



70th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

Side Event on the theme « *Justice and Women in Algeria: From Parity to the Promotion of Leadership* »

Organised by

The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria – Ministry of Justice and

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Algeria

United Nations Headquarters

12 march 2026

Room 2 – 3:00pm to 4:15pm

Context

Access to justice for women, both as actors within the judicial system and as rights-holders, is a critical issue for gender equality and human rights and a priority for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). States are working to put in place mechanisms, policies, and legal frameworks to ensure fair justice systems, including through the promotion of women's roles within them. In this regard, ensuring equality particularly in access to employment and to leadership positions is essential. Women's access to the judiciary is a key driver of this advancement.

As part of its participation in a regional study on « Women in Justice in Africa: A Comparative Study of Women Judges in 14 Countries »¹, conducted by UNDP and UN Women under the Gender Justice Platform, the Algerian Ministry of Justice has strengthened its engagement on the issue of women judges. This study, which identified regional best practices and made recommendations to address country-specific challenges, encouraged Algeria to launch a dedicated project aimed at promoting the career development of women judges.

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. A functional commission of ECOSOC established by Council Resolution résolution 11(II) du Conseil du 21 juin 1946, this year's CSW session marks the celebration of its 70th anniversary, focusing on strengthening access to justice for all women and girls, including through the promotion of inclusive and equitable legal systems, the elimination of discriminatory laws, policies and practices, and the removal of structural barriers.

¹undp-unwomen-women-in-justice-in-africa.pdf





The Importance of the Algerian Experience

Promoting gender equality within the Algerian justice system, especially by increasing women's representation in leadership positions, is a national priority. This objective aligns with the implementation of the 2020 constitutional amendments², notably Article 68, which encourages gender parity in the labour market and the appointment of women to leadership roles.

The Ministry of Justice plays a central role in advancing women's participation by ensuring equal access to justice and supporting women's representation within the judiciary, including in positions of responsibility. The Ministry also oversees judicial services and institutions, including those responsible for the care of individuals entrusted by judicial authorities, among whom women are included.

Since the establishment of the National Institute of Magistracy in 1990; upgraded to the Higher School of Magistracy in 2004, 46% of its graduates have been women, reflecting the growing interest of women in judicial careers³. In 2024, women accounted for more than 48% of magistrates in Algeria, placing the country among regional leaders in Africa and the Arab world in terms of women's representation in the judiciary⁴.

The National Union of Magistrates has likewise strengthened its focus on women judges through a committee dedicated to issues concerning women in the judiciary. This confirms Algeria's national commitment to advancing gender equality and promoting the role of women judges. Building on the recommendations of the Africa-wide study, UNDP Algeria and the Ministry of Justice launched a partnership aimed at showcasing Algeria's progress while addressing remaining challenges in the career advancement of women magistrates. Supported by the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Japanese Government running until 2029, the project integrates, for the first time within an Arab judicial institution, the Gender Equality Seal for Public Institutions, to foster gender-responsive practices within the Algerian judiciary.

Since the adoption of the Libreville Declaration in May 2023, the Conference of African Constitutional Jurisdictions (CJCA) has emerged as a major institutional actor in the promotion of women judges in Africa. The Declaration marked a turning point by placing gender equality and women's leadership at the core of the priorities of African constitutional courts. Through thematic meetings, gender-focused training programmes, and cooperation networks among African women judges, the CJCA has contributed to strengthening professional capacities and enhancing the visibility of women judges in the continent's highest courts. Supported by its Secretariat based in Algiers, the CJCA actively fosters the development of gender-sensitive constitutional justice while promoting the role of women in high-level judicial decision-making and in the protection of fundamental rights.

²Constitution de la République Algérienne Démocratique et Populaire du 30 décembre 2020

³<https://www.mjustice.dz/fr/magistrat-2/>

⁴<file:///C:/Users/A209926/Downloads/undp-unwomen-women-in-justice-in-africa.pdf>





Objectives of the Side Event

- Present Algeria's achievements in promoting the career development of women magistrates.
- Present the project supporting the advancement of women magistrates in Algeria.
- Introduce the Gender Equality Seal for Public Institutions, implemented by the Ministry of Justice in partnership with UNDP Algeria.
- Highlight the role of the Conference of African Constitutional Jurisdictions in promoting women judges across Africa.

Format :

The discussions will take the form of a high-level panel followed by an interactive debate with participants.

Panelists' Interventions

- Mr. Abdallah Al Dardari, Regional Director for Arab States, UNDP. Duration: 3 minutes.
- Ms. Aissiou Isma, Studies and Synthesis Officer, Ministry of Justice « Overview of the working context and career development of women judges in Algeria, and presentation of the project implemented with UNDP to support their career advancement » Duration: 10 minutes.
- Ms. Natasha Van Rijn, Resident representative of UNDP Algeria « Presentation of the Gender Equality Seal mechanism led by the Ministry of Justice in partnership with UNDP Algeria » Duration: 5 minutes.
- Mr Jean-Paul Adam, Director for Policy, Monitoring and Advocacy in the Office of the Special Advisor on Africa to the United Nations Secretary General.
- Mr. Moussa Laraba, General Secretary- Representative of the Conference of African Constitutional Jurisdictions « Presentation of initiatives benefiting women judges in Africa» Duration: 5 minutes
- University of Pittsburgh « the evolution of women in African judicial systems », to be confirmed: Duration: 10 minutes.
 - Dr. Melanie M. Hughes, Professor of Sociology and Co-Director, Gender Inequality Research Lab (GIRL)
 - Ms. Gloria Jasmine Akoba, Africa Regional Team Lead, Gender Equality in Public Administration Working Group

Moderation: Representative of the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Questions & Answers : Interventions from Member States, regional organisations, and civil society.

Closing Remarks: Closing statements delivered by the panelists.

