



INTERNATIONAL LAW GROUP

Women's Access to Justice in the Maghreb: Case Study of Morocco

In-person & Hybrid Forum

June 20-22nd, 2022; Rabat, Morocco

The Foundation Konrad Stiftung's Middle East and North Africa Rule of Law Program and Mohamed V University and ARPA International Law Group LLC and Rare are pleased to invite you to Forum on women's access to justice in the Maghreb: Case Study of Morocco to be held in Rabat, Morocco, under the auspices of Mohamed V University from June 20th to June 22nd, 2022.

It is important to examine the common obstacles to women's access to justice in the broader sub-region to present a holistic view of the intersectionality of legal, political, and socio-economic trends and their effects on women's access to justice. In particular, focusing on the Maghreb countries, rather than the wider MENA region, offers a useful and sharper comparison.

The Forum will support the empowerment of women participants from Maghreb countries to take a leading role in advancing access to justice advocacy in their countries, including through cross-country and cross-disciplinary exchanges throughout the workshop. This Forum will build strategic and sustainable multidisciplinary partnerships. Following this inaugural sub-regional workshop, the organizers will convene a Maghreb Women's Access to Justice Community of Practice to further the cross-fertilization of experiences and follow up on proposed recommendations.

The Forum will emphasize the impact of crisis periods (i.e. COVID) on women's access to justice and commemorate the 11th anniversary of the Moroccan Constitution and its articles on access to justice.

For more information, please contact us at: contact@arpainternational.org



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Draft Agenda

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DAY I

ARRIVAL OF PARTICIPANTS

- 8:00 – 9:00 AM** **Orientation Session for Moderators and Rapporteurs (Closed session)**
- 8:30 – 9:30 AM** **Registration**
- 9:30 - 9:35 AM** **Welcoming Remarks (Workshop organizers)**
Keynote Speaker (TBD)
- 9:35 – 10:00 AM** **Opening Invocation: *Many Roads to Gender Justice in the Maghreb-Interface between International, National, and Traditional Justice Mechanisms in Crisis Times.* [Main issue to be discussed: within the Maghreb sub-region, how will the future direction deal with the different sources of law - including addressing post-COVID challenges and combining secular and Islamic laws]**
- 10:00 –11:15 AM** **Keynote Panel I: *JUSTICE REFORM USING A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH-CASE STUDY OF MOROCCO***
[Reform of the formal mechanisms of justice including (policy/legal, institutional reform); focuses on strengthening the independence and integrity of both formal and informal justice systems, making both more responsive and more effective in meeting the needs of justice for all—especially vulnerable individuals i.e. women. Morocco's

landmark initiatives have made significant headway in the area of judicial reforms which go beyond the judiciary and encompass the entire justice system, following an inclusive multi-disciplinary approach.]

11:15 –11:30 AM

Coffee Break

11:30 –12:30 PM

Panel II : Why Does the Rule of Law Matter to Women?

Key Barriers & Innovations in Access to Justice, Awareness and Empowerment

(This panel will provide a forum to discuss access to justice innovations in supporting women in the Maghreb sub-region. The discussion will span the specific challenges, issues and lessons learnt related to access to justice across the sub-region; and take stock, showcase and learn from the existing A2J experiences, mechanisms and practices globally that could be adapted to the Maghreb country context. The discussion will be built around the following A2J sub-areas: (judicial reforms, legal aid, access to information, and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms). Issues will be addressed through the prism of national, international, and traditional justice.

12:30 –2:00 PM

Lunch Break

2:15 – 5:00 PM

WORKING SESSIONS (Small Breakout Sessions by theme)

Output: *Concrete Recommendations on how to develop an action plan for access to justice programs in Maghreb countries; Partnerships-recommendations on how to expand the community of practice (including the electronic network) to increase its impact in strengthening access to justice; Recommendations on what (new) areas/programs to support the role of CSOs to enhance access to justice efforts*

Process: *Within each breakout group develop action plans to strengthen women's capacity to seek justice remedies (i.e.: Legal Aid, Legal Awareness & Empowerment through CSOs). List key partners and partnership strategy.*

Group One: Women's access to justice in legal frameworks

Group Two: Gender justice in practice: Institutions for accountability

Group Three: Access to justice solutions: Cross-country examples (e.g. women legal empowerment like legal assistance initiatives, reforms of justice institutions)

5:00 PM-6:00 PM

Adjourn Program of the Day/Reception

DAY II

- 9:00 – 9:30 AM** **Registration and Coffee Service**
- 9:30–12:00 PM** **Plenary Session: Wrap-up/Presentations from Thematic Breakouts**
- 12:00-2:00 PM** **Lunch**
- 2:00-5:00 PM** **Plenary Session: Country Presentations: Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Algeria, Mauritania** *(Presentations will be based off the country submissions that participants share ahead of the workshop)*

DAY III

- 9:00 – 9:30 AM** **Registration and Coffee Service**
- 9:30–12:00 PM.** **Small Breakout Sessions : Towards a gender justice enabling environment**
- (These forward-looking recommendations focused breakout groups will focus on how to operationalize an enhanced framework for gender justice)*
- Group One: How to create an enabling legislative (*de jure*) environment**
Group Two: How to create an enabling socio-cultural environment
Group Three: How to create an enabling institutional (*de facto*) environment
- 12:00-2:00 PM** **Lunch**
- 2:00 - 5:00 PM** **Summary and Conclusion: Launch of the Women’s Access to Justice Maghreb Community of Practice and documentary viewing**
- Closing Comments: Keynote Speaker TBD**
- 5:00 PM** **Forum Adjourns**