisis management and peace-building, inter alia through implementing United Nations resolutions including Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.
- e) Develop a better knowledge of women in conflict areas and increase protection and awareness of women and their rights in any war, foreign occupation or violent conflict; alleviate the negative effects of armed conflicts on the status of women in the region, promote

their legal rights and prevent incitement and recruitment for terrorist acts.

- f) Ensure that law enforcement authorities are aware of and implement human rights of women. Promote exchange of views and experiences on issues related to the fight against discrimination against women.
- g) Foster the role of civil society organizations, particularly women's organizations, in accordance with national legislation as appropriate, as well as Parliaments and local authorities, in the defense and promotion of women's rights. Contribute to strengthening the capacity of and networking among civil society organizations active in the protection and the promotion of full enjoyment of all human rights by women.
- h) Promote women's active participation in political decision-making positions in the executive and judicial powers at all levels, inter alia through enhancing women's full and equal participation in elections (as candidates and voters), including through temporary special measures at both national and local levels. Contribute to the building up of gender capacity in public administration.
- i) Promote public education on human rights and civic responsibilities.
- j) Ensure that adequate policies, legislation and infrastructure to combat all forms of violence against women are in place.
- k) Pursue the establishment of national Ombudsman Offices or other institutional mechanisms as a means to fight against discrimination.
- l) Promote awareness-raising campaigns and training on the full enjoyment of all human rights by women.

## **WOMEN'S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

11. To work towards achieving an increase and improvement in women's employment, stronger social inclusion, a reduction of disparities between rural and urban women and a better knowledge of women's contribution to the overall economy, the Euro-Mediterranean partners will undertake measures that.

- a) Create equal opportunities and remove obstacles for women to work or to be recruited/ employed or to stay employed.
- b) Ensure equal treatment and promote the rights of women, in particular of vulnerable women, in social security systems.
- c) Ensure that men and women benefit equally from adequate health services.
- d) Promote family friendly policies, aiming at reconciliation between professional and family life, in particular affordable care services for children, elderly and other dependents and ensure a professional envi-

ronment that is suited to women in terms of transport and safety and non-discrimination at the workplace.

- e) Promote and strengthen national capacities to regularly collect and analyze gender disaggregated data, including on the informal sector and on the impact of macro-economic reforms on women and men.
- f) Strengthen knowledge of the impact of macro-economic policies on women's and men's employment and develop research focused on gender to enable the elaboration of efficient strategies aiming at strengthening the role of women in the economy.
- g) Pursue the establishment of gender responsive budget initiatives and ensure more effective anti-poverty strategies at both national and local levels.
- h) Promote women's representation and participation in economic decision-making positions, in particular in employers' association, workers' unions and other socio-economic structures.
- i) Promote women's entrepreneurship by improving inter-alia women's access to land, finance, markets, information, training and networking and encourage financial institutions to tailor products to women's needs, in particular by providing micro- credit.
- j) Ensure empowerment of women including through greater access to education at all levels and to vocational and technical training. In this regard:
  - With the objective of halving female illiteracy by 2010, launch literacy campaigns targeting especially rural and poor women and provide more incentives to encourage women to demand literacy;
  - Put in place incentives for families, especially in rural and poor areas, for sending girls to school;
  - Promote specific vocational and technical training courses for women in diversified job sectors;
  - Ensure an increased number of women trainers (including at decision-making levels) and take into account the full enjoyment of all human rights by women in the training of trainers;
  - Promote post-training support through appropriate linkages between relevant partners such as training institutions and governmental employment agencies and, in case of self employed women, micro finance institutions and business support services;
  - Promote modules to improve economic and financial management skills for women entrepreneurs, women's cooperatives, grass-roots associations, etc.;
  - Ensure women's participation in the newly established scholarships scheme for university students from Euro- Mediterranean partner countries and in the mobility grants for Higher Education staff;
  - Ensure greater access to life-long learning to provide women with skills responsive to the rapidly changing labor market;

- Provide guiding programs to help women return to the labor market after an absence or to direct them to new sectors.

- k) Develop a better knowledge and increase research of women in migration (causes, processes, enjoyment of their full human rights and impact on women in countries of origin and in the host countries) and mainstream a gender approach in studies and statistics related to migration. Increase protection and integration of migrant women and ensure the effective enjoyment of their human rights.
- l) Raise awareness of migrant women on their rights and duties in the host country and improve their role as actors of development in the host country and the country of origin.

## **WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN THE CULTURAL SPHERE AND THE ROLE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MASS MEDIA**

**12.** The Euro-Mediterranean partners will work towards taking measures that:

- a) Promote equality and fight against discrimination between girls and boys in education and culture so as to convey a positive and non stereotyped image of girls and women, and where appropriate identify new pedagogical materials. Train teachers at all levels on equality values and non-discrimination and involve parents in activities applying gender-sensitive educational methods;
- b) Support women's effective access to ICT science and technology, activities aiming at providing women with computer literacy, training and education in ICT science and technology;
- c) Promote a balanced and non stereotyped portrayal of women and men in the media;
- d) Combat gender-based violence in all its manifestations, including through research, awareness raising campaigns involving men and boys, education, media campaigns, toll free and emergency numbers, institutional networks, exchange of experiences, views and good practices in the Euro-Mediterranean region;
- e) Enhance women's participation in cultural exchanges and intercultural dialogue;
- f) Promote research on gender equality in mass media products and institutions to reduce negative gender stereotyping. Support media regulatory bodies to monitor gender issues as part of their mandates;
- g) Promote training of media professionals on the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and increase the number of women professional in the media sector. Support the promotion of women to leading positions in media. Develop the capacity of national women's institutions and NGOs on engaging with media;

- h) Combat stereotypical representation of women in artistic products, increase the number of women in art professions and ensure a greater recognition of their contribution to art and culture through history and in present times;
- i) Encourage civil society organizations, particularly women's organizations, in accordance with national legislation as appropriate, to advocate for and carry out programmes aiming to promote the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and gender equality.

## Review mechanism

13. The Euro-Mediterranean partners commit to work towards the objectives contained in this document over the next five years. In this respect they invite the Euromed Committee to convene, at least once a year, a Euromed ad hoc meeting at expert senior officials level to review the implementation of the present measures contained in these conclusions and to inform the annual Euromed Foreign Affairs Ministers Conference. A follow-up Euromed Ministerial Conference to discuss issues related to the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and the progress made in the implementation of these measures will take place in 2009.

## MAINSTREAMING GENDER DIMENSIONS INTO WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION (GEWAMED)

**Mr. J.A.Sagardoy** • GEWAMED Project Manager  
**Mr. Raouf Guelloubi** • GEWAMED Technical Officer Support



“**M**ainstreaming Gender Dimensions Into Water Resources Development And Management In The Mediterranean Region” (GEWAMED) is a project financed by INCO (International Scientific Co-operation) Programme within the Six Framework Research Programme of the European Commission (EC) and addressed to the countries of the Mediterranean Region. The project is a Coordinated Action and this means that the project emphasizes networking and coordination of on- going research activities. A total number of 18 institutions from 14 countries from the Mediterranean Region participate in the project.

The GEWAMED project objectives and activities are largely based in the recommendations of a workshop held in the frame of the EC-INCO funded Specific Support Action (SSA): “Integrating Gender Dimensions in Water Management in the Mediterranean Region” (INGEDI), at the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (Italy) in June 2004. The mentioned Workshop identified the main problems that are limiting the integration of women in water management and they suggested the following actions:

- ◆ establishment of a Mediterranean network to be interlinked with national ones and, where applicable, to existing local networks.
- ◆ develop information and communication strategies.
- ◆ develop a national agenda for mainstreaming gender

issues in water resources.

- ◆ undertake national seminars and workshops with women associations and government agencies.
- ◆ provide information at all levels addressing issues on water and sanitation, and risk assessment.
- ◆ capacity building on gender analysis and participatory tools in water resources management.
- ◆ sensitise policy-makers on the importance of integrating a gender perspective in integrated water resources management.

GEWAMED project has started on 15 February 2006 and will have a duration of 4 years.

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The project plans to build an extensive knowledge base for mainstreaming gender dimensions into the processes of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) to which all countries of the region are striving to. To achieve this objective the project built a regional website ([www.gewamed.net](http://www.gewamed.net)); other national ones are being established in countries of the South East Mediterranean Region (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Tunisia). The regional web site is essentially a mean for exchanging experiences, disseminating results and allow for enhanced coordination among national project activities and participants. The national websites will be a powerful tool to store and disseminate gender information at national level and could use local languages

but essentially is a mean to communicate with other interested persons and institutions and spread the messages of the project.

The project will improve the cooperation and dialogue among partners and external organizations interested in this subject through the participation in 3 regional workshops:

1. Regional kick off workshop (February 2006),
2. Mainstreaming gender dimension in water management for food security and food safety (March 2007),
3. Mainstreaming gender dimension in water management for rural development (February 2008).

and one International Conference that will be held at the end of project life.

Furthermore the project is interacting with other EU Research projects dealing with water resources that also focus on information, knowledge management to promote coordination and exchange of experiences. A memorandum of collaboration between GEWAMED and INECO (Institutional and Economic Instruments for Sustainable Water Management in the Mediterranean Region) was drafted. Also with WADI, MELIA and WASAMED there have been an active exchange of information and participation in events of mutual interest. In addition to the abovementioned projects, and following a request from AQUASTRESS (Mitigation of Water Stress through New Approaches to Integrating Management, Technical, Economic and Institutional Instruments) Project, GEWAMED and the Gender and Water Alliance Association organised during the days 7 and 8 November 2006 a Round Table and Gender Training Seminar in Silesia (Poland) entitled: Setting Up Strategies for the Integration of Gender in Water Management.

Since it's starting, the GEWAMED Project has made considerable efforts to disseminate its objectives, and activities, by participating in several important and international events, which are briefly mentioned below:

- **Role of Women in Water Resources Management, with Focus on Irrigated Agriculture in the Middle East and North Africa Countries**, organised by l'Institut Agronomique de Tunisie (INAT) in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) in Hammamet, from 18 to 20 April 2006.
- **Women, Environment and Sustainable Development**, organised by the Andalusia Women Institute (AWI) in collaboration with the Division of Environmental Education and Sustainability of the Spanish Secretary for Environment and the Secretary for Equal Opportunities and Social Welfare, during the days 8 and 9 June 2006, in Islatilla Huelva, Spain.
- **IWRM Science Communication for Impact Workshop-cum-Training**, organised by the EC's Interna-

tional S&T Cooperation Programme, in Brussels, from 20 to 22 June 2006.

- **Planning Workshop on Gender Mainstreaming in IWRM in the Arab Region**, organised by the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in collaboration with Gender and Water Alliance (GWA), International Network for Capacity Building in IWRM, International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR) and Arab Integrated Water Resources Management Network (AWARENET) from 4-6 July 2006 in the UN-House of Beirut, Lebanon.
- **Euro-Mediterranean Non-Governmental Platform**, from 12 to 14 July 2006 in Paris, France.
- **Training Programme on Gender Role in Extension and Water Awareness**, organised by the Arab Organisation of Agricultural Development in cooperation with the Jordanian Ministry of Agriculture, during the period 17 – 21 September 2006 in Amman, Jordan.
- **Water Cooperation Session in Mediterranean River Basins**, organised by the Mediterranean Network of Basin Organisations (MENBO) jointly with the European Water Initiative Mediterranean (EUWI-Med), the Global Water Partnership Mediterranean (GWP-Med) and the Greek Ministry of Environment on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November 2006 in Athens, Greece.
- **6<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Women of the Earth**, organised by the ONILFA (Osservatorio per l'Imprenditoria ed il Lavoro Femminile in Agricoltura) in collaboration with ISMEA (Institute of Services for the Agro-food Market), on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2006, in Rome, Italy.

Furthermore, a successful special session about "**Mainstreaming Gender in IWRM: Monitoring and Evaluation**" was organised by GEWAMED and Gender and Water Alliance in the occasion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Arab Water Regional Conference: "**Research Advancement in Managing Limited Water Resources**", in Cairo, Egypt, from 9 to 11 December 2006. The Conference was attended by nearly 400 participants.

Further information about the above mentioned events and their outputs are available on GEWAMED regional web site: [www.gewamed.net](http://www.gewamed.net).

Since the 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2007, the GEWAMED partners have been registered in an electronic conference organised by the NOSTRUM-DSS Project about "Creating a Science and Policy Dialogue" which is related to the GEWAMED objectives and activities.

The project is contributing to improve as much as possible the flow of information and coordination of gender activities in an IWRM context and to disseminate information, particularly in the rural areas. For this purpose GEWAMED is establishing a National Central Focal Points



in each SEMR country that will network with other collaborating institutions involved in the water sector. This will be an important mean to collect and disseminate gender information spread among many institutions. One of the most distinctive features of GEWAMED is precisely the establishment of a knowledge base for acquiring and disseminating gender information at national level.

It will also contribute to the adoption of national policies and other related instruments (strategies, approaches, guidelines, incentives and legislation) that improve

the conditions of women in the water sector, by involving decision makers and politicians in the processes of mainstreaming gender dimensions in IWRM. For this purpose the project will organize at least one national policy seminar in each SEMR country.

The project expects to generate a change in the mindset and capability of individuals and water institutions that are not sufficiently gender-aware and promote the assimilation of the valuable information gathered by the project..

## **INTÉGRATION DE LA DIMENSION DE GENRE DANS LE DÉVELOPPEMENT ET LA GESTION DES RESSOURCES EN EAU DANS LA RÉGION MÉDITERRANÉENNE (GEWAMED)**

**Mr. J.A.Sagardoy** • GEWAMED Project Manager  
**Mr. Raouf Guelloubi** • GEWAMED Technical Officer Support

**G**EWAMED est un projet financé par le Programme INCO (Coopération Scientifique Internationale) qui s'inscrit dans le Sixième Programme Cadre de la Commission Européenne (CE) et est adressé aux pays Méditerranéens. Il s'agit d'une Action de Coordination qui promeut le networking et la coordination d'activités de recherche qui sont en train d'être réalisées. 18 institutions de 14 pays Méditerranéens participent au projet. Les objectifs et les activités du projet GEWAMED sont largement basés sur les recommandations d'un atelier qui a été organisé en Juin 2004 à l'Institut Agronomique Méditerranéen de Bari (Italie) dans le cadre d'une Action de Soutien Spécifique financée par l'EC-INCO et qui s'intitulait «Intégration des Dimensions de Genre dans la Gestion de l'Eau en Méditerranée» (INGEDI). Cet Atelier a contribué à identifier les problèmes majeurs qui limitent l'intégration de la femme dans la gestion de l'eau et a suggéré les actions suivantes:

- ◆ Etablissement d'un réseau Méditerranéen connecté aux réseaux nationaux et, où ils existent, à ceux locaux.
- ◆ Développement de stratégies d'information et de communication.
- ◆ Développement d'un programme national pour l'intégration des questions liées au genre dans la gestion des ressources en eau.
- ◆ Organisation de séminaires et ateliers avec les associations des femmes et les agences gouvernementales.
- ◆ Diffusion d'informations à tous les niveaux sur les questions liées à l'eau et à l'assainissement ainsi qu'à l'évaluation des risques.
- ◆ Formation des capacités relatives à l'analyse du genre et aux instruments participatifs en matière de gestion des ressources en eau.

- ◆ Sensibilisation des politiciens sur l'importance de considérer la perspective du genre dans la gestion intégrée des ressources en eau.

Le projet GEWAMED a commencé le 15 février 2006 et aura une durée de 4 ans.

### **OBJECTIFS ET ACTIVITÉS DU PROJET**

Le projet vise à construire une base de connaissances partagée pour l'intégration des dimensions de genre dans les processus de Gestion Intégrée des Ressources en Eau (GIRE) dans lesquels tous les pays de la région sont en train de s'efforcer. Pour atteindre à cet objectif le projet a construit un site Internet régional ([www.gewamed.net](http://www.gewamed.net)); des sites nationaux sont en train d'être établis dans les pays de la Méditerranée Sud Orientale (Algérie, Egypte, Jordanie, Liban, Syrie, Palestine, Tunisie). Le site régional est essentiellement un moyen pour échanger les expériences, disséminer les résultats et permettre une coopération plus efficace entre les activités nationales et les participants. Les sites nationaux, qui pourront utiliser les langues locales, seront un moyen très effectif pour emmagasiner et disséminer au niveau national des informations en matière de genre, mais surtout pour communiquer avec des autres personnes et institutions concernées et diffuser les messages du projet.

Le projet vise à construire une base partagée de connaissances pour l'intégration des dimensions de genre dans les processus de Gestion Intégrée des Ressources en Eau (GIRE) dans lesquels tous les pays de la région sont en train de s'appliquer. Pour atteindre cet objectif le projet a construit un site Internet régional ([www.gewamed.net](http://www.gewamed.net)); des sites nationaux sont en train d'être établis dans les pays de la Méditerranée Sud Ori-



Depuis le 15 janvier 2007, les partenaires de GEWAMED ont été enregistrés dans une conférence électronique organisée par le Projet NOSTRUM-DSS et relative à la «Création d'un Dialogue Scientifique et Politique» se rapportant aux objectifs et aux activités de GEWAMED.

Le projet contribue à améliorer la circulation d'informations et la coordination des activités relatives au genre dans le contexte de la GIRE ainsi qu'à disséminer l'information, en particulier dans le milieu rural. Dans ce but GEWAMED est en train d'établir des Points Focaux Centraux Nationaux dans chacun des pays du Sud-Est de la Méditerranée (SEMR) qui se relieront à d'autres institutions collaboratrices concernées par le secteur de l'eau. Cela sera un moyen important pour recueillir et disséminer informations sur le genre actuellement dispersées entre beaucoup d'institutions.

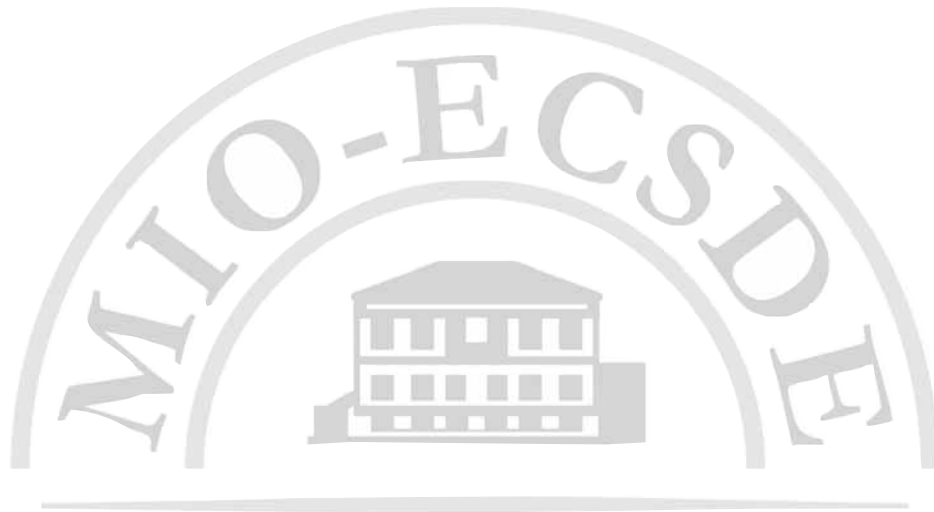
Un des traits les plus distinctifs du GEWAMED est pré-

cisément l'établissement d'une connaissance de base pour acquérir et disséminer informations sur le genre au niveau national.

Il contribuera aussi à l'adoption de politiques nationales et d'autres instruments relatifs (stratégies, approches, lignes-guide, incitations et législation) qui amélioreront la condition de la femme dans le domaine de l'eau, en enveloppant les preneurs de décisions et les politiciens dans le processus d'intégration des dimensions de genre dans la GIRE. A ce but dans le cadre du projet au moins un séminaire de politique nationale sera organisé dans chaque pays SEMR.

Le projet compte générer un changement dans la mentalité et les capacités des individus et des institutions relatives à l'eau qui ne sont pas suffisamment sensibles aux questions du genre et promouvoir l'assimilation des importantes informations recueillies par le projet.





## MIO-ECSDE Profile

The Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development, is a Federation of Mediterranean Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for the Environment and Development. MIO-ECSDE acts as a technical and political platform for the intervention of NGOs in the Mediterranean scene. In cooperation with Governments, International Organizations and other socio-economic partners, MIO-ECSDE plays an active role for the protection of the environment and the sustainable development of the Mediterranean Region.

### Background

MIO-ECSDE became a federation of Mediterranean NGOs in March 1996. Its roots go back to the early 80s, when the expanding Mediterranean membership of the European Community encouraged the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) to form its Mediterranean Committee supported by Elliniki Etairia (The Hellenic Society for the Protection of the Environment and the Cultural Heritage). The Mediterranean Information Office (MIO) was established in 1990 as a network of NGOs, under a joint project of EEB and Elliniki Etairia and in close collaboration with the Arab Network of Environment and Development (RAED). The continuous expansion of MIO-ECSDE's Mediterranean NGO network and the increasing request for their representation in Mediterranean and International Fora, led to the transformation of MIO-ECSDE to its current NGO Federation status. Today it has a membership of 102 NGOs from 24 countries.

### Our Mission

Our mission is to protect the Natural Environment (flora and fauna, biotopes, forests, coasts, natural resources, climate) and the Cultural Heritage (archaeological monuments, and traditional settlements, cities, etc.) of the Mediterranean Region. The ultimate goal of MIO-ECSDE is to promote Sustainable Development in a peaceful Mediterranean.

### Major tools and methods

Major tools and methods used by MIO-ECSDE in order to achieve its objectives are the following:

- Promotion of the understanding and collaboration among the people of the Mediterranean, especially through their NGOs, between NGOs and Governments, Parliaments, Local Authorities, International Organizations and socio-economic actors of the Mediterranean Region.
- Assistance for the establishment, strengthening, co-operation and co-ordination of Mediterranean NGOs and facilitation of their efforts by ensuring the flow of information among relevant bodies.
- Promotion of education, research and study on Mediterranean issues, by facilitating collaboration between NGOs and Scientific and Academic Institutions.
- Raising of public awareness on crucial Mediterranean environmental issues, through campaigns, publications, exhibitions, public presentations, etc.

### Contact Information

POSTAL ADDRESS: Kyrristou 12, 10556 Athens, Greece  
T: +30210 3247267, 3247490 • F: +30210 3317127  
E: [info@mio-ecsde.org](mailto:info@mio-ecsde.org) • W: [www.mio-ecsde.org](http://www.mio-ecsde.org)