



MENA FEM

الحركة النسوية للعدالة الاقتصادية، الابيكولوجية و التنمية في الشرق الأوسط وشمال إفريقيا
MenaFem Movement for Economic, Development And Ecological Justice

MENA FEM MOVEMENT ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

2025 RECAP

A SUMMARY OF EVERYTHING WE WERE UP TO LAST YEAR!



As we start the new year 2026, MENA Fem Movement recognizes the immense efforts made by civil society actors, activists, and feminists across the globe to bring about a more just, equitable, and sustainable global economic structure. We would like to, once again, reiterate our full solidarity with Palestine, Lebanon, Sudan, and all countries of the Global South under colonial aggression.

Against this context of genocide and colonial aggression in our region, MENA Fem Movement has been working to transform the neocolonial international financial architecture that enables this violence against Global South countries. For a nascent movement, MENA Fem has made significant strides within the spaces of this architecture, namely IFIs and MDBs.



KEY MILESTONES IN 2025

LAUNCH OF OUR FIRST PODCAST, AUSTERITY RADIO!



The five-episode podcast (Arabic) discusses feminist economic thought and its importance in our region, in confronting the impact of neoliberal policies and colonialism, addressing forms of systemic and structural inequality, and promoting fair, sustainable, and inclusive economies.

Listen now on:

[Spotify](#)

[YouTube](#)

[Apple Podcasts](#)

**STAY TUNED FOR SEASON 2
COMING LATER THIS YEAR!**

IMF/WORLD BANK SPRING MEETINGS

PARTICIPATION

MENAfem co-sponsored several sessions at the Civil Society Policy Forum (CSPF), hosted during the Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB). The sessions spotlighted gender, climate justice, economic alternatives, and human rights in the MENA region and beyond.

Read more on which events we organized [here](#).





MENA Fem REFLECTIONS



MENA Fem's Feminist Reflections on the WB and IMF 2025 Spring Meetings: A Failure to Read the Room challenged official claims of "recovery." Centering women in MENA, Africa, and the Global South, it exposed how debt, austerity, and exclusion remain built into global financial governance

Read the full reflection [here](#).

FEMINIST FRIENDS REFLECTIONS

In *No Tears for a Dying System*, Tara Povey of the Bretton Woods Project reflects on the IMF–WB Spring Meetings as a moment of crisis for a multilateral order built to serve Global North power.

Read the full reflection [here](#).



In *Financing Africa's Future Without Sacrificing Gender and Energy Justice*, Karabo Mokgonyana of Power Shift Africa unpacks what the 2025 Spring Meetings mean for Africa's energy transition. The reflection critiques loan-heavy climate finance and growth-first models, and argues for funding pathways that advance gender justice without deepening debt.

Read the full reflection [here](#).



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FIRST MENAFEM ANNUAL FEMINIST ECONOMICS SCHOOL



In May 2025, Rabat hosted MENAFem's first Annual Feminist Economics School, bringing together feminist scholars, activists, and civil society actors from across the Middle East and North Africa. Over three days, the school created a collective space to question dominant economic models and explore feminist alternatives rooted in care, justice, and ecological sustainability.



Through participatory sessions and regional exchange, participants engaged with feminist political economy, global financial structures, social reproduction, gendered labor markets, and environmental justice. Contributions from feminist thinkers and practitioners—including Mayada Hassanain, Imene Cherif, Haneen Shaheen, Fatna Afid, Asmaa Abu Mezied, Shereen Talaat, and Attiya Waris—helped ground theory in lived realities and strengthen cross-border feminist alliances.



The school closed with a shared commitment to deepen regional collaboration and continue building feminist visions for economic and ecological justice in the MENA region



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GLOBAL FEMINIST CONVENING: A FEMINIST AGENDA FOR PEOPLE & PLANET

In May, feminists from across regions came together in Rabat for the Global Feminist Convening on Economic and Climate Justice, building on the momentum of MENAfem's regional Feminist Economics School. Over four days, participants exchanged strategies, strengthened transnational solidarity, and deepened shared visions for just economies rooted in care, sustainability, and collective wellbeing.

The convening launched a bold feminist agenda for people and planet—grounded in anti-colonial analysis and collective resistance to neoliberal capitalism, heteropatriarchy, white supremacy, and extractive systems. The energy was unmistakable, as movements came together to confront intersecting crises and imagine transformative alternatives beyond the limits of the current economic order.

One concrete outcome of this collective process was the [Rabat Roadmap](#), developed as a living resource to carry these feminist visions forward and support ongoing advocacy and organizing toward economic and climate justice.





FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT (FFD4)

OUR DEMANDS



In June, MENAfem helped shape civil society demands for FfD4 calling for debt cancellation, an end to austerity, and the democratization of global economic governance. Grounded in human rights and feminist justice, the demands challenged corporate capture and pushed for financing systems that serve people and the planet

Read the full demands [here](#).

PARTICIPATION

FfD4 became a key moment for MENAfem to bring feminist economic visions into global debates—through side events, alliances, and collective action in and beyond Seville.

Find out how what we were up to during FfD4 [here](#).



MENAfem REFLECTIONS



In the aftermath of FfD4, MENAfem documented how feminist proposals were sidelined while business-as-usual financing shaped the outcome.

Read the full reflection [here](#).

In *The Illusion of Consensus*, Shereen Talaat unpacked how the FfD4 outcome was framed as a multilateral success while in reality, power politics hollowed out real systemic change.

Read the full reflection [here](#).



FEMINIST FRIENDS REFLECTIONS

In Aid Cuts, Debt Hikes, and the Way Forward from FfD4, Diana Mochoge of AFRODAD examines how shrinking aid and rising debt shaped the Financing for Development debates—and what this means for women's rights in the Global South. [Read more](#).



In Three Ways of Reading the Compromiso de Sevilla, Emilia Reyes reflects on what the FfD4 outcome reveals—technically, politically, and historically—about the limits of consensus and the stakes of transforming the global economic system. [Read more](#).

In FfD4 and Debt from a Feminist Perspective: The Job Is Not Yet Done, Polina Girshova of Eurodad reflects on how the Sevilla outcome fell short on debt justice, while highlighting the power and persistence of feminist civil society organizing. [Read more](#).



Grace Arina of the African Feminist Tax Initiative examines how the Compromiso de Sevilla fell short of the Rabat Roadmap's vision—while reaffirming feminist demands for debt cancellation, tax justice, and a care-centred global economy. [Read more](#).

In FFD4: Another Faustian Bargain with the Private Sector?, Dr. Amiera Sawas reflects on how the conference doubled down on private finance, while leaving debt, fossil fuel phaseout, and climate justice dangerously unaddressed. [Read more](#).





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GLOBAL DAYS OF ACTION X DRAW THE LINE



In September, MENAfem joined global justice movements to help mobilize around the call to “Draw the Line” against deepening inequalities, authoritarianism, climate destruction, and violence. As world leaders prepared to convene at the UN General Assembly and ahead of COP30, this moment became a rallying point to challenge systems that continue to profit from crisis while excluding frontline communities from decision-making.

MENAfem contributed to shaping and amplifying shared demands rooted in feminist, anti-colonial, and people-centred visions for systemic change. These demands called for an equitable and just transition—phasing out fossil fuels, cancelling debt, taxing multinational corporations and billionaires, reclaiming the commons, and redirecting finance toward public services, care, and community-led solutions.

From mass mobilizations and marches to community-led actions and coordinated advocacy across regions, movements rose together to defend human rights, democracy, and a livable future.

[Read more.](#)



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LAUNCHING RABAT ROADMAP

“The Rabat Roadmap: Activist Resistance, Militarism and the Global Economy” reflects a collective feminist agenda developed by economic, climate, and justice activists, rooted in experiences from the Global South. The Rabat Declaration and Roadmap connect global economic systems, militarism, and extractivism with structural violence, arguing that justice, liberation, and climate action cannot be separated from political and economic transformation. It holds international financial institutions, including the IMF and World Bank, accountable for deepening crises through austerity policies that harm women and marginalized groups, and calls for dismantling colonial economic orders and building solidarity across struggles from Palestine to Sudan, Yemen, and beyond. MENAfem’s webinar launch amplified these shared demands for feminist economic justice and collective resistance to militarized and extractive global economic structures.

[The Rabat Declaration and Roadmap](#)

[Watch the webinar](#)



Launch of the
◆ RABAT ROADMAP ◆
for Feminist Economic
and Environmental
Transformation

18 September 2025 | 13:30-15:00 UTC+1

Register: bit.ly/RabatLaunch | #DrawTheLine



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IMF/WORLD BANK ANNUAL MEETINGS

PARTICIPATION



During the 2025 IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings, MENAfem Movement intervened with a feminist and Global South-centered reading of the global financial system, highlighting how discussions on debt, climate finance, and growth continued to marginalize gender justice and care economies. MENAfem argued that gender remains treated as a technical add-on rather than a structural dimension of macroeconomic policy, while austerity-driven debt regimes deepen social and economic inequalities across the region. Through its interventions, MENAfem called for debt justice, democratic accountability of international financial institutions, and the recognition of care, social reproduction, and feminist economic alternatives as central to any just and sustainable financial architecture. [Read more](#)

The article reflects on how discussions at the 2025 IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings largely sidelined gender justice and menstrual health, despite their deep links to debt and austerity. It critiques the G20's limited response and argues that rising debt burdens continue to undermine social spending and deepen gendered inequalities, calling for feminist, care-centered approaches to global economic policy. [Read more](#)





FEMINIST FRIENDS REFLECTIONS



Maria Syed, an economics consultant with Third World Network, critically examines the IMF's discourse on "recalibration." The article argues that despite reformist rhetoric on debt, climate, and inequality, IMF policy frameworks continue to perpetuate austerity and structural harm, particularly for women and marginalized communities. Syed calls for a fundamental transformation of global financial governance that centers care, justice, and collective well-being rather than technocratic fixes. [Read more](#)

In "A Time for (R)evolution — Who Leads?", Fiana Arbab, a Bangladeshi-Muslim-American transnational feminist organizer and advocate, reflects on the entrenched inequalities revealed at the 2025 IMF–World Bank Annual Meetings. Arbab argues that the dominant economic institutions continue to reproduce austerity and exclusion, and she calls for transformative leadership from feminist and Southern movements to reshape global financial governance toward justice and collective wellbeing. [Read more](#)



Against the backdrop of deepening global crises, "Resisting Austerity, Reclaiming Justice" by Julia Gerlo, an environmental justice advocate with Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (FARN), critiques how IMF-driven austerity erodes public services and deepens gendered inequalities. The article calls for feminist and ecological resistance to reclaim justice and re-center care and public accountability in economic governance. [Read more](#)





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DELINKING FESTIVAL

PARTICIPATION



“Delinking the Festival: Economic Alternatives from the Global South” was a feminist gathering that brought together activists, economists, researchers, and organizers from across the Global South to collectively reflect on pathways for delinking from capitalism, imperialism, and colonialism. The festival foregrounded feminist, decolonial, and ecological economic alternatives rooted in autonomy, sovereignty, care, and justice, and featured contributions from Daptnhe Cuevas, Nancy Kachingwe, Jason Hickel, Shereen Talaat, Max Ajl, Corina Rodriguez, Andrés Arauz, and Neth Dano, among others.

Through shared analyses and grounded experiences, discussions challenged dominant development and growth-centered models, emphasizing collective strategies led by Southern movements to reclaim economic self-determination and build systems that prioritize life, dignity, and social justice.





COP30

MENAfem Reflections

At COP30 in Belém, feminist, Indigenous, worker, and Global South movements reshaped the terrain of climate politics, forcing justice into the center of negotiations, even as states refused to meet their financial obligations. Across three reflections, MENAfem traced this moment: from the contradictions and power struggles of week one, to the movement-driven creation of the Belém Action Mechanism for Just Transition, and finally to a clear-eyed assessment of what COP30 delivered and what it still failed to do on finance, fossil fuels, and accountability.

Together, these blogs document how movements carved out a historic mechanism for justice while exposing the limits of ambition without resources. They situate COP30 within the lived realities of debt, austerity, and climate vulnerability, particularly in MENA and the Global South, and lay out the political fights ahead to ensure that Just Transition is funded, rights-based, and shaped by those most affected.

Read the full reflections:

- [Week One at COP30: Chaos, Sweat, and Unexpected Plot Twists](#)
- [COP30 Conclusions: A BAM Through the Fire](#)
- [MENAfem's Complete COP30 Assessment: BAM, Finance, and the Road Ahead](#)





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COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS - DISCUSSION ON THE EU MEDITERRANEAN PACT



MENAfem took part in the Courageous Conversations event, hosted by Oxfam Intermón in Barcelona, contributing an intervention to the panel discussion **“The EU’s Mediterranean Pact: who wins, who loses?”** ahead of the EU’s launch of its Mediterranean Pact at the headquarters of the Union for the Mediterranean.

MenaFem discussed how the EU’s Mediterranean agenda is a continuation of colonial power relations framed as partnership. The intervention highlighted how the Pact prioritizes European interests (energy security, migration control, and private investment) while deepening debt, extraction, and dependency in MENA countries through fossil fuel expansion and export-oriented “green” energy projects. MENAfem stressed that these policies exacerbate climate injustice, undermine sovereignty, and disproportionately harm women, migrants, and marginalized communities, while calling for a decolonial, feminist, and justice-centered reimagining of Mediterranean relations.

A reflection paper from MENAfem on the Pact will be published soon, alongside an upcoming article in Brennpunkt magazine!



FEMINIST FRIENDS REFLECTIONS

In COP30 Feminist Reflections #1: *Forests like never before, never!*, Eman Emad Eldien of Greenish reflects on how forests were repeatedly bracketed, diluted, and ultimately erased from COP30 outcomes—revealing how climate ambition collapses when it threatens extractive interests and power. [Read more.](#)



In COP30 Feminist Reflections #2: *From Melanesian Shorelines to COP Halls*, Environment and ESCR Working Group Coordinator Patricia Mirandareflects on climate colonialism, debt, militarism, and exclusion—grounding COP30's failures in lived realities of Indigenous and frontline communities, and reclaiming belonging as an act of resistance. [Read more.](#)



In COP30 Feminist Reflection #3: *How Many Times Do We Have to Pay for the Climate Crisis?*, Nouran El Marsafy of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung MENA examines how COP30's climate finance mechanisms reproduce colonial extraction—forcing frontline communities, especially women, to pay repeatedly for a crisis they did not cause. [Read more.](#)



In *Winning the BAM: Power of Civil Society and Unification of the Global South, What Is Next?*, Hajar Al-Beltaji reflects on how sustained civil society advocacy and Global South coordination secured the Belém Action Mechanism, while exposing the ongoing battles over finance, responsibility, and implementation in the Just Transition agenda. [Read more.](#)



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16 DAYS OF ACTION

From Conflict Zones to Debt Traps

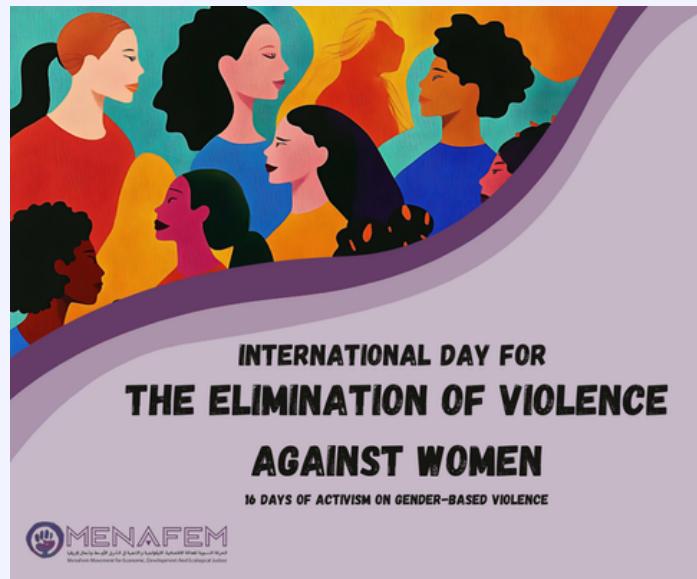
CAMPAIGN LAUNCH STATEMENT

MENAfem Movement issued a statement marking the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the start of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. The statement reaffirmed the movement's commitment to feminist economic and ecological justice and underscored how gender-based violence is rooted in structural inequalities. MENAfem called for an intersectional approach that links economic policy, care work, and social protections with efforts to end all forms of violence against women and girls in the MENA region and globally, emphasizing that violence cannot be separated from systems of austerity, conflict, and exclusion.

[Read more](#)

SHORT BLOGS

“Absent Ecological Justice for Women” examines how women in Al Haouz shoulder the hidden burdens of unpaid care amid environmental crises, exposing the deep absence of ecological justice in dominant economic and climate responses. The article highlights how ignoring care work intensifies women’s vulnerability and calls for feminist ecological approaches that center care and lived realities. [Read more](#)





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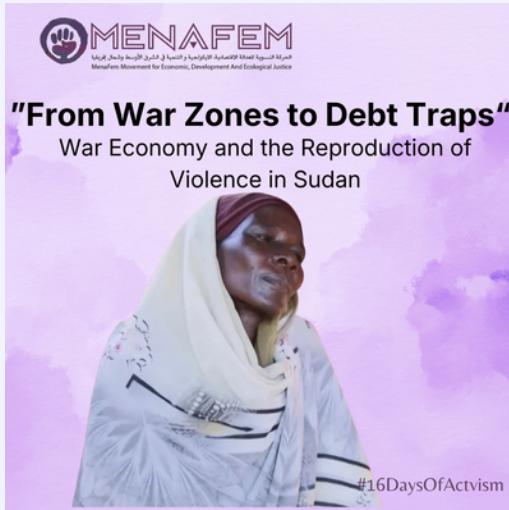
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16 DAYS OF ACTION

From Conflict Zones to Debt Traps

SHORT BLOGS

““From Conflict Zones to State Budgets” exposes how austerity-driven and militarized budgets deepen inequalities and weaken social protections, particularly for women and marginalized groups. The blog calls for feminist budget approaches that prioritize peace, care, and human needs over security-driven economic orthodoxies. [Read more](#)



The blog centers women's experiences of war, siege, and sexual violence in Gaza and Israeli detention facilities, showing how militarization and occupation intensify gendered harm. It calls for accountability, feminist solidarity, and justice-oriented responses to the intersection of various forms of violence. [Read more](#)

“War Economy and the Reproduction of Violence in Sudan” shows how wartime economic structures fuel ongoing violence and inequality, particularly for women and marginalized communities. The blog calls for feminist, justice-centered approaches that challenge militarized profit and prioritize peace, care, and redistribution. [Read more](#)



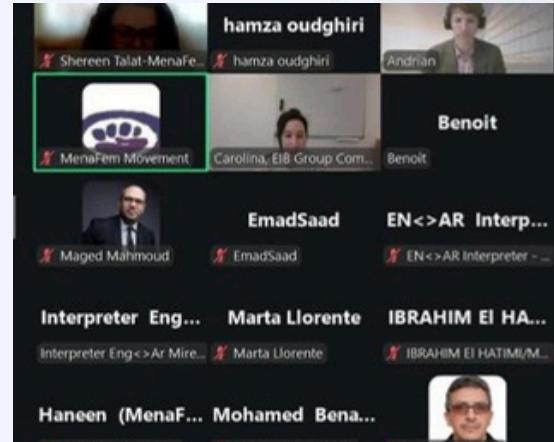


16 DAYS OF ACTION

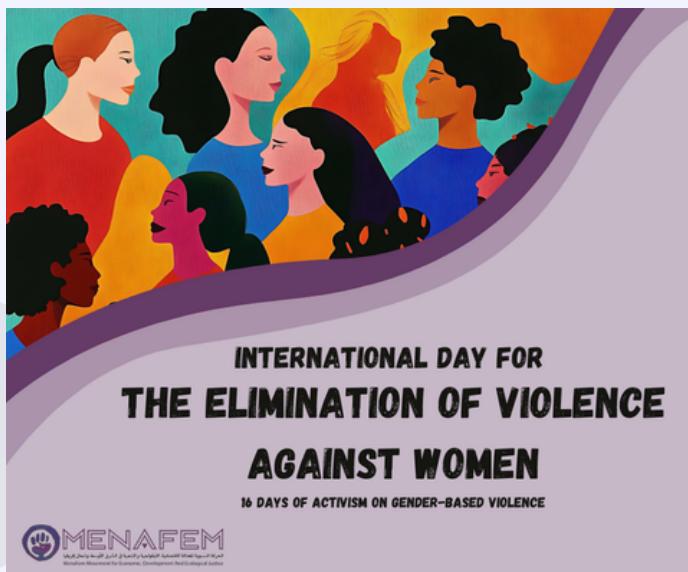
From Conflict Zones to Debt Traps

ENERGY TRANSITION & ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS WITH EIB

The “Energy Transition and Green Hydrogen: Accountability and Just Transformations” workshop, held in partnership with the European Investment Bank (EIB), explored the political and economic dimensions of energy transition and green hydrogen. Through feminist and justice-centered discussions, participants examined accountability gaps in climate and energy investments and stressed the need for just transitions that prioritize communities, equity, and ecological wellbeing over profit-driven models. [Read more](#)



CAMPAIGN CLOSING STATEMENT



The closing statement “Women Between the Dual Dominance of Arms and Debt” reflects on MENAFem’s 16 Days of Activism campaign under the theme “From Conflict Zones to Debt Traps.” It highlights how violence against women extends beyond physical and armed conflict to include structural violence embedded in debt, austerity, and economic exclusion that disproportionately affects women and marginalized communities. The statement calls for intersectional feminist action that addresses both the visible and hidden forms of violence linked to militarism and economic policy, urging sustained collective struggle for justice beyond the campaign period. [Read more](#)

FAYOUM INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2025

This year, MENAfem partnered for the first time with the **Fayoum International Film Festival for Environment and Contemporary Arts** and **Dar Elles Publishing House** to launch the **MENAfem Environmental Film Award**, recognizing feminist and environmentally conscious storytelling from emerging filmmakers.

The award was presented as part of the festival's student film program to two films from Egypt: "**Wahm (Illusion)**" by **Yasmine Magdy** and "**Mrs. Baseema**" by **Sara AlBortokali**. Through this collaboration, MENAfem aims to support creative voices that explore environmental justice, social realities, and women's lived experiences, while strengthening the role of art and culture in advancing feminist climate and ecological justice.





READ OUR STATEMENTS

In 2025, MENAfem issued a series of political statements exposing structural violence across the region:

- [In Morocco, Safi is a city shaped by state neglect and extractivist harm.](#)
- [In Egypt, austerity is a deadly policy undermining children's right to life.](#)
- [In Tunisia, in solidarity with feminist and human rights organizations facing the systematic shrinking of civic space.](#)
- [In Sudan, against war as an industry and a market sustained by regional and international complicity.](#)

Together, these interventions reaffirm MENAfem's commitment to a transnational feminist struggle against austerity, militarization, and authoritarian power.

READ OUR SIGNED LETTERS

In 2025, MENAfem endorsed multiple statements and positions to further its climate and gender aims:

- [Inequity, Inequality, Inaction: A Civil Society Equity Review of the Post-Paris Climate Regime \(2025\)](#)
- [Debt is stealing girls' futures — Join our call for action](#)
- [For Africa and the Global South: A Call to Action on Debt Justice under South Africa's G20 Presidency](#)
- [MENAfem Joins 70 Civil Society Organizations Urging IMF to Fulfill Global Pledge for an SDRs Playbook](#)
- [Joint Civil Society Letter on the EIB's Climate Bank Roadmap 2.0](#)
- [Joint CSO Input to the Review of EIB's Climate Bank Roadmap](#)
- [Key concerns about the Global Gateway remain unaddressed by the European Commission](#)
- [50+ CSOs Send Letter to Commissioner Síkela Regarding Concerns Over Global Gateway](#)
- [Joint Statement: We Say No to the South H2 Corridor](#)
- [CSOs Letter to the EIB Group Concerning the Complaints Mechanism \(EIB-CM\) Policy Review](#)
- [Economic and Social Rights in Egypt: Joint UPR Alternate Report](#)
- [The Mediterranean Manifesto](#)
- [Reclaiming Climate Justice: United Call for an Urgent Reform of the UN ClimateTalks](#)
- [Key concerns about the Global Gateway remain unaddressed by the European Commission](#)



PUBLICATIONS & WEBINARS

ECONOMY AND CLIMATE

MENA Fem's work on economy and climate examined the impacts of debt, austerity, and extractive development models. Our publication [Between Pollution and Resistance](#) exposed how Tunisia's economic policies have driven environmental harm and social marginalization in Gabès, while centering women-led community resistance. We also participated in the webinar [Debt and Democracy](#) highlighting how debt and IMF-led austerity are being used to undermine rights and democratic space across the Global South.



GENDER AND CLIMATE



In partnership with Greenpeace, MENA Fem released the report [Beyond Extractivism](#) and hosted its [launch webinar](#), examining how European energy and agribusiness investments in Morocco and Egypt reinforce extractive development models and gendered inequalities. We also published an [advocacy brief](#) with WEDO on the gendered impacts of IMF and World Bank policies in the MENA region, highlighting how austerity, conflict, and climate crisis deepen injustice for women and marginalized communities.

RENEWABLES AND CLIMATE

MENA Fem launched a socio-economic analysis series examining green hydrogen projects in North Africa, questioning their development promises and impacts on communities, gender equity, and environmental justice. Drawing on research from Tunisia, Egypt, and Morocco, the series critically assesses EU-backed initiatives and centers people-led, just energy transition pathways.

Read the [Tunisia paper here](#),
[Morocco paper here](#),
and [Egypt paper here](#).

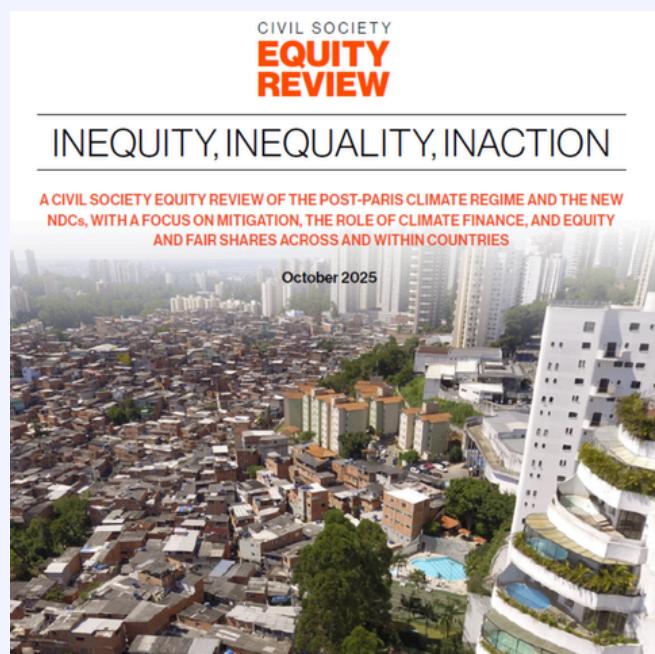




PUBLICATIONS & WEBINARS

CLIMATE JUSTICE

Inequity, Inequality, Inaction" is a civil society equity review, translated by MENAFem Movement, assessing global climate action a decade after the Paris Agreement and ahead of COP30. The report finds that wealthy Global North countries have failed to deliver fair shares of emissions reductions and climate finance, while systemic inequality and elite capture continue to stall meaningful progress. It highlights gaps in mitigation ambition, inadequate climate finance, and how debt and economic structures undermine climate justice, calling for a fair-shares reset rooted in equity and transformative public finance. [Read more](#)



MenaFem Webinar on The Report: A regular Phase-Out of Fossil Fuels

Hadeel Qazzaz
Palestinian feminist activist at Oxfam

Elham Eidarous
Egyptian leftist and feminist

Greg Muttitt
Senior researcher, EEWG

Ahmed Droubi
Campaign manager, CAN-I

Shady Khalil
Senior global policy strategist
Oil change international

Moderator:
Haneen Shaheen
Climate and policy advisor for MenaFem Movement

24th September
3:00 PM (GMT+3)

MENAfem Movement held a webinar to launch the Arabic edition of the Civil Society Equity Review report on a just and equitable phase-out of fossil fuels. The discussion unpacked the report's key findings and its call for a fast and fair global energy transition, highlighting climate justice, inequality, and the responsibility of major polluting countries from a feminist, rights-based, and Global South perspective.



PUBLICATIONS & WEBINARS

ECONOMIC & CLIMATE JUSTICE

“Beyond the Streets” analyzes the structural roots of recent protests in Morocco, arguing that the demonstrations are not spontaneous eruptions but deep responses to long-standing economic and political grievances. The paper situates the unrest within broader issues of austerity, unemployment, inequality, and the marginalization of youth and women, linking these to neoliberal policies and state prioritization of investment over social welfare. It emphasizes that without addressing systemic exclusion, precarious labor, and the erosion of social protection, protests will continue to be a recurring expression of structural injustice. The analysis calls for transformative economic alternatives that center social rights, equitable development, and democratic participation. [Read more](#)



**Beyond the Streets:
A Reading of the Structural Causes
of Protests in Morocco**



This analysis explores how IMF and World Bank policies in the MENA region have gendered impacts that deepen inequality and undermine women's rights and wellbeing. It argues that austerity, fiscal conditionalities, and market-driven reforms systematically reduce public services and social protections, disproportionately affecting women, caregivers, and marginalized groups. The piece highlights how these policies entrench economic precarity and limit women's access to healthcare, education, and decent work, and calls for alternatives grounded in gender justice, care economies, and equitable development. [Read more](#)



PUBLICATIONS & WEBINARS

ECONOMIC & CLIMATE JUSTICE

Between Pollution and Resistance:

Gabes at the Mercy of Tunisia's Development Model



(Fethi Belaid/AFP via Getty Images)

2025

“Between Pollution and Resistance” examines how Tunisia’s dominant development model has exposed the city of Gabes to severe industrial pollution and environmental harm, disproportionately affecting local communities, workers, and women. The paper highlights the failures of regulatory frameworks and economic policies that prioritize the extractive industry over people’s health and livelihoods, while documenting grassroots resistance and community efforts to demand environmental justice and equitable alternatives to neoliberal growth.

[Read more](#)



PUBLICATIONS & WEBINARS

THE IMF & WORLD BANK'S GRIP ON MENA

"The IMF & World Bank's Grip on MENA" examines how IMF and World Bank lending and conditionalities have reshaped economic policies across the MENA region, entrenching austerity, privatization, and social spending cuts. The paper shows how debt-driven reforms deepen inequality and disproportionately burden women and marginalized groups, calling for feminist, sovereign alternatives to the current development model. [Read more](#)



The IMF & World Bank's Grip on MENA
Background Paper

By Shady Hassan

MENA Fem Movement for Economic, Development and Ecological Justice

MENAFEM
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"From War Zones to Debt Traps"
Debt, Power, and Gendered Harm: IFI Governance in the MENA Region

Mayada Hassanain Nabil Abdo Dalia Wahdan Shady Hassan

Moderated By: Shereen Talaat

9 December, Tuesday
06:00 PM (GMT+2)

#16DaysOfActivism

This webinar marked the launch of MENAFEM's background paper "The IMF & World Bank's Grip on MENA." It brought together feminist economists and civil society actors to unpack the intersections of debt, power, and gendered harm in the region. The discussion examined how IMF and World Bank conditionalities shape economic governance, entrench austerity, and reproduce gendered and social inequalities, while highlighting feminist analyses and collective strategies for economic justice and sovereignty. [Read more](#)



WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR THIS YEAR



SECOND ANNUAL FEMINIST ECONOMICS SCHOOL

MENA FEM is pleased to announce the opening of applications for the MENA FEM Annual Feminist Economics School – 2026!

The school is a regional educational program that aims to strengthen critical understandings of economics from a feminist and social justice perspective. It focuses on macroeconomic policies, debt, the international financial architecture, and climate finance, and their impacts on women and marginalized communities in the Middle East and North Africa.

The 2026 edition of the school will take place in May 2026 and will bring together feminists, researchers, activists, and civil society actors from across the region for participatory learning, collective analysis, and exchange.

Application deadline: 28 January 2026

[**More details here.**](#)

[**APPLY HERE.**](#)



WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR THIS YEAR

FOSSIL FUEL - DEBT TRAP REPORT: A CASE STUDY ON EGYPT

This year, in collaboration with Fossil Fuel Treaty, MENAFem is publishing a case study that will examine how rising debt and fossil gas expansion are locking Egypt into a debt-fossil fuel trap, contributing to global just transition and debt justice debates alongside the First International Conference on the Just Transition Away from Fossil Fuels in Santa Marta, Columbia. The case study will be part of a larger paper with case studies from other Global South countries.

GENDERED AND SOCIAL IMPACTS OF FUEL SUBSIDY REFORMS - WITH BRETON WOODS PROJECT

How fuel subsidy cuts function as gendered austerity, shifting the costs of economic adjustment from the state to households, and disproportionately onto women's unpaid labor and everyday survival.

FOSSIL GAS DEPENDENCE IN THE MENA REGION

In collaboration with Climate Action Network's Global Gas Working Group MENAFem will publish a new position paper unpacking how fossil gas dependence, rising debt, and structural inequalities are shaping the energy transition in the MENA region, while outlining pathways toward a just, sustainable, and gas-free future centered on climate justice, gender equity, and people's rights.

A SERIES OF PAPERS ON DEBT, AUSTERITY, AND DEMOCRACY FROM A FEMINIST LENS.

A research and advocacy series that examines austerity as a political project reshaping social organization and everyday survival across the region. Through country-based case studies, the series traces how economic policies deepen inequality, fragment social solidarity, and exhaust collective action.

THANKS FOR READING!

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING THIS WORK
TOGETHER AND STRENGTHENING COLLECTIVE STRUGGLES
FOR A JUST AND EQUITABLE CLIMATE TRANSITION!**