



HIGHLIGHTS FROM SESSIONS

SESSION

Women Prepare for the 2020s: Testimonials by Women

Women leaders from the Arab region and beyond offer their bottom-line prescriptions with one-minute messages regarding what specifically is required to prepare the Arab region for the decade of the 2020s.

Date- Sunday | October 13, 2019

Deema Bibi, CEO of Jordanian youth organization, INJAZ:

We were born in this region with a sense of fear, fear of criticizing the state, fear of others, fear of novelty, fear of what's next. We are women and mothers of raising future generations, we have a responsibility of eradicating this fear by investing in empowering our liberal youth, nurturing this sense of freedom, confidence and trust, growing their critical thinking and sense of inclusion.

Sheikha Nadia AlDoseri, CEO & Partner - Al Sale Eastern Company Limited NDA Global:

What we teach is the relevance of education, while the world is rapidly changing, professions are changing, and the majority of our educational systems aren't providing basic competencies that enable individuals to face today's challenges. Our ministries of education must mainstream new programs to equip young generations with the relevant knowledge, skills and attitudes.

We must develop the content and delivery tools using specific lenses, including the life skills lens, the inclusivity lens, and the ethical lens.

Education mustn't contribute to the divide between children of different socio-economic backgrounds as it is currently doing.

Patricia Bitar Cherfan, Publisher & Editor in Chief HOME Magazine:

Make space for us women, we are nurturers by nature. We can take care of our homes and nations at the same time. Fifty percent of the Arab world is numb due to our absence. The economy needs the productivity of women. Peacebuilding needs the sensibility of women. Politics needs the insights of women. Make space for women at the decision table, not just anywhere. We are partners, not competitors. We have tried male leadership for centuries, we did not find drastic solutions to our prevailing problems. Let us try together, men and



women, let us together believe in women leadership, let us start from here and now. The Beirut Institute Summit is a perfect example for this successful model. Make space for women.

Theresa Fallon, Director at Centre for Russia Europe Asia Studies:

We need to participate in this challenging exercise to prepare for the 2020s. My call to action are the 5R's: Raghida, a talented convener who brought us all together today. Research: education, education, education, more women coders, engineers and scientists are needed. It is necessary for this region to stay abreast of fast-moving technological advancements.

Resilience, building on a strong educational framework, the region needs resilience. Reimagine a future for this region which reflects a winning team of both men and women. Reach for the stars, Emirati female astronauts aren't just role models for young girls here but all over the world.

Lyndsay Howard, Senior Analyst for Foreign Policy at Bloomberg:

Today, the list of the world's most powerful Arab women includes cabinet ministers, diplomats, CEOs, judges, journalists, doctors, scholars, writers and artists. There will be many, many more. This shouldn't surprise us. Women here, since ancient times, have made extraordinary contributions to their societies, from Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Yemen. What will you make of this critical moment of history to shape the narrative in this long tradition of women's initiative and excellence?

Nora Muller, Executive Director Körber-Stiftung:

Nationalism, protectionism, great power rivalries, the jungle rose back. In the eve of the 2020s, all this is happening at a time when the world is faced with many challenges that know no borders, and climate change is just one of them. But not all hope is lost. Our task will be to make multilateralism great again, meaning we will have to strengthen international cooperation and defend the strength of the law, instead of giving in to the law of the strong. We can jointly stop the jungle from growing back.

Sameera Rajab, Special Envoy for the Royal Court in Bahrain:

Wars and conflicts recede development, spread illiteracy, poverty, diseases, displacement and immigration. Women are always the first and most affected – this is the reality of the Arab region today. Arab women achieved great development during the 20th century. It is regrettable that they are pushed back today due to wars, terrorism and political conflicts.



Ending regional conflicts and wars is the first and most important factor to avoid the impacts of subjecting women to under-development and persecution and to continue practicing their rights.

Mona Saliba, Talk Show Host at MTV Lebanon:

13 million children did not go to school this year, according to the Government Summit in Dubai. They reflect a generation completely illiterate and we cannot build an Arab world as such. These figures show that governments, societies, individuals and organizations should get involved in education. We can face challenges that way and build societies we are proud of. The Arab world suffers from 45 percent of the terrorist attacks throughout the world. We say education can effectively contribute to the eradication of terror and destruction of our societies.

Mirna Sleiman, Founder & CEO Fintech Galaxy:

It takes courage to be exceptional, wise, compassionate, resilient and ambitious. It takes even more to be a female entrepreneur living in a male-dominated society and surviving a broken economy. It takes tremendous courage to have a purpose in life, to rise above the storms and find sunshine that will make the world a better place. I dream of a financially inclusive world by 2030, a world where progressive regulations and policies leave nobody unbanked, a world where aggressive investors take risks and inject more money into start-ups and where our unicorns make a global impact thanks to ambitious entrepreneurs and a supportive ecosystem. But most importantly, I dream of a world run by women, to reach a 2030 with more do-ers and less talkers.