



# WDO newsletter

Programmes, activities,  
meetings, events, visits  
and more inside this

**Inaugural  
Edition**

Dear Reader,

A little over a year ago, I had the great honor of being elected as the first Executive Director of WDO, the Women Development Organization.



At WDO, we believe that strong foundations of anything are based on elite and professional planning and that the foundation of well-established societies relies deeply on women. As a result, WDO and I have a crucial responsibility, along with our member states, to identify the disparities formed over the years and begin bridging them.

WDO, hand in hand with member states, governments, and international organizations, will build a continually empowered future for our women and girls. Only when we secure their future can we truly say we have achieved our goals.

I am pleased to present our newsletter, which details some of the ongoing initiatives at WDO aimed at empowering and further elevating our women and girls.

Thank you for reading,  
Dr. Afnan Alshuaiby



Ministers and Senior Officials at the WDO x OIC x KSA reception at the United Nations Headquarters in New York

# International WOMEN'S DAY

United Nations Headquarters (UNHQ)— March 2023. WDO co-hosted a high-level reception in New York to congratulate and celebrate women attendees of the sixty-seventh Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67) on International Women's Day, with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation's Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Permanent Mission to the United Nations.



H.E. Dr. Afnan Alshuaiby giving her welcome remarks at the WDO x OIC x KSA reception at the United Nations Headquarters in New York

Dr. Alshuaiby gave the welcome speech at the reception, starting with expressing her gratitude to all the attendees, especially the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Permanent Mission of the OIC, for collaborating with WDO to make this reception a memorable and remarkable event for women. UN Women's Executive Director, Dr. Sima Bahous, paid a special visit to the event to meet with Dr. Afnan Alshuaiby.

The reception, which took place on the sidelines of CSW67, was attended by ministers, diplomats, and delegates from around the world. Among the attendees were: President of Egypt's National Council for Women, Dr. Maya Morsy; Palestine's Minister of Women's Affairs, Dr. Amal Hamad; Kuwait's Minister of State for Women and Childhood Affairs, Dr. Mai Al-Baghli; Libya's Minister of Women Affairs, Horeya Al-Tarman; Secretary General of Saudi Arabia's Family Affairs Council, Dr. Maimoonah Al Khalil; Assistant Secretary-General of the Arab League, Dr. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh; OIC Permanent Mission Observer Ambassador Hameed A. Opeloyeru; and KSA Permanent Mission Representative Ambassador Abdul Aziz Al-Wasel; and many more.



From left to right; H.E. Ambassador Hameed A. Opeloyeru; H.E. Dr. Afnan Alshuaiby; H.E. Ambassador Abdul Aziz Al-Wasel at the United Nations Headquarters in New York

## POLICY DIALOGUE: WOMEN IN ISLAM

**New York- March 2023.** WDO, represented by Her Excellency Dr. Afnan Alshuaiby, the organization's First Executive Director, participated in the Women in Islam session during CSW67 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The session was organized by the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations, headed by His Excellency Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Pakistan's Minister of Foreign Affairs. During the session, WDO showcased its first documentary featuring notable Muslim women throughout history.



High-level panelists during the Women in Islam side event at CSW67 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York

## WDO'S FIRST FIELD ACTIVITY IN COLLABORATION WITH IOFS AND CILSS IN THE REPUBLIC OF NIGER



High-level representatives at the opening session of the training workshop in Niamey, Niger

**Niger – May 2022.** WDO, represented by its Senior Program Officer, Ms. Rabiadou Ahmadou, participated in a Capacity-building Workshop for Farmers on Water Management in Agriculture. This activity, the first of its kind for WDO, was a tripartite partnership with the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) and the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS).

This impressive training saw the participation of 70 farmers, of whom 34 were women from the Tahoua Region. The trainers were then overseeing the implementation and scaling of this knowledge to approximately 300 farmers—200 of whom will be women.

In her statement on behalf of the Executive Director of WDO, Ms. Ahmadou emphasized the significance of women's participation in decision-making relevant to water management and irrigation activities.

Additionally, the Minister of Promotion of Women and Child Protection, Her Excellency Allahoury Aminatou, received Ms. Ahmadou. They stressed the importance of continued collaboration between WDO and the Republic of Niger.



WDO representative with female trainees of Water Management in Agriculture workshop, Niamey, Niger

# KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN'S MISSION AMBASSADOR ORGANIZES A FORMAL LUNCH IN HONOR OF WDO'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



High-level attendees at a private lunch arranged by the Kingdom of Bahrain Mission in New York



From left to right, H.E. Ambassador Abdul Aziz Al-Wasel; H.E. Dr. Afnan Alshuaiby; H.E. Ambassador Jamal Fares Alrowaiei in New York

New York – March 2023. A formal lunch was organized in New York City, by the Kingdom of Bahrain's Mission Ambassador, His Excellency Jamal Fares Alrowaiei, in honor of WDO's first Executive Director Dr. Afnan Alshuaiby. The lunch took place on the sidelines of CSW67 and was attended by ambassadors, diplomats, and representatives from countries and organizations around the world, further cementing WDO's key role in solidifying regional and international partnerships within its member states and beyond.

## CEDAW TRAINING: WDO SETS THE STANDARDS FOR REPORTING ON DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Cairo – January 2022. WDO held a training workshop for its member states on “Developing the Periodic Reports Submitted by Member States to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)”.

Ambassador Ehab Fawzy, the Deputy Executive Director of WDO, welcomed the participants and guests during the workshop's opening session. He emphasized that the training would help achieve three of WDO's objectives, which include promoting capacity-building, establishing connections between member states' experts and WDO, and connecting with the treaty body. As a newly established international organization, WDO plans to organize more training sessions in the future.



WDO team with participants at CEDAW training workshop in Cairo, Egypt

The European Union Delegation in Egypt and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality (UN Women) co-organized this successful event, which was facilitated by 5 CEDAW committee experts. Participants from 11 member countries of WDO attended the training workshop.



High-level opening session of the CEDAW training workshop in Cairo, Egypt

## WDO SIGNS MoU WITH UNION OF OIC NEWS AGENCY WITH THE PRESENCE OF THE OIC SECRETARY GENERAL



From left to right, H.E. Dr. Afnan Alshuaiby; H.E. Hissein Brahim Taha; H.E. Mr. Mohammad Al-Yami in Nouakchott, Mauritania

Mauritania – March 2023. WDO, represented by its Executive Director, Her Excellency Dr. Afnan Alshuaiby, signed an MoU with the Union of OIC News Agency (UNA), represented by H.E. Director General Mr. Mohammad Al-Yami. The ceremony took place in the presence of the Secretary General of the OIC, His Excellency Hissein Brahim Taha, on the sidelines of the 49th session of the Council of the OIC Foreign Ministers held in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. Both entities look forward to continued and increased collaboration and cooperation.

## GLOBAL SUMMIT OF WOMEN 2023: SHINING A SPOTLIGHT ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN DURING TRANSFORMATIONS



From left to right, H.E. Dr. Shafeqa Saeed Abdo Saleh; H.E. Dr. Afnan Alshuaiby; Dr. Edit Schlaffer in Abu Dhabi, UAE

Abu Dhabi- February 2023. Dr. Alshuaiby moderated a panel that consisted of the Chairperson of the National Commission for Women in Yemen H.E. Dr. Shafeqa Saeed Abdo Saleh and Founder of Women Without Borders Dr. Edit Schlaffer in Abu Dhabi, UAE. addressing the misjudgments and challenges women face during "the process of transformation," stressing the importance of securing a safe and sustainable transformation for our women and girls.



## WDO SIGNS MoU WITH UZBEKISTAN'S COMMITTEE OF FAMILY AND WOMEN

Cairo – May 2023. WDO signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Committee of Family and Women of the Republic of Uzbekistan following a visit from representatives of the Committee to the Organization's headquarters in Cairo, Egypt.

The MoU was signed by WDO's Executive Director, H.E Dr. Afnan Alshuaiby, and the Chairwomen of Uzbekistan's Committee of Family and Women, H.E Ozoda Parpibayeva.

The MoU aims to expand the cooperation and collaboration efforts between WDO and the Committee in their shared goal of supporting and empowering women and girls.

The MoU aims to strengthen the relationship between the two entities, initiate new communication streams, and provide more opportunities to share experiences and consultancy.



From left to right, H.E. Dr. Afnan Al Shuaiby and H.E. Ozada Parpibayeva in WDO Headquarters in Cairo, Egypt

## WDO WELCOMES DR. GHADA WALY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNODC

Cairo – 2022. WDO, represented by Dr. Afnan Alshuaiby, received H.E. Dr. Ghada Waly, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Director-General of the United Nations Office in Vienna.



From left to right, H.E. Dr. Afnan Alshuaiby and H.E. Dr. Ghada Waly in WDO Headquarters in Cairo, Egypt

The meeting explored the joint areas of cooperation between the two organizations and ways to promote, support, and empower women and girls in the member states of WDO and advance their progress.

They acknowledged that collaboration is especially crucial in priority areas such as protecting women from violence, criminal justice systems, assisting women in accessing justice, and women's leadership in promoting peaceful and inclusive societies and the role of women in combating corruption.

## MENA ICT: ROLE OF WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY

Jordan – October 2022. Dr. Afnan Alshuaiby, Executive Director of WDO, participated in a panel discussion on the role of women in technology at the MENA ICT in the presence of the Minister of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship in Jordan, His Excellency Ahmed Hanandeh. In a meeting after the panel, H.E. Ahmed Hanandeh and Dr. Alshuaiby emphasized the crucial role that women play in the field of information technology worldwide during her speech.



From left to right, H.E. Ahmed Hanandeh and H.E. Dr. Afnan Alshuaiby in Balqa, Jordan



H.E. Dr. Afnan Alshuaiby at the IIFA Headquarters in Jeddah, KSA

---

## WDO SIGNS MoU WITH INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC FIQH ACADEMY

---

Jeddah – 2023. WDO signed an MoU and is establishing an action plan with the International Islamic Fiqh Academy to address stereotypes about women linked to misconceptions about Islam through online and offline campaigns and symposia.

---

## MEETING WITH DEPUTY MINISTER OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

---

Riyadh – December 2022. Dr. Afnan Alshuaiby, Executive Director of WDO, was received by His Excellency Waleed Elkhareji, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. During the meeting, they discussed the role of WDO in enhancing and supporting women's development and bilateral means of collaboration between WDO and the ministry.



From left to right, H.E. Dr. Afnan Alshuaiby and H.E. Waleed Elkhareji in Riyadh, KSA

## OIC PERMANENT OBSERVER TO THE UNITED NATIONS WELCOMES WDO'S ED

New York – March 2023. Her Excellency Dr. Afnan Alshauiby met with OIC Permanent Observer to the UN, Ambassador Hameed A. Opolyeru, on the sidelines of CSW67 to discuss potential collaborations and initiatives between WDO, OIC, and the UN. The conducive meeting also highlighted the vital role WDO plays within the OIC system to empower women and secure future generations of women and girls as well as anticipated projects and collaborations.



From left to right, H.E. Ambassador Hameed A. Opolyeru and H.E. Dr. Afnan Alshuaiby at the OIC Permanent Mission in New York

## WDO MET UNITED NATIONS UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL



From left to right, Ms. Pramila Patten and H.E. Dr. Afnan Alshuaiby at the United Nations Headquarters in New York

New York - March 2023. WDO's Executive Director, Dr. Afnan Alshuaiby, met with Ms. Pramila Patten, the United Nations Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, during her time in New York attending the CSW67.

Dr. Alshuaiby and Ms. Patten emphasized the significance of raising awareness about the devastating effects of sexual violence on women in times of conflict. It is worth noting that Ending Violence Against Women and Girls is one of WDO's main thematic areas.

---

## WDO & STATE OF QATAR: FORGING NEW RELATIONSHIPS

---

New York – March. Dr. Alshuaiby met with Her Excellency Lolawah Al-Khater, Minister of State for International Cooperation of Qatar. The meeting took place on the sidelines of CSW67 at UNHQ in New York. The two diplomats discussed the role of WDO in empowering and enabling women in the region and showed interest in potential collaboration between the organization and the State of Qatar.



From left to right, H.E. Dr. Afnan Alshuaiby and H.E. Lolawah Al-Khater in New York

## NEW BEGINNINGS: ARAB PLANNING INSTITUTE (API) VISIT TO WDO HEADQUARTERS



API delegation received at WDO Headquarters in Cairo, Egypt

Cairo – September 2022. WDO’s Executive Director, Dr. Afnan Alshuaiby, and Deputy Executive Director, Ambassador Ehab Fawzy, received Her Excellency Dr. Amal Al-Hamad, advisor on local and international cooperation for the Arab Planning Institute in Kuwait. The visit was the first of its kind in the organization’s headquarters in Cairo. Before the conclusion of the visit, Her Excellency Dr. Al-Hamad invited WDO to visit API in Kuwait to initiate collaborations between the two organizations.



From left to right, H.E. Dr. Afnan Alshuaiby and H.E. Mai Al-Baghli in Kuwait City, Kuwait

## WDO SIGNS MoU WITH THE ARAB PLANNING INSTITUTE (API)

Kuwait- February 2023. WDO, represented by its Executive Director, signed an MoU with the Arab Planning Institute (API), represented by its Director-General, Dr. Badr Othman Malallah, in Kuwait to increase cooperation between the two entities. The MoU aims to increase bilateral cooperation in fields and issues of common interest, such as capacity-building, training, consultations, studies, technical support, research, fora, the development of events, and more.



From left to right, H.E. Dr. Badr Othman Malallah and H.E. Dr. Afnan Alshuaiby in Kuwait City, Kuwait

## WDO THANKS THE STATE OF KUWAIT

During the Kuwait visit, Dr. Afnan Alshuaiby also met with H.E. Mai Al-Baghli, Minister of Social Affairs and Community Development and Minister of State for Women and Children Affairs of the State of Kuwait. During the meeting, Dr. Afnan congratulated H.E. on assuming the new ministerial portfolio. The ED also thanked the State of Kuwait for their unwavering support towards WDO.

## DR. AFNAN ALSHUAIBY MET WITH H.E. TALAL AL-MUTAIRI



From left: H.E. Dr. Afnan Alshuaiby and H.E. Talal Al-Mutairi

Kuwait- February 2023. Dr. Afnan AlShuaiby, Executive Director of the Women Development Organization, met with His Excellency the Minister Plenipotentiary / Talal Al-Mutairi, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Human Rights in the State of Kuwait. During the meeting, they discussed the important role of the organization in the development and empowerment of women in the member states.

## SHEDDING LIGHT ON CRUCIAL TOPICS: WDO SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

Online - 2023. WDO has run several awareness campaigns across various social media platforms. Topics covered include Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls, a campaign run in partnership with Egypt's National Council for Women and the Syracuse Institute in Italy; Female Genital Mutilation (FGM); women refugees; gender parity in leadership; pay gaps; and more.

The campaigns are run in order to raise awareness on different topics in relation to women and girls, as well as to increase interaction with online followers.

To browse and follow WDO's social media accounts, scan the QR code at the end of this Newsletter.



## PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

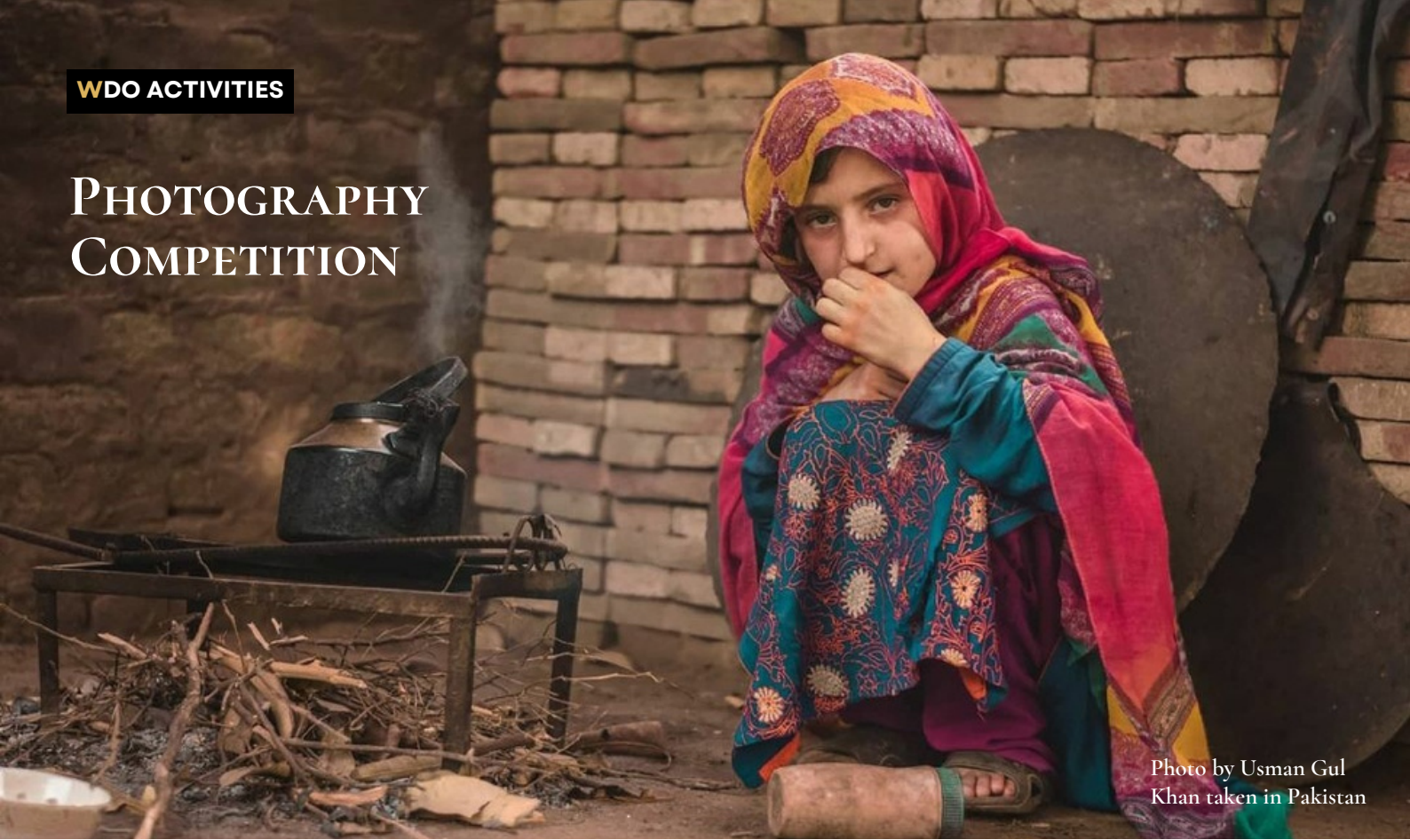


Photo by Usman Gul  
Khan taken in Pakistan

Worldwide- March 2023. One of WDO's most light-hearted activities to date is the online-based Women Empowerment Photography Competition. The activity launched on the 7th of March and ran until the 30th of March; after extending the deadline for submission from the 15th, as per the request of the competition's participants; who also requested to be able to submit more than one photo and were granted their request by allowing each participant to share up to three entries to compete. On the 1st May, Usman Khan from Pakistan, was announced the Winner of WDO's Photography Competition 2023; after gathering over 678 votes for the beautiful photo above.

## WDO SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Cairo- April 2023. WDO is excited to announce the launch of WDO's Summer Internship Program for July 2023. Our program aims to provide a comprehensive learning experience that prepares interns for the development and women's empowerment job market and adds value to their professional expertise.

WDO proudly announces that it has received over 350 applications from Egypt's top female students and recent graduates.

## WDO INVITES YOU TO JOIN "THE TALK"

Worldwide- April 2023. WDO's The Talk is a series that will tackle issues tailored for women, featuring remarkable guest speakers from the region and beyond.

The Talk will offer women a platform to address tricky topics and learn from each other's experiences in their journey to the top.

# WDO

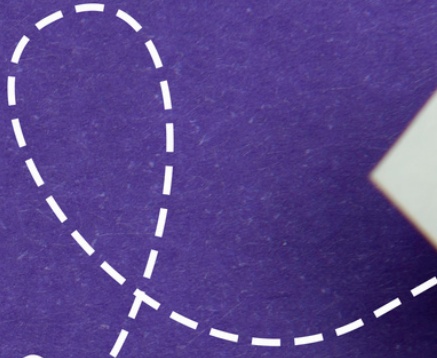
*newsletter*

---

Quarterly Updates

---

*Sign Up*



THE WOMEN DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



WDO

Women Development Organization  
l'Organisation pour le Développement de la femme

منظمة تنمية المرأة