

PRESS RELEASE



9th Forum for the Future

Tunis, 11-13 December, 2012-Tunis, Republic of TUNISIA



The 9th edition of the G8 BMENA Forum for the Future (Tunis, 11-13 December, 2012) was co-chaired by the Tunisian Government and the US Government and co organized by the League of Women Voters, the Tunisian American Chamber of Commerce (TACC) and ARFORGHE (Human Resources and Training Managers Association). The Forum gathered ministers and high level officials of the G8, BMENA, other partner countries and international organizations as well as representatives of civil society and private sector.

The Ministerial Final Declaration welcomed the positive changes in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Yemen and the collaborative discussions among governments, civil society, and the private sector in the BMENA region as a whole. The Ministers invited each country to further promote government-citizen dialogue, economic growth and social stability, freedom of expression and association, human rights to all their citizens, gender equality and an independent, professional and free media.

Emphasizing the critical role played by women in the transformations underway in the BMENA region, the Ministers encouraged governments to take more national measures for women empowerment, including increased political representation and economic participation, provision of guarantees for equal opportunities or the use of preferences in the public and private sector when appropriate; expanding women's economic opportunities through, inter alia, education, training, mentorship and combating all forms of violence against women. Ministers also acknowledged the importance of integrating international commitments, in particular the Convention to Eliminate Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), into their national laws.

The Ministers agreed on the urgent need to increase economic opportunity, to create more jobs, to improve the business climate with efficient legal regulations, to facilitate public-private partnerships, to provide support for entrepreneurs and SMEs, to foster an environment conducive to entrepreneurship and business development for all citizens and to ensure the transparency and integrity of public institutions.

The Ministers stressed the importance of ensuring increased synergy and complementarity between BMENA and the Deauville Partnership and emphasized the importance of the G8's and pertinent multilateral institutions support to ongoing reforms in the region. In this context, they reaffirmed their obligations under the Paris and Accra Protocols on Aid Effectiveness. The Ministers welcomed the Asset Recovery Action Plan of the Deauville Partnership in order to enhance case cooperation to return proceeds of corruption much needed by national economies.

The Ministers welcomed the announcement at the Forum of several new initiatives to support civil society, women's empowerment, and the private sector in the MENA region, including the Euro-Med Center for the Development of Medium, Small, Micro Enterprises.



The Forum welcomed two proposals by Tunisia: the creation of a fund for financing projects exclusively by women and the creation of centers to protect women victims of violence. A committee of experts will examine both proposals.

The Ministers expressed their sincere thanks to the Government of Tunisia and the Tunisian people for their warm reception and hospitality in hosting the 9th Forum for the Future, which ensured the event's success.

From Vision to Action!

