

Press Release



OME, AWHPI and R20 sign a Memorandum of Understanding to promote energy transition in the Mediterranean region and in Africa

Paris, January 11th, 2023, the Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Énergie (OME), the African Women's Health Project International Global Foundation (AWHPI) and the Regions of Climate Action (R20), met in Paris to exchange about their missions and activities and discuss cooperation opportunities. At this occasion, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by the representatives of the three Parties, HRH Princess Dr. Moradeun Ogunlana, founder and CEO of AWHPI, Ms. Michèle Sabban Honorary President and Director of R20 and Dr. Houda Ben Jannet, General Director of OME in the presence of HE Kayode Laro, Nigerian Ambassador in France.



The Memorandum defines the framework for the implementation of collaborative opportunities between the three organizations, based on mutual trust and commitment to achieve common goals. The MoU is meant to foster dialogue and cooperation between the Mediterranean region and the African continent and highlights four main areas of cooperation. The first relates to the opportunities and challenges of a just energy transition, that needs to be socially fair, providing everyone with access to energy. The second touches upon the work towards the promotion of gender mainstreaming to improve communities' quality of life and foster a sustainable development in both Africa and the Mediterranean. The third area of cooperation focuses on project of mutual interests, including, but not limited to climate, clean energy and infrastructures' development (e.g., AFRICA 2-5-9 Project), while the fourth area includes joint outreach, and engagement activities.

All the Parties expressed great enthusiasm in launching this collaboration and highlighted the related opportunities. HRH Princess Dr. Moradeun Ogunlana stressed the significance of this signature twenty years after the founding of the AWHPI, which started off as a means to promote women and children access to healthcare in Africa. The Foundation is motivated and open to multilateral cooperation partnerships to promote women empowerment through the development of infrastructure and clean energy projects in the African continent, thus contributing to the achievement of all 17 United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

R20 Director, Michèle Sabban, built on the above point, highlighting how women empowerment is based on Education, Energy and Economy (three *Es*). She emphasized the self-reinforcing relationship between these three aspects, and how education and training, health and climate action should be addressed simultaneously. HRH Princess Dr. Moradeun Ogunlana further underlined the link between food and energy security as an example of the interconnectivity between these subjects. She also highlighted the importance of focusing on equal access opportunities.

OME General Director, Dr. Houda Ben Jannet, expressed great satisfaction about the meeting outcome and the signature of the MoU, which are fully in line of the evolving of OME to OMEC (Organization for the Mediterranean, Energy and Climate). She also emphasized that OME is open to cooperation with neighboring regions and is already playing a leading role in fostering a just energy transition. She fully agreed with the points raised by HRH Princess Dr. Moradeun Ogunlana and R20 Director, Michèle Sabban, stating that the energy industry and OME members can play an important role to accomplish such objectives.

HE Kayode Laro, Nigerian Ambassador in France, praised the initiative and expressed satisfaction to the three organizations. HE the Ambassador also pledged his full support in order to facilitate the identification and implementation of concrete actions.

All parties agreed on the importance of establishing such partnership to achieve tangible results, acknowledging an alignment of both mission and vision. The signing of this MoU is a clear commitment towards a just energy transition with particular focus on civil society, women empowerment, and equal access to infrastructures. Dr. Houda Ben Jannet, General Director of OME, confirmed that further actions will be discussed in the next weeks.

The Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Energie (OME) is the voice of the energy industry in the Mediterranean area and acts as a Platform for energy dialogue, cooperation and best practices exchanges in the region.

The African Women's Health Project International Global Foundation (AWHPI Global Foundation) is dedicated to bringing to African Women access to healthcare and economic empowerment. The umbrella organization AWHPI Global Foundation, recently launched the Africa 2-5-9 Project climate action for sub-Saharan African countries.

The Regions of Climate (R20) mission is to help sub-state governments, local authorities and mainly the regions to develop projects to reduce carbon emissions or put in place renewable energy and energy efficiency systems.