

# The Status of Women On Boards in Lebanon Conference

12th March 2025 | Movenpick Hotel

## I. Background & Rationale

The Women on Board initiative by the Lebanese League for Women in Business (LLWB) has been empowering women in Lebanon for years, and specifically since 2016, through a **transformative capacity-building program**, enhancing their skills and preparing them for leadership positions.

This program also includes a strong **research and advocacy pillar** by LLWB to amend laws and propose reforms and advocacy efforts, ensuring that at least 30% of board members in companies are women.

## II. Objectives & Activities of the project

This year, through the LLWB and UK Embassy in Lebanon's project Supporting Women on Boards of Syndicates, Universities, and Boards of Organizations, running from July 2024 to March 2025, LLWB has collaborated with two main partners, LAU and AOU, to achieve the goal of '**Unlocking the Potential of Women Leaders**' in both universities.

The conference on March 12, 2025, organized by LLWB with the support of the British Embassy in Lebanon, titled 'Breaking the Glass Ceiling: Where Are the Women on Boards in Lebanon?', will highlight the success of the various activities led throughout the project:

Mainly, the participatory **gender audits** conducted and the gender action plans developed with the universities.

LLWB will also showcase the intensive **capacity-building program "SCALE UP"** on gender, diversity, equity, leadership and women on boards, which was delivered under challenging circumstances in Lebanon to a total of 70 women from both universities.

Additionally, the success of the **Mentorship Program**, which prepared 18 women from Lebanese American University -LAU and Arab Open University-AOU to serve on boards after equipping them with the tools and skills they need to break barriers in decision-making roles, will be highlighted, as well as their **participation in the certification programs** LLWB is offering in partnership with IFC/ESA.

The conference will additionally showcase the outcomes of LLWB's long-term efforts, highlighting the impactful findings from LLWB **Evidence based research** on the representation of women in boards of listed companies and public institutions across Lebanon and the main outcome aiming at developing the law and its advocacy plan in this regard.

In the framework of **International Women's Day**, while celebrating the fight and commitment of women for their core rights, LLWB is pleased to organize the launching of its developed studies and research on Women on Boards in Listed Companies and Women on boards of Public Institutions in Lebanon through the conferece aiming to shed light on **the Status of Women on Boards in Lebanon**.

The studies were developed and conducted for the Lebanese League for Women in Business by the Legal and Policy Expert Me. Lara Saade.

The expert employed a combination of data collection tools, stakeholder consultations, and expert analysis to generate the studies that:

- Examines the representation of women on boards in both sectors.
- Analyzes women's roles, contributions, and the percentage of female representation within board structures.
- Evaluates the level of gender diversity and inclusion in leadership positions.

The findings and recommendations from these studies aim to support **advocacy for greater gender representation and inform national-level policies and practices** that promote gender equity and women higher representation in boards as per good governance principles.

**The Lived experience of main experts in the fields, and women minister in this regard will be highlighted in the conference.**

## III. Participants

Main participants in the conference are: Ministers, MPs, LLWB partners (UN agencies, and IOs), decisions makers, Embassies, experts and consultants and women on boards committees as well as main syndicates, CSOs and universities representatives engaged since the first phase of the project.

# The Status of Women On Boards in Lebanon Conference

The Lebanese League for Women In Business is delighted to invite you to attend a panel discussion on the Status of Women on Boards in Lebanon on Wednesday March 12, 2025, from 3:30 till 5:30 pm followed by a seated Iftar at 5.30 pm at Movenpick Hotel, Beirut.

**Arrival & Registration** 3:30 till 4:00

**Welcoming Words** 4:00 till 4:10

- Mrs. Abir Chebaro | LLWB'S Vice President
- H.E. Mr. Hamish Cowell| British Ambassador to Lebanon

**Addresses by LLWB Partners** 4:10 till 4:25

- Dr. Yara Abdallah, Director General of Arab Open University (AOU)
- Dr. Salpie Djoundourian, Dean of the Adnan Kassar School of Business at the Lebanese American University (LAU), Representing the LAU President
- Ms. Carole Khater, Representing the Arab Institute for Women AIW at LAU
- Mr. Maxence Duault, Director General and Dean of ESA Business School

**Panel Discussion** 4:25 till 5:10

- Me. Lara Saade, Legal and Policy Expert  
Presenting the methodologies and main outcomes of two studies on Women on Boards in Listed Companies and Women on Boards in Public Institutions in Lebanon developed by LLWB
- Dr. Zeina Zeidan, Independent Board Member in Listed Companies
- Ms. Lamia Moubayed Bissat, President, Institute of Finances, Basil Fuleihan
- H.E. Ms. Haneen Sayed, Minister, Ministry of Social Affairs, Republic of Lebanon

**Closing Remarks** 5:10 till 5:20

- Ms. Corine Kiame, President, the Lebanese League for Women in Business

**Seated Iftar** 5:30 till 7:30

**RSVP (Link)**