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THE GLOBAL GOALS

For Sustainable Development

VII AGFUND Development Forum

EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH FINANCIAL INCLUSION

International Symposium

8 OCTOBER
2019

Room XX, Palais des
Nations, Geneva



For more information about the AGFUND Forum:
www.agfundforum.org



VIII AGFUND Development Forum

Symposium on “Empowering Women Through Financial Inclusion”

Tuesday, 8 October 2019 | The Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Room (Room XX) ,
Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

The Arab Gulf Program for Development (AGFUND) utilizes the annual AGFUND Development Forum to gather experts in development to discuss the most up-to-date critical issues of development, while maintaining focus on the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. The Forum also highlights successful models and experiences in drawing innovative solutions to address economic and social problems.

Furthermore, the AGFUND forums have been carefully designed to effectively highlight the development issues identified by the United Nations. Since 2013; in order to build close and effective cooperation with partners to help finding appropriate solutions to these issues; AGFUND has so far successively organized 7 development forums.

AGFUND forums are to continue until 2030, when the Sustainable Development Agenda concludes. The upcoming VIII Forum will be held in Geneva, Switzerland on Tuesday 8 October 2019 in partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). The target audience of the forum will be:

- Microfinance Institutions/ networks
- Development specialists and partners
- Media
- Prince Talal Prize winners

This year’s symposium entitled “Empowering Women through Financial Inclusion”. It includes four sessions as follows:

1. Women’s Financial Inclusion: Reality VS. Aspirations;
2. Regional and International Stories in Advancing Women’s Financial Inclusion;
3. Promoting Women Financial Inclusion through Digi#ances
4. The role of donors and the private sector in achieving Financial Inclusion to women and contributing to the 2030 Agenda.

TIME	ACTIVITY
8:30 - 9:00	Registration and Welcome Coffee
Welcoming Remarks	
9:00 - 9:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Nasser Alkahtani, Executive Director, AGFUND • Mr. Nikhil Seth, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director of UNITAR • HRH Prince Abdul Aziz Bin Talal Bin Abdul Aziz, Chairman of Committee, Prince Talal International Prize.
Keynote Speech	
9:15 - 9:30	• (TBC)



Session 1: Women's Financial Inclusion: Reality V.S Aspirations

9:30 - 10:40 This session will explore the status of regulatory framework of microfinance and financial inclusion dedicated to women in particular. In addition, the session will discuss the added value of AGFUND's Banks in terms of improving the enabling environment of Microfinance and financial inclusion that is directed to women.

Moderator: H.E. Diene Keita, Minister of Cooperation and African Integration, Guinea

Speakers:

- Professor Josie Fraser, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, The Open University, UK
- Ms. Hiba Qasas, Chief, Humanitarian Action and Crisis Response Office, UN Women
- Mr. Elias Omondi, Insurance Regulatory Authority of Kenya
- Mr. Adil Ballah, General Manager, Ebdaa Microfinance Bank, Sudan

10:40 - 11:00

Coffee Break



Session 2: Regional and International Stories in Advancing Women's Financial Inclusion

11:00 - 12:00 This Session discusses the invention and design of products that meet the needs of the poor and contribute to solving their economic and social problems. The Session features AGFUND's financial inclusion model, as well as presenting case studies from other regional financial institutions in terms of products and techniques that enhance the access and market penetration.

Moderator: Mr. Nasser Alkhatani, Executive Director, AGFUND

Speakers:

- Ms. Aisha Alshubayli, Winner of Prince Talal Prize, CEO of Creative Fingers, KSA
- Ms. Nawal Mostafa, Winner of Prince Talal Prize, Founder and Head of the Board of Directors Children of Female Prisoners' Care Association (CFPA)
- Dr. Mary Hodges, Country Director, Helen Keller International
- Ms. Fiorina Mugione, Director of Mediterranean, Middle East and Africa. GDSI

12:00 - 13:45

Lunch (offered by AGFUND)



Official Launch of the Global Training Platform on Financial Inclusion

13:45 - 14:00

- Mr. Nasser Alkahtani, Executive Director, AGFUND
- Mr. Nikhil Seth, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director of UNITAR

Session 3: Promoting Women Financial Inclusion through Digi#ances

14:00 - 15:10

Women's inclusion in the usage of financial services is broadly recognized as a key driver of women's participation in the economy and of household well-being, leading to more robust economic growth and social development, as well as more diversified financial systems. Remittances are a high-volume driver for women's financial inclusion, especially when accessed through digital channels. This session explores how access to remittances and other financial services can be improved through digital solutions (Digi#ances).

Moderator: Malik Faraoun, Director, Head of Community Development, Middle East and North Africa, World Economic Forum

Speakers:

- Ms. Olga Speckhardt, Chair, Swiss Capacity Building Facility
- Mr. Noomane Fehri, Former Minister of Digital Economy in Tunisia - Founder & CEO of B@LabsDr
- Khaled Al Gazawi, CEO, Ebdaa Microfinance Bank, Bahrain
- Ms. Sabine Mensah, Digital Finance, Technical Specialist, United Nations Capital Development Fund
- Dr. Soukeina Bouraoui, Executive Director, Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (Cawtar)




Session 4: The role of donors and private sector in achieving Financial Inclusion to women and contributing to the 2030 Agenda

15:10 - 16:30	<p>Global financial resources are not enough to address the Sustainable Development Agenda. Up to 2030, the world would need mobilization of resources estimated to be around US\$ 2.5 trillion per year. Private capital and development agencies capital has become a priority for governments to achieve the SDGs by 2030.</p> <p>In this session, the role of donors and private sectors to achieving the Sustainable Development Agenda will be presented. Moreover, the session will explain how the private sector and businessmen translate the concept of “social business” through contributing to achieving sustainable development in their communities.</p> <p>Moderator: H.E. Dr. Sidi Ould Tah, General Manager, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Reto Gruninger, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation • Mr. Mariano Larena, Symbiotics • Ms. Maria Paloma Duran y Lalaguna, Head of Division, OECD • Ms. Mihoko Kumamoto, Director, Division for Prosperity, UNITAR • Mr. Pascal Delisle –First Counsellor and Head of Section at the EU Delegation to the United Nations in Geneva
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Conclusion and Recommendations

16:30 - 16:45	<p>Rapporteur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Alex Mejia, Director, Division for People and Social Inclusion, UNITAR • Dr. Bashar Alzu’bi, Senior Microfinance Expert – Assistant Professor at AOU
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Closing Remarks

16:45	Ms. Olga Speckhardt, Chair, Swiss Capacity Building Facility
17:00	Networking/ Cocktail 





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TO ADVANCE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT