

جنّاح المساءة WOMEN'S PAVILION



EXPO
2020
DUBAI
UAE

IN COLLABORATION

WITH *Cartier*



GLOBAL GOALS WEEK

16-22 JANUARY, 2022

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



United Nations

How Islam inspires Sustainable Development in the Region and the World

EVENT DETAILS

- **Date:** Thursday 20th January, 2022
- **Time:** Event time: 15:00-17:00 Dubai Time
- **Venue:** Women's Pavilion Majlis

CORE ISSUE

Around 84% of the world population identifies with a religious group. As such, religious institutions, tenets, and values are extremely important for our individual and collective world views, the way we treat our planet as well as the living beings inhabiting it. With 1.8 billion Muslims in the world – which is roughly 24% of the global population - Islam is a key source of inspiration in the daily lives of many women and men. A common feature of most religions, including of Islam, is a propensity to help others and build a thriving community.

Islamic heritage and the views and values derived from it, inform the work of many Arab and Muslim women who are contributing to sustainable social and economic development in Arabia and in the world. From the government level to the corporate space and civil society, from financial services to solving social issues, Islamic inspiration can help achieve the Global Goals, in the Arab region and worldwide.

ENHANCING PROGRESS ON THE GLOBAL GOALS IN THE MEASA REGION

The global “multiple crisis” that combines phenomena such as the climate crisis and depleting resources, increasing social and economic divisions, instabilities and forced migration, has inevitably affected the Arab region. Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN Agenda 2030 differs massively across the region, with the positive outliers to be found in the wealthier parts of the Arabian Gulf.

This holds also true for Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5), the Global Goal on Gender Equality. The Middle East and North Africa, together with South Asia - MEASA - remain the regions with the largest gender inequalities, which in turns impacts the progress in other areas of sustainable development. Without real progress on SDG 5 (meaning better activating half of the world's population), the other goals will remain a distant reality too. Just to give one example, women in these regions are the most disadvantaged in the workforce, with an average labour force participation of 31% and an even worse representation in economic leadership or managerial positions, at less than 18%. Yet again with significant differences across the region - the United Arab Emirates and Israel being significantly further ahead than others.

ISLAMIC HERITAGE AS A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION FOR REACHING GLOBAL GOALS

Islamic beliefs, traditions and values provide an effective and comprehensive solution to the many challenges the SDGs try to tackle, from environmental issues and the conservation of natural resources, to poverty, but also gender equality and women empowerment.

On the level of states, development aid and assistance are important tools for making worldwide progress on the SDGs. For long, such aid and assistance coming from the wealthier parts of the Arab region, has been inspired by Arab and Islamic heritage, principles and values. For example, the UAE, which dedicates a relatively large share of gross national income to foreign assistance, evokes in this context the cultural and religious propensity towards generosity to help communities - to reduce poverty, enhance peace and stability, and protect the planet.

Islamic inspiration is also found in non-governmental environments where the practice of Corporate Social Responsibility, aligning with the call of the SDGs, requires companies to apply their creativity and innovation to solve sustainable development challenges and issues. Businesses with an Islamic background tend to relate CSR activities to their own Islamic values and principles. The same holds true for a good number of individual and grassroots contributions aimed at bringing about sustainable development in the region. Their range of focus tends to be broad, from climate action to economic participation, to overall gender equality, to putting an end to harmful practices like Female Genital Mutilation, mental health problems, and destigmatising reproductive health issues.

ISLAMIC BANKING AND FINANCE AS AN ENABLER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Islamic banking and finance is a massive enabler for sustainable development in the Arab region and worldwide. The work of many Islamic organizations in this field is underpinned by Islamic social financing structures such as Zakat, Awqaf, Purification Fund, Sadaqah and (Green) Sukuk. For those that take their inspiration from an Islamic heritage, access to Islamic banking and finance is an important element for generating action on the SDGs in the region. However, this access to financing structures and assets remains low. It continues to be one of the larger barriers to women's participation and contribution to the economy, driving stark income differences between men and women and all the consequences that derive from it.

Back in the era of the Prophet Muhammad, Khadija, his wife, and Zaynab Bint Abi Mu'awiya were successful and respected businesswomen. And yet, the modern-day Islamic banking and finance industry has been traditionally dominated by men, with a gap persisting particularly on women's participation as CEOs and Shariah advisors. But change is on its way as women are engaging more and more with this industry. As the sector grows, so does the need for professionals. Necessity and policy change are ultimately helping to overcome gender prejudices, which also has its impact on the range of financial products being on offer. Women in this sector are making great inroads. In Malaysia, one of the key hubs of Islamic finance in the world, for instance, the ruling that a Shariah scholar can sit on the Shariah board of only one bank has created space for women to engage as Shariah scholars in the banking industry, with two female Shariah scholars now sitting on Malaysia's Shari'ah Advisory Council (SAC) Board. Elsewhere in the region, including in the UAE, programs are being launched dedicated to female bankers.



Join us in the Women's Pavilion to explore how better we could amplify the role of women from Arabia and the Islamic region in the spheres of traditional and new media, by celebrating their positive contributions and tackling questions such as:

KEY QUESTIONS

- **Who are the trailblazing Arab and Muslim women contributing to sustainable development? How do their world views inspire them in their continuous efforts in bringing about a better world?**
 - **How do Islamic tenets, including Islamic financial structures, contribute to sustainable development in the Arab region and beyond?**
 - **What are the untapped potentials of using Islamic tenets as an inspiration, also in the field of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls?**
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- **Introduction to the event by the moderator
15:00 – 15:05**
 - **Keynote Speech by H.E. Omar Ghobash
15:05 – 15:15**
 - **A conversation between H.E. Omar Ghobash and Jawaher Almheiri 15:15 – 15:45**
 - **Panel 15:45 – 16:30**
 - **Q&A sessions 16:30 – 17:00**



INVITED SPEAKERS



Maher Nasser - Moderator. Maher has over 34 years of work experience in the United Nations System during which he has worked in Gaza, Jerusalem, Amman, Vienna, Cairo and New York. He is currently the Commissioner-General of the United Nations at Expo 2020 in Dubai and the Director of Outreach in the United Nations Department of Global Communications. In addition to leading the United Nations presence at Expo, he leads the Department's engagement with civil society, academia and the creative community, including the advertising industry.



H.E. Ghobash is the UAE's Assistant Minister for Culture and Public Diplomacy. Previously, he was UAE Ambassador to the Republic of France in 2017 and to the Russian Federation between 2008 and 2017. He is a Muslim intellectual and acclaimed author of the book *Letters to a Young Muslim* through which he tackled the dilemmas facing young Muslims and everyone navigating the complexities of today's world. In addition to his diplomatic work, Ambassador Ghobash sponsors the Saif Ghobash Banipal Prize for Arabic Literary Translation and is a founding trustee of the International Prize for Arabic Fiction in collaboration with the Man Booker Prize in London; he serves on the acquisition committee of the Louvre Abu Dhabi, the advisory body of the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation at King's College London, and the board of trustees of the Emirates Diplomatic Academy in Abu Dhabi.



Jawaher Almheiri is a writer, an Emirati Civil Servant, and a student, currently pursuing her Master's degree in International Finance and Economic Policy at Columbia University - New York. She is a Forbes Middle East 30 under 30 Honoree for her achievements and great potential as future leader and innovator. Jawaher was appointed as one of the Dubai Youth Council members by the UAE Government in 2016 and represented the UAE in the Youth Assembly at the United Nations in 2017. She was awarded the UAE Foreign Minister's Medal of Excellence for the category of "Distinguished Emirates Diplomatic Academy's Graduate", the Sheikh Majed Bin Mohammed Al Maktoum's Media Award, and the Shell Award among others.

INVITED SPEAKERS



Dr Jemilah Mahmood is a medical professional with more than two decades of experience managing humanitarian crises in the context of natural disasters and conflicts. She is Professor and Director of the newly established Sunway Centre for Planetary Health in Malaysia. She was Under Secretary General for Partnerships at the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Chief of the World Humanitarian Summit secretariat at the United Nations, and Chief of the Humanitarian Response Branch at UNFPA. She is the founder of MERCY Malaysia an international humanitarian organization. She is the recipient of numerous national and international awards including the ASEAN Prize for her contribution to peace, community development and humanitarian work.



Maya is Managing Director/CEO of the Amanie Advisors' Global Office in Dubai. She is a multiple award-winning Islamic finance expert and Executive Leader also recognised as one of the "Top-50 Most Influential Women in Middle East Finance" by Financial News UK of Dow Jones Group and top 10 most Influential Women in Islamic Business & Finance published by Cambridge International Financial Advisory. She is also an Associate Member of the Chartered Islamic Finance Professional association, a member of the Green Sukuk Working Group in UAE and Shariah consultant for the IFC, World Bank Group and a frequent Islamic finance speaker at Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs, UK, the world's most influential think tank.



Huda Jawad is an Iraqi-born feminist and activist who held various positions in local government, national and international NGOs and charities in the UK tackling a range of issues including social exclusion, justice and equality. She set up the Safety Across Faith and Ethnic Communities Project hosted by the UK-based charity Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse to improve the response to domestic abuse and gender-based violence. She is co-founder of Faith & VAWG Coalition, a group of organisations and activists working at the intersections of faith, feminism, violence against women and girls. She is a founding member of the Anti-Racism Working Group and was Co-Chair of End Violence Against Women Coalition in the UK. She has been Co-Director of Musawah since August 2021.

Introduction of the Women's Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, Women in Arabia and Islam series.

EXPO 2020 DUBAI

Since the first Great Exhibition held in London in 1851, Expos have connected people and provided special spaces to spark dialogue amongst those who are curious about the future. Running from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022, Expo 2020 Dubai will bring the world together to imagine, design, and build a more sustainable, dignified, and prosperous world. One that is cleaner, safer, and healthier. One inspired by collective action around shared challenges, and in which future generations will flourish. Under the theme of "Connecting Minds, Creating the Future" and our three sub-themes of Sustainability, Mobility, and Opportunity, Expo will be a platform for positive, collaborative change.

WOMEN IN ARABIA AND ISLAM

Women in Arabia and Islam is a series of ten cultural talks celebrating the rich Muslim heritage. Taking a historical and cultural perspective, the events focus on sharing and recognizing the positive role women from Arab and Islamic backgrounds have played in the course of history until today.



THE WOMEN'S PAVILION AT EXPO 2020 DUBAI

Our Women's Pavilion, under the exhibition title 'New Perspectives', is a critical component of this vision and will be curated by Expo 2020 Dubai in collaboration with Cartier. In highlighting the positive contributions of women, we will demonstrate that when women thrive, so too does all of humanity. The UAE has dedicated itself to ensuring that issues related to gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) are centrally addressed in everything we do at Expo 2020 Dubai. By shining a light on women past and present, known and unknown, the Women's Pavilion challenges the misconceptions that women still frequently face, seeks out new perspectives on the impact women bring to our world, explores new approaches to creating a more equal world, and identifies ways in which we, together, can create new perspectives, change deep-rooted perceptions, and adjust mindsets. Through different modes of convening, our goal is to highlight that the only way to peace, prosperity and sustainability is through the full and equal participation of women.