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# The New Africa

## ABOUT US

The New Africa Magazine is a print and digital publication that focuses on the African continent and its people. The magazine covers a wide range of topics such as business, politics, culture, technology, and environment. It aims to challenge stereotypes and promote a more nuanced understanding of Africa. The New Africa Magazine features articles, interviews, and opinion pieces from a diverse range of writers and experts.

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SPECIAL EDITION

**His Majesty King Mohammed VI:  
The African Monarch Of  
Vision, Stability  
& Renaissance**

**His Majesty  
King Mohammed VI  
KING OF MOROCCO**

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We envisage a bold, prosperous, and united Africa where leadership reflects the richness of its people and innovation drives sustainable growth.

## OUR MISSION:

To amplify African voices globally by celebrating excellence, empowering leaders, connecting changemakers, and inspiring future generations.



DR. GIFT CHIDIMMA  
**NNAMOKO ORIARU**

PUBLISHER, THE NEW AFRICA MAGAZINE/ THE NEW  
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## Publisher's Note

# The Power of Presence: When African Women Lead, Africa Moves

**T**his special Africa Amazons Edition of The New Africa Magazine is a tribute to a generation of African women who are not asking for space — they are actively shaping it.

Across these pages, we spotlight women who are building legacies from policy and science to social justice and diplomacy. We honor Minister Fatima Camara, whose work in Guinea's fisheries sector redefines inclusion by positioning women as key players in the blue economy. We recognize Khadija Bendam, a formidable figure in nuclear science and emergency preparedness, who is expanding the role of African women in global safety and innovation.

We also shine a light on the leadership of Liberia's Second Lady, whose advocacy for persons with disabilities and inclusive development sends a clear message: leadership must serve all. Her presence at the Women's Summit 2025 reflects a renewed voice for equity at home and on the international stage. In that same spirit, Liberia's historic return to the UN Security Council after 63 years marks a milestone moment — one anchored in resilience, vision, and commitment to global cooperation.

This edition is a living record — of women rising, not for applause, but for purpose. Let it remind us that Africa's progress is being authored, daily, by women whose leadership is strategic, grounded, and transformative.



DR. GIFT CHIDIMMA  
**NNAMOKO ORAIRU**  
PUBLISHER, THE NEW AFRICA AMAZONS



## **Africa Amazons: Leading Where Legacy and Vision Meet**

**W**hat defines the women in this edition is not their visibility — it is their vision.

In these pages, we document the stories of women who lead with clarity and conviction. Minister Fatima Camara is revolutionizing Guinea's maritime economy, making space for women to shape fisheries policy, trade, and governance. Khadija Bendam exemplifies what it means to lead with integrity in science — building institutional capacity in nuclear safety and mentoring future leaders across Africa.

We were equally moved by the journey of Liberia's Second Lady, whose leadership reflects both compassion and courage. Her advocacy for persons with disabilities and her call for cross-border collaboration on inclusion echo beyond borders. And in a powerful symbol of national and continental progress, Liberia has reclaimed its seat on the United Nations Security Council for the first time since 1961 — a moment of pride and purpose for all who believe in resilient diplomacy.

The Africa Amazons featured here are not merely part of the future — they are active authors of the present. We are honored to share their stories, told faithfully and thoughtfully.



**Lanem Law Kuma**  
**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
*The New Africa Amazons*

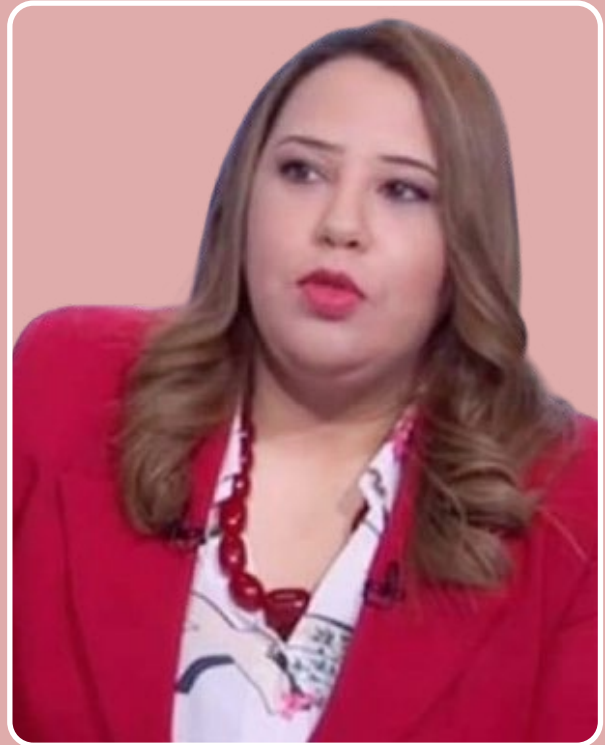
### Africa's Women Are Not Emerging — They Are Leading

**T**his edition is about the kind of leadership that endures — leadership rooted in service, community, and systemic change.

In Minister Fatima Camara, we see a leader using her platform to restructure an entire sector — ensuring women are not only visible in Guinea's blue economy, but empowered to govern within it. Through Khadija Bendam's leadership, we witness the impact of scientific diplomacy done with integrity — where nuclear safety, gender inclusion, and regional preparedness are no longer parallel goals, but part of one unified mission.

We also honor the quiet strength of Liberia's Second Lady, whose advocacy for disability inclusion redefines the role of leadership itself. Her presence at the Women's Summit 2025 stood as both a call to action and a symbol of what inclusive policy can achieve. And with Liberia's return to the UN Security Council after 63 years, we are reminded that resilience is not just a narrative — it is a strategy, shaped in no small part by women's determination.

This edition is not only a recognition — it is a resource. A resource for those who believe that leadership must be transformational, and that African women are already showing us how.



**KARIMA RHANEM**  
SENIOR MANAGING EDITOR,  
*THE NEW AFRICA AMAZONS*





# Minister Fatima Camara Raises the Voice of Guinean Women at the Women Summit in Casablanca

Guinea's Minister of Fisheries and Maritime Economy, Fatima Camara, joined fellow leaders at the third edition of the Women Summit, held in Casablanca under the theme "Innovating Together: Women Driving Change in Africa."

Speaking on a high-level panel focused on inclusive and transformational leadership, Camara emphasized the importance of responsible and engaged leadership. She reaffirmed her dedication to advocating for women's participation in Africa's development, stating, "Raising the voice of Guinean women and promoting their contribution to the development of our continent remains at the heart of my commitment."

The minister used the platform to outline Guinea's vision for developing its blue economy, highlighting the Kounki Project—an initiative supported by \$128 million in funding. The project aims to promote sustainable fisheries and improve the living conditions of coastal communities through inclusive development strategies.

Camara also stressed the need to integrate women into decision-making and national policy frameworks, underscoring their essential role in economic and social progress.

In recognition of her leadership, she was awarded the Ubuntu Prize during the summit—an honor that reflects her commitment to inclusive and sustainable development.

**“**  
*Raising the voice of Guinean women and promoting their contribution to the development of our continent remains at the heart of my commitment*  
**”**

Following the event, the Growth Women platform expressed its appreciation for her participation, thanking her for “strongly raising the voice of Guinean women and highlighting their vital role in the development of our continent.”





# Guinea's Minister of Fisheries and Maritime Economy: Advancing Women from Participation to Leadership in the Blue Economy

***An Exclusive Interview by Karima Rhanem, Senior Managing Editor***

Driving structural reforms, investing in capacity building, and positioning women as key actors in Guinea's maritime transformation.

In this exclusive interview, Guinea's Minister of Fisheries and Maritime Economy, Fatima Camara highlights the essential role of women in the country's fisheries value chain—where they represent over 70% of the post-harvest workforce, particularly in artisanal sectors. The Minister outlines targeted government actions to reduce structural inequities, such as modernizing fish markets, providing access to digital tools, and ensuring dedicated infrastructure for women

ven-dors. Under Guinea's 2023–2027 Fisheries and Aquaculture Strategic Plan, gender inclusion is a core priority, with mandates for women's representation in governance and support for women-led aquaculture cooperatives. Pilot programs have already led to income gains of up to 45% for participating women. The Minister emphasizes that women are not just participants but also leaders and innovators in Guinea's evolving blue economy. She calls for regional cooperation to harmonize gender-focused policies and encourages partnerships—especially with Morocco—to boost training, technology transfer, and innovation. Guinea, she affirms, is committed to building a sustainable, inclusive maritime future aligned with the Atlantic African vision.





### **How are women currently participating in Guinea's fisheries and maritime sectors?**

Women are the unsung pillars of Guinea's fisheries and maritime economy. While men are typically involved in capture fisheries, women constitute more than 70% of the workforce in the post-harvest sector, particularly in artisanal fisheries. Their activities include fish processing, especially smoking, drying, salting as well as transportation, marketing, and re-tail in both urban and rural areas. In the Boulbinet, Kamsar, and Dixinn fish landing sites alone, thousands of women are engaged in daily trade.

In several coastal communities, traditional arrangements allow women to finance fishing trips in exchange for early access to the catch. This financing model enhances their negotiating power and embeds them at the heart of the value chain. Women are also involved in community management of fisheries resources, particularly in mangrove areas, where they often serve as custodians of traditional ecological knowledge. Their roles

are vital for ensuring food security, stabilizing household incomes, and preserving artisanal fishing practices that support over 300,000 livelihoods across the country.

### **What specific policies or programs has your ministry introduced to support greater female involvement and leadership in these industries?**

Recognizing the structural inequities women face, our ministry has adopted a proactive, gender-responsive framework across all programs. One of our flagship actions was the rehabilitation and modernization of fish markets and landing infrastructure in Kamsar, Boulbinet, and Bonfi, incorporating separate sanitation facilities, cold storage, and secured sales zones reserved for women vendors. These improvements have reduced spoilage losses by up to 35% in certain localities.

We have also distributed over 250 digital weighing scales across fish markets in Conakry and coastal prefectures,

shifting transactions from arbitrary heaps to standardized weight-based pricing, empowering women to better defend their earnings. Furthermore, we support capacity-building through training modules in hygiene, first aid, and seafood quality management, with over 40% of participants in the 2024 cohort being women.

Under the 2023–2027 Fisheries and Aquaculture Strategic Plan, gender inclusion is a core pillar. The plan sets concrete targets: for example, at least 30% female representation in fisheries co-management committees, and the promotion of women-led aquaculture cooperatives with access to land, fingerlings, and credit facilities. Pilot programs in Boffa and Boké have already demonstrated that such targeted investment increases women's earnings by up to 45% within two years. Through these measures, we aim to position women not only as integrated actors but also as leaders and innovators in the blue economy. Moreover, within our own Ministry, women hold high-level positions of responsibility: they serve as advisors





“  
Furthermore, we support capacity-building through training modules in hygiene, first aid, and seafood quality management, with over 40% of participants in the 2024 cohort being women  
”

to the Minister, as National Directors, and as General Directors. They play a strategic role in the design, implementation, and monitoring of public policies related to fisheries and the maritime economy.

**With the international focus on the blue economy, especially after the recent Paris summit,**

### **how is Guinea positioning itself to benefit from this shift — and what role can women play in shaping this vision?**

The global shift toward the blue economy presents a historic opportunity for Guinea, whose 300 km of Atlantic coastline and 260,000 km<sup>2</sup> exclusive economic zone harbor immense economic and ecological value. The government has initiated reforms to harness this potential in line with sustainable development principles. These include investments in aquaculture development, modernized port infrastructure, marine conservation zones, and the promotion of coastal tourism.

Guinea is currently implementing climate-resilient strategies, supported by over USD 128 million in international financing, to protect critical ecosystems such as mangroves and estuaries. These efforts align with the vision of a low-carbon, high-opportunity maritime future.

Women are being actively integrated into this transformation. The Ministry is promoting their access to high-growth segments such as seafood processing for export, aquaculture. In addition to technical training programs, we are fostering women's representation in strategic committees overseeing marine spatial planning and fisheries governance. By equipping women to participate fully in shaping the blue economy, Guinea is not only ensuring equity but also maximizing the innovation and sustainability of its marine sectors.

### **How can West African coastal nations cooperate more effectively to promote gender-inclusive growth in the maritime economy?**

Coastal nations of West Africa share ecological challenges, demographic trends, and development goals, making regional cooperation essential.



To promote gender-inclusive growth, we must harmonize our policies, pool resources, and champion cross-border initiatives.

Joint actions should focus on standardized frameworks for women's access to maritime training institutions, recognition of informal sector contributions, and cross-country financing facilities for women-led ventures. For instance, creating a regional Blue Economy Innovation Fund targeting women entrepreneurs could catalyze scalable business models in aquaculture, logistics, and circular economy.

Moreover, regional fisheries bodies should institutionalize gender quotas and indicators across all levels of governance, from national co-management councils to regional fishery commissions. Ultimately, solidarity and knowledge-sharing among West African nations will accelerate not just inclusion, but also the long-term competitiveness of our maritime sectors.

**What lessons from Guinea's experience would you like to share with fellow African ministers and policymakers attending the Growth Women Summit?**

Guinea's journey demonstrates that structural inclusion of women is a prerequisite for resilient development in fisheries and maritime sectors. One key lesson is that gender-sensitive infrastructure like safe markets, accessible landing docks, and proper sanitation; can transform informal trading into viable small enterprises. In Kamsar, for instance, women's income from fish marketing increased by over 30% within the first year after market modernization.

Another lesson is the importance of continuous capacity building. Training women in basic bookkeeping, fish preservation, and quality control has allowed many to access financing for the first time. Some have expanded their businesses to regional trade

**“Guinea is currently implementing climate-resilient strategies, supported by over USD 128 million in international financing, to protect critical ecosystems such as mangroves and estuaries”**

networks, creating a ripple effect in job creation and community stability.

Finally, engaging men and community leaders as allies, not opponents, in gender advancement initiatives has proven crucial. In Boffa and Tanènè, participatory dialogues led to a local charter that protects women's rights to fish drying spaces and ensures representation in decision-making bodies. Inclusion works best when it is co-created.





## **What forms of bilateral cooperation between Morocco and Guinea do you see as most strategic — particularly in vocational training, innovation, or joint ventures in the blue economy?**

Morocco stands as a reference in Africa for its advanced fisheries governance and maritime infrastructure. Strategic cooperation between our two countries should prioritize vocational exchanges. Guinea would benefit significantly from placing students and young professionals in Moroccan institutions specializing in aquaculture engineering, marine biotechnology, and fishery resource management.

We also envision joint ventures in seafood processing, where Moroccan firms could partner with Guinean cooperatives to build value chains for export-grade products. Such partnerships would bring capital, technology, and market access. Furthermore, Morocco's expertise in sustainable fishing practices and vessel monitoring systems could help Guinea upgrade its maritime surveillance and compliance capacity.

Collaborations on innovation hubs for the blue economy, particularly focused on youth and women entrepreneurs, would be mutually beneficial. Co-financed research on Atlantic marine ecosystems, stock migration, and climate adaptation would not only serve our countries, but also the broader Atlantic African region.

## **How do you see Guinea contributing to or benefiting from King Mohammed VI's Atlantic African vision, especially in building a connected, sustainable Atlantic space?**

Guinea aligns closely with the Atlantic African vision championed by His Majesty King Mohammed VI, particularly the ambition of building

a unified, secure, and prosperous Atlantic region. Guinea contributes by developing its port and maritime logistics infrastructure; efforts that support cross-Atlantic trade and connectivity. Our recent investments in the Conakry Port modernization are part of this commitment.

On the environmental front, Guinea is enhancing marine protected areas and enforcing anti-IUU (Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated) fishing laws. These actions strengthen shared ocean governance; a cornerstone of Atlantic regionalism. We also engage in multilateral Atlantic security forums to address piracy, illicit trafficking, and ecosystem degradation.

By participating in knowledge-sharing platforms and economic diplomacy forums led by Morocco, Guinea benefits from South-South cooperation. We foresee deeper collaboration on education, research, and renewable marine energies. Guinea stands ready to be an anchor of stability and innovation within this emerging Atlantic African community.

## **Looking ahead, what are the top priorities for ensuring that women across Africa can access and lead in the emerging blue economy?**

Empowering African women in the blue economy requires deliberate, sustained action. The top priority is expanding access to technical and vocational education tailored to maritime sectors. This includes developing curricula that reflect both traditional knowledge and modern technologies, enabling women to work in aquaculture, marine engineering, logistics, and ocean sciences.

Second, financial inclusion is critical. Women entrepreneurs often lack collateral or financial history. National governments and regional banks must design credit facilities and guarantee funds targeting women in fisheries and coastal enterprises. Mobile banking and cooperative



models can reduce access barriers.

Third, legal and institutional reforms must ensure that women have land tenure rights in coastal areas and access to fishing licenses. Gender parity policies in marine governance bodies must be enacted and enforced.

Fourth, technology and infrastructure investments should prioritize women's productivity and safety. Innovations like improved smoking kilns, cold storage, and solar-powered dryers reduce labor intensity and post-harvest losses.

Fifth, continental and regional platforms must promote women's leadership. Women should be visible at conferences, on industry boards, and in research institutions. Mentorship networks, exchange programs, and regional innovation competitions can accelerate this visibility.

With these measures, we can transform the blue economy into a sphere of opportunity and equity. Women are not only participants; they are pioneers. Africa's maritime future will be stronger, more inclusive, and more sustainable when women are empowered to lead at every level.



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## Science with Impact and Integrity: Khadija Bendam Exemplifies Women's Leadership in Nuclear Science in Africa

*By Karima Rhanem, Senior Managing Editor*

In a sector often misunderstood and stereotyped, Ing. Khadija Bendam brings clarity, leadership, and purpose to the role of women in nuclear science. As 1st Vice President of the International Nuclear Societies Council and President of Women in Nuclear Morocco, she is a strong

advocate for women's leadership in scientific advancement across Africa.

"The nuclear sector is often misunderstood or stereotyped," Bendam stated. "Women can play a transformative role by becoming ambassadors of nuclear science—not just as engineers or physicists,

but as educators, communicators, and leaders."

She highlights the importance of visibility in changing perceptions. "Visibility matters: when young people see women leading safely in nuclear fields, it shifts narratives and builds trust." Her message is rooted in a broader vision for Africa. "Africa needs strong advocates for peaceful nuclear applications in



energy, health, water management, and agriculture.”

According to Bendam, women offer valuable qualities to the governance of nuclear technologies. “Women bring empathy, multidisciplinary, and long-term thinking to the table—traits essential for responsible governance of nuclear technologies.” She adds, “Strategic capacity-building, mentorship, and policy engagement are also key. It’s time to move from token representation to active leadership.”

In 2022, Bendam launched a pioneering initiative in partnership with the IAEA. “In 2022, I founded the international initiative WINEPRI (Women in Nuclear in Emergency Preparedness and Response Initiative), in partnership with the IAEA. WINEPRI aims to empower women in the critical field of nuclear emergency preparedness and response. It

“*Women can play a transformative role by becoming ambassadors of nuclear science—not just as engineers or physicists, but as educators, communicators, and leaders*”

operates as a specialized expert group under Women in Nuclear Global, active in 150 countries, where I serve as an executive board member. This initiative promotes meaningful female participation in areas where their voices remain

underrepresented.”

She also calls for a broader transformation in how science is taught and practiced. “We must re-think science—not just as lab work or equations, but as a tool to solve real human challenges.” She believes solutions for Africa’s development lie in inclusive and interdisciplinary approaches: “Africa’s pressing issues—such as energy access, food security, and climate resilience—require collaborative, interdisciplinary solutions that bring together diverse voices and expertise.”

As the Growth Women Summit approaches, Bendam’s presence offers inspiration and intention. “My presence symbolizes both recognition and responsibility. It’s a signal that women from emerging markets have a voice and a stake in shaping the global scientific agenda... Representation is power, and we must use it wisely.”





## **Women in Nuclear: Ing. Khadija Bendam on Representation, Responsibility, and Scientific Inclusion in Africa**

As 1st Vice President of the International Nuclear Societies Council and President of Women in Nuclear Morocco, Ing. Khadija Bendam is at the forefront of redefining scientific leadership across Africa. A nuclear engineer and founder of the

Women in Nuclear in Emergency Preparedness and Response Initiative (WINEPRI), she shares her vision on gender equity in STEM, responsible nuclear governance, and why visibility matters for the next generation of women scientists.



Ing. Khadija Bendam, 1st Vice President of the International Nuclear Societies Council and President of Women in Nuclear Morocco with HE Snyleseh Stephenie Dahn Koug, Second Lady of Liberia and Executive Director of the Group of 77

**Your position as Vice President of the INSC places you at the intersection of science, policy, and gender representation. What are the biggest obstacles women face in STEM fields today?**

“Women in STEM often face systemic barriers—ranging from unconscious bias to limited access to leadership roles and strategic networks. Despite notable progress, women remain underrepresented in decision-making positions, limiting both their visibility and influence. Cultural and societal expectations, especially in regions with entrenched gender norms, can also discourage girls from pursuing scientific careers. Addressing these challenges requires inclusive environments that promote mentorship, flexibility, and gender-sensitive policies. Education systems must also foster STEM ambitions early and equitably for both girls and boys.

As His Majesty King Mohammed VI declared on August 20, 2021, during the Revolution of the King and the People: ‘We want Moroccan women to have access to all opportunities, in a climate of freedom, dignity, and equality.’

When women are empowered, the entire sector benefits from richer perspectives, creativity, and sustainable innovation. It’s about breaking barriers and building systems where every talent can thrive—regardless of gender.”

**The nuclear sector is often misunderstood or stereotyped. How can women play a more visible and strategic role in advancing safe, responsible use of nuclear science in Africa?**

“Women can play a transformative role by becoming ambassadors of nuclear science—not just as engineers or physicists, but as educators, communicators, and leaders. Visibility matters: when young people see women leading safely in nuclear fields, it shifts narratives and builds trust. Africa needs strong advocates for peaceful nuclear applications in energy, health, water management, and agriculture. Women bring empathy, multidisciplinary, and long-term thinking to the table—traits essential for responsible governance of nuclear technologies. Through collaboration

“*Women in STEM often face systemic barriers—ranging from unconscious bias to limited access to leadership roles and strategic networks*”

with institutions and the media, women can demystify nuclear science and foster public understanding. Strategic capacity-building, mentorship, and policy engagement are also key. It’s time to move from token representation to active leadership.”

**What does your presence at the Growth Women Summit represent for women scientists—particularly in emerging markets?**

“My presence symbolizes both





“  
***Women can play a transformative role by becoming ambassadors of nuclear science—not just as engineers or physicists, but as educators, communicators, and leaders***  
 ”

recognition and responsibility. It's a signal that women from emerging markets have a voice and a stake in shaping the global scientific agenda. It's not just about being visible—it's about bringing tangible contributions and showing that excellence knows no borders or gender.

For young women scientists, it sends a strong message: you belong here. You can lead, innovate, and influence decisions that shape the future. The Growth Women Summit is also a platform to forge new partnerships, share solutions, and inspire the next generation of changemakers. I'm here to amplify not just my voice, but those of all women pushing boundaries in their fields. Representation is power, and we must use it wisely.”

### **How can the nuclear and broader scientific community become more inclusive and interdisciplinary, especially when tackling Africa's development challenges?**

“We must rethink science—not just as lab work or equations, but as a tool to solve real human challenges. Inclusiveness begins with education by integrating social sciences, ethics, and community engagement into technical training. Africa's pressing issues—such as energy access, food security, and climate resilience—require collaborative, interdisciplinary solutions that bring together diverse voices and expertise.

In 2022, I founded the international initiative WINEPRI (Women in Nuclear in Emergency Preparedness and Response Initiative), in partnership with the IAEA. WINEPRI aims to empower women in the critical field of nuclear emergency preparedness and response. It operates as a specialized expert group under Women in Nuclear Global, active in 150 countries, where I serve as an executive board member. This initiative promotes meaningful female participation in areas where their voices remain underrepresented.

As His Majesty King Mohammed VI stated in the 2021 speech on the New Development Model: “The inclusion of

women is a key pillar of sustainable development, particularly through access to education, employment, and leadership positions.’ Creating inclusive scientific ecosystems means breaking silos, valuing all forms of contribution, and ensuring science reflects and serves the full diversity of society.”

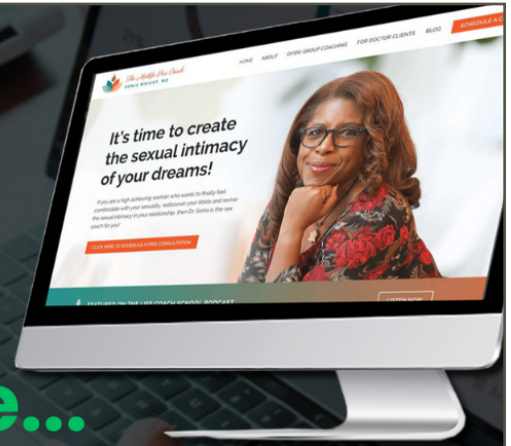
### **You've had a distinguished career in a technical field. What advice would you give to young women interested in engineering, science, or global leadership roles?**

“First: believe in your potential, even when others don't. Confidence is built through perseverance, learning, and surrounding yourself with mentors who believe in you. Choose your path with curiosity and courage—whether it's engineering, medicine, climate, or policy. Don't be afraid of technical complexity; embrace it.

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## CONFÉRENCE Women Driving Sustainable & Impact Economy



Mme Khadija BENDAM

1st Vice-President –  
International Nuclear Societies  
Council (INC)



Mme Zineb BENNOUNA

Directrice RSE &  
Communication  
LafargeHolcim Maroc



Mme Fatima ZAHRA  
RAHMOUNI

Responsable TEC



# African Conference: Opening Pathways for Young Women in Nuclear and Renewable Energy

**By Karima Rhanem, Senior Managing Editor**

**A**t the Women Driving Sustainable and Impact Economy Conference, organized by Women Summit, held under the Honorary precedence of Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Meryem, Khadija Bendam, First Vice-President of the International Nuclear Societies Council (INSC), took part in a high-level panel focused on inclusive leadership and sustainable energy transition. Alongside Zineb Bennouna, Director of CSR and Communications

at LafargeHolcim Maroc, and Claudia Gaudiau-Francisco, Secrétaire Général chez Tectra Recrutement Maroc, Bendam laid out concrete strategies to attract more young women into science and technology fields — especially in the areas of civil nuclear energy and renewable energies.

Bendam opened with a strong message on representation. “We must make inspiring female role models more visible,” she emphasized. As the first woman to serve as Vice-President of the INSC, she regularly visits schools and universities to share her career path and inspire young girls to envision

a future in scientific fields. These engagements are designed to dismantle gender stereotypes and offer accessible examples of women succeeding in science.

She also stressed the importance of structured support systems. Through her leadership in Women in Nuclear (WiN) Global, Bendam has created pathways for women to gain access to high-level expertise, mentoring, and technical training. As the founder of Women in Nuclear Emergency Preparedness and Response (WINEPRI), she leads a cross-institutional program supported by CNESTEN (the Moroccan National





Center for Nuclear Energy, Sciences and Techniques), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and international experts. WINEPRI organizes simulations, mentorship initiatives, and educational outreach at all levels — from middle school to university — to cultivate interest and ambition among young women.

Financial and academic support is also central to her approach. “We must set up targeted scholarships for girls in STEM — science, technology, engineering, and mathematics — with a focus on civil nuclear, renewable energy, and emergency response,” she said. She called for the development of early educational modules that challenge gender norms through workshops, testimonials, and technical site visits.

At the policy level, Bendam argued for institutionalizing gender inclusion as a standard performance indicator in energy transition strategies. “We must activate both institutional levers and multi-actor partnerships,” she



noted, referencing Morocco’s 2011 Constitution — specifically Article 19, which guarantees gender equality across civil, political, economic, and environmental sectors. She advocated for gender quotas in decision-making bodies, corporate incentives for promoting parity, and integration of gender in recruitment, training, and evaluation processes.

She also praised national progress, citing the “Clean Package” launched by Her Excellency Leila Benali, Morocco’s Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development. The initiative created a balanced expert committee — composed of three men and two women — an example Bendam welcomed as a sign of clear, intentional leadership.

International collaboration remains a key part of her mission. Through her work with the IAEA and her support for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Program, Bendam helps finance the training of young women entering the nuclear sciences. As President of Women in Nuclear Morocco and board member of Women in Nuclear Africa, she develops partnerships with universities, and private companies to integrate women into sectors like small modular reactors (SMRs), radiological safety, and energy innovation.

In addition to WINEPRI, Bendam contributes to expert working groups within WiN Global. These groups cover areas such as decommissioning, nuclear medicine, experimental installations, innovation, radiopharmaceuticals, nuclear law, nuclear security, and nuclear disarmament for peace. They operate with the support of institutions such as Electricité de France (EDF), the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency, the World Nuclear Association, the IAEA, and the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation. Together, these networks offer webinars, mentorship programs, and technical workshops that give young women structured and meaningful access to advanced fields.

Reflecting on her experience, Khadija Bendam said: “This summit is not only a space for connection and collaboration — it is a message of hope and strength. The journey may be difficult, but it is never impossible.” She concluded with determination: “Attracting and sustainably integrating women in the sectors of energy transition requires a commitment that is political, institutional, educational, economic, and personal. As a dedicated leader, I will continue to carry this message — in Morocco, across Africa, and within international forums.”





# Khadija Bendam: A Trailblazer in Nuclear Safety and Emergency Preparedness

**B**endam Khadija is the first woman to serve as 1st Vice Chair of the International Nuclear Safety Center (INSC) since January 2025. She currently leads Nuclear and Radiological Safety and Security Audits at CNESTEN, after previously heading the Emergency Preparedness and Response unit.

An engineer by training, she holds degrees in Environmental Engineering (1998), Radiation Protection (2002), and Nuclear Physics (2006) from the prestigious Mohammed VI School of Engineering.

Khadija is a recognized expert with

the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), where she coordinates national and regional projects on radiological and nuclear emergency preparedness. She has played key roles in major international radiological exercises, including CONVEX-3 and the International Exercise Rabat 2011, and contributed to several IAEA publications on emergency preparedness and crisis communication.

Her international engagement extends to the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, and the WHO's REMPAN network for radiological emergency medical

assistance. She also serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Environmental Radioactivity.

With over 80 expert missions delivered worldwide, she specializes in radiological exercise design, national emergency plan evaluations, and training for first responders. In December 2024, she became Vice President of the Arab Women Network in CBRN Security.

Khadija also holds key leadership roles within Women in Nuclear (WiN). She is currently an Executive Committee Member of WiN Global, Leader of WiNEPRI (WiN Emergency



Preparedness and Radiological Initiative), Group of expertise of WIN Global, and President of WiN Morocco.

Her impactful contributions to nuclear safety and emergency preparedness have earned her numerous national and international distinctions throughout her career.

Throughout her career, Khadija Bendam has received numerous national and international awards for her pioneering work in nuclear safety, radiological emergency preparedness, and leadership in STEM. In 2022, she was honored by the Minister of Energy and the Director General of CNESTEN for her outstanding contributions to nuclear safety as “Woman of the Year in Nuclear Field.” In 2023, she was awarded by École Mohammadia d’Ingénieurs (EMI) during a high-level event opened by two government ministers as “Women in Energy – Engineer of the Year Trophy.”

In 2024, she received national recognition from the Moroccan



National Broadcasting Corporation (SNRT) for her influence in science and public service. That same year, she was profiled by UNESCO as an “Inspiring Woman in Science” on the occasion of International Women’s Day.

In 2025, she was named one of the leading voices in nuclear safety in Africa

by the Jadara Foundation and featured at major international summits. She was also named “Iconic African Leaders 2024” by The New Africa Magazine.

Her leadership continues to inspire a new generation of women and professionals in the nuclear field across Africa and beyond.



# Khadija Bendam Serves as IAEA Lead Expert in Nigeria to Strengthen Emergency Preparedness in Africa



From 23 June to 4 July 2025, Khadija Bendam served as a Lead Expert for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) at the Regional School of Radiation Emergency Management, held in Abuja, Nigeria. The event was implemented by the Incident and Emergency Centre (IEC) of the IAEA Department of Nuclear Safety and Security, in collaboration with national and regional partners.

Throughout the two-week program, Khadija worked closely with esteemed experts including Prince Kwabena Gyekye, PhD (Ghana), and Mr. Adamu Hussaini (Nigeria), under the coordination of IEC-IAEA representative Ms. Rana Essam.



Together, they supported the training of professionals from Nigeria and over 30 other countries, with the goal of enhancing regional capabilities in nuclear and radiological emergency preparedness.



The program covered a comprehensive range of topics, such as the characteristics and safety of radioactive sources and devices, lessons learned from past emergencies, nuclear security event management, emergency worker safety, and the design and

implementation of emergency preparedness and response (EPR) exercises.

Khadija expressed gratitude for the opportunity to contribute as a Lead Expert, highlighting the importance of international cooperation in building safer and

more resilient systems across Africa. The opening ceremony was honored by the presence of Dr. Yau Idris, Director General of the Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NNRA), reinforcing the program's national and regional significance.







The International Center for Diplomacy is a Moroccan non-profit organization created on April 2, 2011, with the aim of improving the representation and influence of non-state actors in the continental and international policies of multilateral institutions such as the United Nations, the African Union and the European Commission, and to strengthen cooperation relations with other actors around the world.

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2. Promote effective diplomatic practices through exchange programs and trainings
3. Promote Morocco's nation branding globally
4. Promoting Morocco's development by contributing to national policy reforms and advocating for reinforcing its international conventional practice related to human rights and development goals

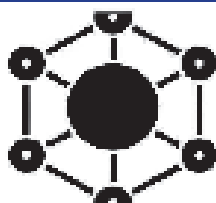
## Theme

1. Gender equality & gender-based violence
2. Human rights
3. UN SDGs and AU 2063 Agenda
4. Women, Youth Peace and Security Agendas
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6. Youth & Women's rights
7. Water Diplomacy
8. Global health and Sexual & Reproductive health
9. Girls' rights & Leadership
10. Economic empowerment
11. Comparative policies and legislations

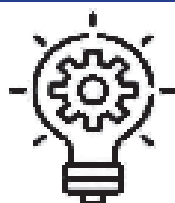
## OUR PROGRAMS



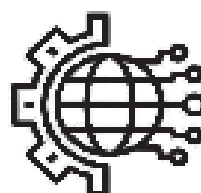
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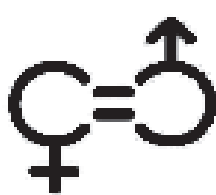
Digital Tech Africa



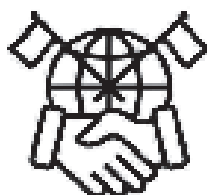
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## Second Lady of Liberia Engages in Strategic Dialogue at Women's Summit 2025 in Morocco

Casablanca served as the international stage for this year's Women's Summit 2025, held from June 18–19 at the Hyatt Regency under the honorary presidency of Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Meryem. Now in its third edition, the summit brought together prominent women leaders from Morocco, across Africa, and countries including Canada and the United States to explore themes of innovation, sustainable development, and women's economic empowerment.

Representing Liberia, HE Snyleseh Stephenie Dahn Koung, Second Lady of Liberia and Executive Director of the Group of 77, was an Honorary Guest Speaker and Panelist. Invited by the Startup Grow Foundation, her participation emphasized Liberia's commitment to strengthening international cooperation around inclusive development and social advancement.

In addition to her role in the summit's main sessions, HE Dahn Koung took part in several high-level discussions

aimed at fostering cross-border collaboration. She met with Madam Ghizlane Benjelloun vice president of the National Observatory for the Rights of Children in Rabat, where they discussed shared priorities related to child protection and support services for children with disabilities in both Liberia and Morocco.

In Casablanca, HE Dahn Koung also held a meeting with Mayor Nabila Rmili, focusing on strategies to support women with disabilities and





promote their active participation in society. Both engagements reflected a mutual interest in strengthening inclusive policy and building effective partnerships between institutions in the two countries.

Her visit also highlighted the enduring mission of Liberia's Group of 77, a national social welfare initiative founded in 1977 by former President William R. Tolbert. Originally inspired by his international experiences, the program was established to serve the needs of persons with disabilities and continues to operate under the Office of the Vice President, often overseen by the Vice President's spouse or appointee.

The Startup Grow Foundation is an organization dedicated to supporting entrepreneurs, particularly in underserved communities. Its work includes providing mentorship,



funding access, and expert guidance to help startups succeed and scale, contributing to broader economic development goals.

As the Women's Summit 2025 comes to a close, it leaves behind a clear message: meaningful progress depends

on cooperation, commitment, and inclusive leadership. With participation from influential figures such as the Second Lady of Liberia, the summit serves as a powerful platform for building partnerships that can drive change across regions and generations.



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW



## Liberia's Second Lady Synlesseh Stephenie Dahn-Koung: **"We've led in our homes for generations—now it's time to lead in the nation"**

In an exclusive interview with ***The New Africa Magazine***, Madam Synlesseh Stephenie Dahn-Koung, Second Lady of Liberia and Executive Director of the Group of 77—Liberia's official welfare entity for persons with disabilities—shares her vision for women's leadership across the continent. Speaking with clarity and purpose, she challenges traditional limitations on the roles of First and Second Ladies, and calls for bold, inclusive policies. From Liberia's post-conflict resilience to empowering women with disabilities, her insights are grounded in lived experience, service, and a deep commitment to generational change. She closes with an urgent message to Africa's young girls: do not wait—prepare, rise, and lead.

**What does women's leadership mean to you in the current African context?**

To me, women leadership in Africa today is a responsibility, I'll even go one step further and say it's a revolution. It means stepping into spaces where decisions are made and shaping policies that directly affect our communities, our economies, and our futures. Women's leadership is about amplifying voices that have long been silenced and creating structures where inclusion is encouraged and expected. It's about leading with compassion, with courage, and with an unwavering focus on lifting other women as we rise. In the current





especially those that impact women, children, and persons with special needs, different abilities, and all marginalized groups. Whether it's pushing for social inclusion, access to health services, girls' education, combating domestic violence and abuse, improving maternal health, or creating pathways for community integration and economic empowerment, we must use our platforms as active agents of change, not as figureheads. That's why I'm grateful, that in Liberia, Second Ladies are given the opportunity to lead an institution that caters to the most vulnerable in our society and we have the full support from our government.



**Liberia has faced its share of national challenges. What lessons from your country's resilience do you believe can inform broader continental strategies for women's empowerment?**

Liberia's history is one of extraordinary resilience. We have learned that communities can re-build, that healing is possible, and that women are always at the center of recovery and growth. From the days of our peace movement, where women sat in silent protest to end conflict, to our collective response to the Ebola crisis, Liberian women have shown that when empowered, they become the pillars of national survival. The lesson is this: investing in women is not a charity, it is a strategy for national resilience. Across Africa, we must intentionally design policies and programs that position women as leaders in peacebuilding, health systems, and economic recovery, because when women lead, societies heal and thrive.

African context, women's leadership is no longer optional, it is essential for sustainable development. If women can be the pillars of the home that produces Ministers, Presidents and high society actors who are men, women can be magnificent mainstream leaders. We've already played the role for ages in our homes, now it's the time for us to sit at the table to build and to sustain our societies.

“  
*We've already played the role for ages in our homes, now it's the time for us to sit at the table to build and to sustain our societies*  
”

**How do you view the role of First and Second Ladies in Africa beyond ceremonial positions, especially in advancing education, health, and gender equality?**

It's time for the roles of First and Second Ladies to go far beyond ribbon-cutting and ceremonial appearances. We

are uniquely positioned to advocate, to influence, and to open doors that others may not be able to. With access comes responsibility. I believe First and Second Ladies have a duty to champion causes that might otherwise be neglected,

**At this summit, you are surrounded by fellow leaders from across Africa and beyond. What kind of collaborations or policy dialogues are you hoping to initiate?**

I am eager to explore partnerships that move us from conversation to action. Specifically, I am interested in cross-country collaborations for the





conference on the status of women with disabilities, where we get to discuss their challenges and commit to solutions, such as vocational training for women with disabilities, regional strategies to keep girls in school, and joint advocacy for policies focused on persons with special needs, different abilities and end gender-based violence. I believe we must create more formal platforms for First and Second Ladies across Africa to coordinate our efforts, not as isolated champions, but as a unified voice. Together, we can push for continental

policies that prioritize women's health, mental health, economic inclusion, and leadership representation.

### What message would you share with young African girls watching leaders like yourself on such a stage?

To every young African girl watching, I want you to know that your dreams are valid, your voice matters, and your future is bright. Do not wait for permission to lead. You already have

“  
Do not wait for permission to lead. You already have the strength, the intelligence, and the potential within you  
”

the strength, the intelligence, and the potential within you. Find your passion, pursue your education, and never be afraid to take up space. The world needs your ideas, your leadership, and your brilliance. Prepare yourself for leadership everyday. Live life the right way, If I am here to-day, it is because someone believed in me and I believe in you. In the words of Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Liberia's and Africa's First Female President: “If your dream doesn't scare you, it isn't big enough.” Let your urge to lead be so challenging that it pushes you out of your comfort zone.



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## Moroccan Delegation Champions Women's Empowerment at Major Pan-African Conference in Nairobi

A Moroccan delegation of business and professional women traveled to Nairobi, Kenya, from June 21 to 23, 2025, to participate in a major continental gathering focused on advancing the role of African women. The delegation was led by Fatiha Otmane, President of the Federation of Business and Professional Women of Morocco (BPW Morocco), and took part in both the General Assembly of African Businesswomen and the Programming Conference of the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET).

FEMNET, founded in 1988 and headquartered in Nairobi, is a key

pan-African feminist platform that brings together over 800 individual and institutional members from 50 African countries and the African diaspora. The organization aims to build an Africa where women and girls can flourish in dignity, free from violence and oppression.

Throughout the sessions, Fatiha Otmane showcased Morocco's progress in promoting gender equality, placing a spotlight on initiatives such as increasing girls' access to education, empowering women economically, and fighting gender-based violence. She also pointed to the strategic partnership between Morocco and Kenya,

especially in areas of education, leadership development, and socio-economic inclusion.

> "African women must be at the heart of the continent's development agenda. Strengthening female leadership and ensuring equitable access to opportunities are not only rights but necessities for Africa's progress," said Fatiha Otmane during her address.

Otmane also emphasized the importance of concrete, human-centered initiatives that enhance social and economic integration for women across the continent. She highlighted the growing role of



civil society and women's networks in promoting values of equality, solidarity, and civic participation, calling for a shared commitment to tackling Africa's most pressing challenges.

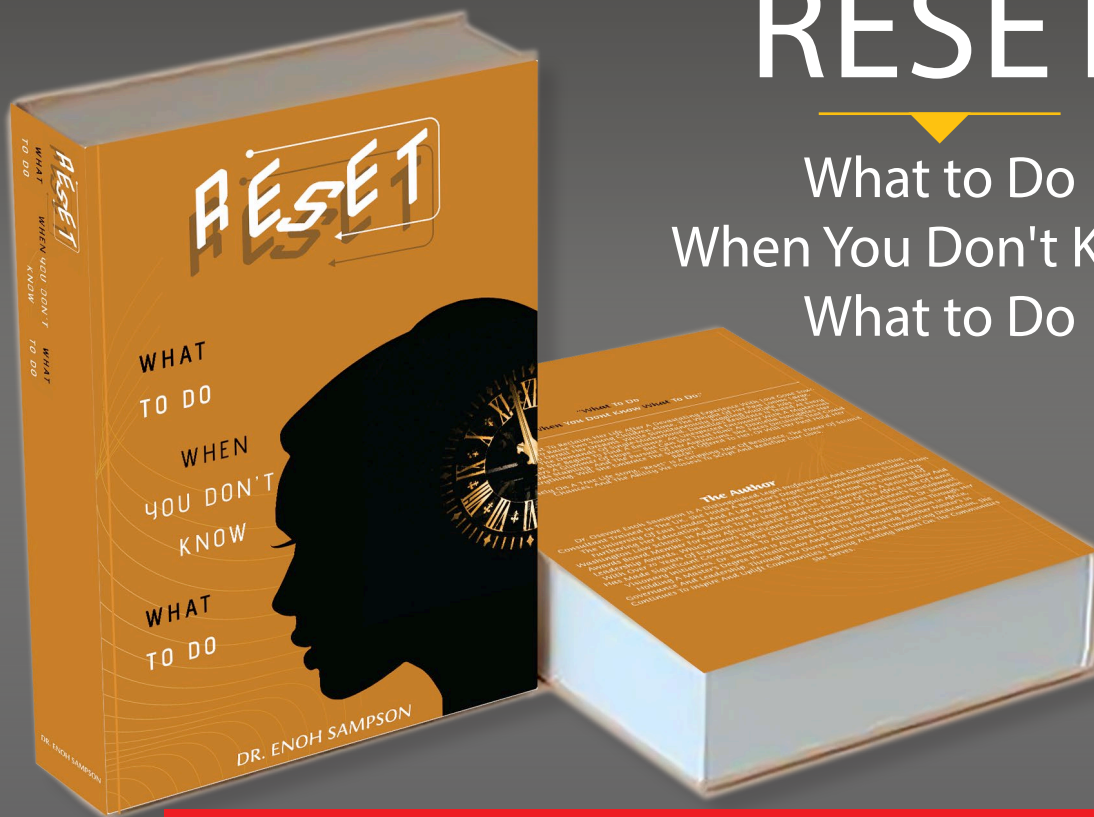
Moreover, she expressed the willingness of Moroccan women to contribute meaningfully to Africa's development efforts, through the exchange of expertise, cross-border networking, and the sharing of best practices, while respecting local contexts and regional priorities.

The Moroccan delegation regarded its participation as part of a broader effort in parallel diplomacy, aimed at strengthening African women's solidarity as a driving force for economic and political transformation. In this context, Otmane pointed to the value of building partnerships among women's organizations across the continent to launch joint projects in capacity building, women's entrepreneurship, and rights advocacy. According to her, such synergies help pool resources, extend the reach of impact, and consolidate the role of civil society at the continental level.





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# Legal Practitioner Proposes National Framework for Victim Support in Morocco

*By The New Africa Magazine*

As Morocco moves through a phase of major legal reform, legal practitioner Mustapha Sarhiri is proposing a complementary and long-overdue step: establishing a structured national system to support victims of crime. His proposal introduces a framework inspired by what many legal systems abroad recognize as “victimology” — an approach that focuses on the experiences, rights, and recovery of those harmed by crime, not just on penalizing the perpetrators.

Sarhiri, who has worked closely

with various legal associations and civil society organizations, argues that Moroccan law offers too little protection or support for victims, especially in cases of violence, abuse, or social vulnerability. He believes that a justice system focused solely on prosecution is incomplete if it fails to provide care and access to recovery for the individuals most directly affected by criminal acts.

Drawing on his experience offering legal support to former inmates, women survivors of abuse, and youth impacted by school violence and social exclusion, Sarhiri emphasizes the need to develop coordinated support mechanisms. His vision includes the

creation of local centers that would offer victims psychological counseling, legal assistance, and administrative guidance. These centers would be linked to the judicial system and staffed by professionals trained to handle trauma and legal procedures in a victim-sensitive manner.

Sarhiri also underlines the importance of training for legal professionals. Judges, police officers, lawyers, and social workers — all of whom play a role in a victim’s experience of justice — must be equipped with both legal knowledge and a deep understanding of the psychological and social dimensions of victimization. He proposes

integrating this subject matter into university law programs and judicial academies, as well as offering continuing professional development for those already working in the field.

In legislative terms, Sarhiri sees clear gaps. Moroccan law, as it currently stands, does not define a victim's legal status in a way that guarantees rights to support, participation in legal proceedings, or access to compensation. He believes that these gaps can be addressed as part of the on-going reform of the Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code. Part of his proposal involves the introduction of legal guarantees for victims to access social services, receive protection where needed, and obtain fair compensation. In cases where a victim cannot pursue compensation through the courts — due to the perpetrator being unknown, indigent, or otherwise unreachable — Sarhiri calls for the creation of a state-supported compensation fund, administered transparently.

The timing, he says, is significant. Morocco is currently reviewing several major legal frameworks, including family law, criminal sentencing, and procedural justice. The emergence of policies around alternative sentencing, in particular, opens the door for more restorative forms of justice — but these must also include meaningful mechanisms to support victims, not just reduce penalties for offenders.

Sarhiri's proposal also draws inspiration from both Moroccan and international experiences. Domestically, he sees Morocco's Equity and Reconciliation Commission as a relevant precedent — a national body that provided recognition, reparation, and public healing to victims of past state violence. While that initiative focused on historical human rights violations, he believes the core principles — institutional recognition of harm, psychological rehabilitation, and fair compensation — are applicable to modern criminal justice settings.

Internationally, his thinking is



informed by models from countries like France, the United Kingdom, and Canada, where victim support is integrated into the justice system through specialized offices, formal charters of rights, and multi-sectoral partnerships. In his view, Morocco can learn from these models while tailoring its own approach to fit its cultural and legal context.

However, Sarhiri acknowledges the proposal will face several challenges. Chief among them is the lack of public awareness around victim rights, especially in communities where stigma or silence surrounds issues such as domestic violence or sexual abuse. In addition, the legal and institutional infrastructure in Morocco remains under-resourced when it comes to psychosocial services and legal aid. Many judges and legal professionals are not trained to handle victim-centered

approaches, and there is currently no dedicated budget for such programs.

To address these issues, Sarhiri calls for state-backed investment, legal reform, and coordination across sectors. He believes that institutions such as the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health, and civil society organizations must work together to build an effective and sustainable model. He also stresses the importance of data collection, program monitoring, and independent evaluation — not only to guide implementation, but also to demonstrate impact and build long-term political support.

At its core, the proposal aims to expand the definition of justice in Morocco. For Sarhiri, justice cannot be measured solely in sentences or verdicts. It must also consider how the legal system contributes to healing, safety, and reintegration. A system that fails to recognize or assist victims, he argues, is incomplete — and risks deepening harm rather than repairing it.

As Morocco charts its future in justice reform, Sarhiri's proposal raises fundamental questions about how the state treats its most vulnerable citizens. It invites a shift in legal and social thinking: from punishment alone to a more balanced model that also centers dignity, protection, and the long-term wellbeing of those impacted by crime.





# Morocco's Silent Uprising: How Women in Precarity Are Reclaiming Power Through Skill, Solidarity, and Policy

*By The New Africa Magazine*

In the working-class neighborhood of Jnan Znata, on the edge of Ain Harrouda near Casablanca, a quiet shift is taking root. In a modest workshop where sewing machines echo with rhythm and resolve, a group of women—once isolated by hardship—are reshaping their futures with thread, vision, and newfound confidence.

At the center of this movement is the Nada Association for the Reception and Rehabilitation of Women in Difficult Situations, a grassroots organization that offers far more than vocational training. It provides a pathway—away from economic exclusion and emotional trauma—toward autonomy, stability, and community. For many of these women, it is their first chance to be seen, heard, and supported.

The association recently hosted its first national forum on women's

economic empowerment, where the personal intersected with the political. Participants shared not just their journeys of reinvention, but their insistence that empowerment must go beyond charity or temporary intervention. It must be institutional, sustained, and rooted in justice.

Bouchra, a woman in her twenties, spoke candidly about how academic failure once derailed her sense of purpose. "I thought not passing the baccalaureate meant I was done," she said. But after joining Nada's workshops in tailoring and personal development, she began to rebuild her identity—and her ambitions. "Now I'm designing my own project. I'm no longer stuck in that one version of failure."

Nearby, Zohra, in her fifties and once a seafood vendor scraping by on daily sales, finally embraced the dream she had abandoned in childhood—to become a seamstress. "I used to think it was too late," she said. "But this space gave me

permission to try again." Today, she's preparing to launch her own home-based tailoring business.

Their stories represent more than individual transformations—they reflect a deeper movement unfolding in Moroccan society. According to public policy expert Karima Rhanem, president of the International Center for Diplomacy, Nada's work is a "living example" of how intersecting support—economic, psychological, legal—can generate real social mobility. "You can't separate empowerment from the wider political and economic systems," she explained. "What we see here is that support must be multidimensional. It's not just about training—it's about trust, follow-up, and voice."

That broader vision was also echoed by academic and policy contributor Mustapha Sarhiri, who addressed the forum with a call to action grounded in the national policy landscape. In his remarks, he emphasized that Morocco's



approach to women's empowerment, particularly for those in vulnerable circumstances, must move beyond fragmented programs toward systemic, inter-ministerial coordination. "Empowerment cannot depend on isolated efforts," he said. "It must be embedded into the state's development logic."

Sarhiri pointed to Morocco's National Program for the Economic Empowerment of Women by 2030, as well as the country's expanded social protection framework and legal reforms addressing gender-based violence. These efforts, backed by the Royal Vision of King Mohammed VI, reflect a strategic shift: that enabling women to participate fully in the economy is not just about inclusion—it's a national growth imperative.

Yet, the road is not without obstacles. Despite policy momentum, challenges remain: limited access to financing for women-led businesses, complex administrative procedures, and persistent cultural biases that discourage women's entrepreneurship—especially outside major cities. Field associations like Nada often operate with limited funding, navigating large demands with small budgets.

That's why both Sarhiri and Rhanem stress the need for stronger alignment between state institutions and civil



society. "The success of associations like Nada depends not just on passion, but on structural support," Rhanem

noted. "Public procurement, access to local funding, and administrative simplification could all be transformative if implemented with gender sensitivity."

For Nada's founder Samira Labied, the goal has never been to offer temporary assistance. "We want women to reclaim agency over their lives," she said. "Some arrived here unsure of their worth, and now they're developing business plans and mentoring others. That's what empowerment looks like—self-driven, shared, and lasting."

As Morocco continues to redefine its development model, what's happening in places like Ain Harrouda offers a compelling lesson. National progress does not only unfold in government offices or international summits. Sometimes, it begins in small, unassuming rooms filled with women who dared to believe that vulnerability is not permanent—and that dignity can be stitched back together, one seam at a time.





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