



Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah

Communiqué

‘Breaking Barriers, Liberating Potential’

High-level Policy Forum “Advancing Women’s Financial Inclusion in the Arab World”

November 22-23, 2016 – the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Data impressively reveals that the state of financial inclusion of women in the Arab world is alarming. The level of women’s inclusion into the financial system is among the lowest worldwide. The significant gender gap in the financial market is an obstacle for economic growth, employment opportunities and shared prosperity. Policymakers across the region have recognized the importance of the gender dimension in financial inclusion and have prioritized the problem on their agendas.

In order to move forward the dialogue on financial inclusion of women, the **Central Bank of Jordan**, the **Arab Monetary Fund**, and the **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)** join forces for the regional conference on “Advancing Women’s Financial Inclusion in the Arab World” from November 22-23, 2016 in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The partnering hosts draw on their successful experience and generated momentum from last year’s policy forum on “Financial Inclusion and Employment in the Arab region”, which built on the Deauville Partnership’s high-level “Action Plan for Financial Inclusion” in the MENA Region from Berlin and the subsequent “Compact on Economic Governance” from Paris last year.

Under the theme ‘Breaking barriers, liberating potential’, this year’s high-level policy forum at the Dead Sea will gather more than 120 policy makers and financial sector experts from the Arab world and beyond to support strategic policy development for financial inclusion of women in the region. His Excellency, Dr. Ziad Fariz, the Governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) and His Excellency, Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Hamidy, Director General Chairman of the Board of the Arab Monetary Fund will commence the event. The keynote speaker is Mrs. Graça Machel, Founder of New Faces New Voices and Founder of the Graça Machel Trust Fund.

Together with the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI), the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP), New Faces New Voices (NFNV), and with the support of the European Union, the hosts have crafted a two-day program that highlights promising policies and showcases market-led innovations. Reflecting developments in women’s financial inclusion around the world, the event is a unique platform to discover international good practices and to discuss broader linkages between women entrepreneurship and financial inclusion. Under the overarching theme of women’ financial inclusion, more than 20 speakers will bring to live sessions on regulatory reforms, digital finance, entrepreneurship, social norms, financial education, and sex-disaggregated data.

The conference is an excellent example of joint efforts and regional initiatives. We believe that it will provide our members and partners with useful insights as they continue to work towards achieving the vision of a more inclusive and progressive environment for women.

The Central Bank of Jordan, the Arab Monetary Fund and GIZ

For more information visit www.financialinclusion-conference.org; for press enquiries please contact fi-conference@giz.de

