



**The 3<sup>rd</sup> CAIROBI Conference  
for DAAD Alumni from countries of the Nile Basin,  
to be held in  
Cairo, Egypt  
from 20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2019  
about  
“Women in Leading Positions –  
Multi-disciplinary Perspectives from along the Nile”**

- A cooperation between DAAD Regional Offices Cairo and Nairobi -

### **Topic**

By enhancing gender equality, a society makes best use of its human resources. However, gender equality remains a global challenge in the 21st century and according to the World Economic Forum's 2018 Global Gender Gap Report<sup>1</sup>, which covers 149 countries, it may still take more than 100 years until gender equality in general would be finally achieved - if development continued at its current slow pace. Keeping women in the background, society still misses out on the specific skill sets and perspectives that women can contribute to politics, economies and society at large.

Access to higher education remains a foundation and requirement for gender equality. But then, after graduation, what are the factors that keep women in lower positions than their male counterparts? For example, what are the structures and cultures of promotion that favour men and allow them to proceed faster to leading positions? Regarding representation in leadership positions, there is still an obvious gender gap, especially in male-dominated fields like technology, natural sciences, business management and politics: According to the above-mentioned report, only 17 out of 149 assessed countries have women as Heads of State. On average, only 18% of Ministers and 24% of Members of Parliament on a global scale are female. The situation is similar in the managerial field, as men hold around 66% of managerial positions across those countries with respective available data.

Now, what about careers in academia and research, especially in the Nile Basin Countries? What are the obstacles and hidden barriers, specific to this – our - region?

Academia and research centres have the responsibility to provide a basis for sounder policies to foster gender equality in all disciplines and at all hierarchical levels. In this sense, with this conference we intend to shed light on how research on women's leadership can play a constructive role in expanding our knowledge of existing gender gaps and help enhancing women's roles in decision-making processes around society and politics. We intend to develop ideas on how a steady academic exchange across

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_GGGR\\_2018.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2018.pdf)



disciplinary and regional boundaries about this topic can improve the situation of women in leadership positions in the Nile Basin countries.

The topic shall be discussed from multi-disciplinary perspectives and within different formats such as plenary lectures, working groups, panel discussions and poster presentations.

### Sub-themes

- 1) Overview of relevant gender studies concerning women's leadership in Nile Basin Countries
- 2) The role of higher education and research in empowering women to get access to and succeed in leading positions
- 3) Discussion of policies and legislation for the promotion of gender equality in all fields and all hierarchical levels of work, politics etc.
- 4) Strategies and opportunities for regional collaboration to advance women's successful participation in male-dominated graduate professions: Examples and Perspectives

### Objectives

- to develop multi-disciplinary perspectives surrounding questions of women in leadership, especially in academia, science and research
- to bring together perspectives from different countries from the Nile Basin
- to foster collaboration and networking along the topic, in the region and among DAAD alumni

### Call for Abstracts

We invite abstracts of not more than 2,000 characters that are related to one of the outlined sub-themes from DAAD Alumni from the Nile Basin Countries: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Ruanda, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Please note that the topics should have a high academic relevance and be at the same time easily comprehensible for non-experts of your academic field. Abstracts should be sent as word document as part of the filled application form. Please send your abstract to [alumni@daadcairo.org](mailto:alumni@daadcairo.org) and to [conference@daadafrica.org](mailto:conference@daadafrica.org) latest by 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2019 (please send your application to both addresses). A scientific committee will be in charge of reviewing and selecting the submitted abstracts. Authors of successful abstracts will be informed as soon as possible.

**To discuss the outlined questions, we want to attract a manifold of perspectives, from various academic fields, from the Humanities to the Natural Sciences.** Therefore, the call is open for all academic fields. As our DAAD Alumni encompass an abundance of different research fields and perspectives, we expect many interesting papers from diverse academic fields from all countries of the Nile Basin. Your paper can either have a country level focus or it can have a transnational regional focus. We also would like to encourage young researchers to send their proposals.

**Further information**

Details about the logistics and the final programme will be provided well in time after the selection process has been completed. Travel costs and accommodation will be taken care of by the organizers for successful applicants from outside of Cairo.

Please note that the conference will have different presentation formats, e.g. lecture, panel discussion, group sessions, poster presentation and such. We reserve the right to determine which input should be presented in which format. We kindly ask for your understanding. Of course, you will be informed about all the details and decisions in good time before the conference.

We are looking forward to your proposal!