



**MAKING SENSE #4**

**Beyond  
Boundaries:  
Women Leaders in  
Lebanon Breaking  
Isolation through  
Global  
Engagement**

On June 8, 2023, Najat Aoun Saliba completed a trip to the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center in Italy where she attended the 2023 Global Women Leaders Summit. The Summit, organized by The Rockefeller Foundation and Georgetown University's Institute for Women, Peace and Security. This exclusive gathering brought together influential women in politics from around the world, including prominent figures such as former American Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, former Prime Minister of Australia Julia Gillard, former President of Ireland Mary Robinson and former President of Lithuania Dalia Grybauskaitė, along with 12 other distinguished women leaders.

During the intimate and off-the-record summit, the 16 women leaders engaged in profound reflections, sharing valuable lessons from their political careers and discussing ongoing challenges. The goal was to collectively generate solutions empowering women leaders to succeed in politics at the highest levels. The summit's unique curriculum included immersive sessions on effective governing strategies, navigating social media attacks, and addressing broader challenges such as inclusive economics, climate change, and evolving technology. By equipping participants with best practices, the summit aimed to enhance their leadership capabilities and enable them to tackle pressing issues.

The meeting's outcomes focused on empowering women leaders and addressing governance, the digital space, economy, conflict, accountability, and climate change. Key calls to action included supporting women political leaders in crises and transitions, creating a dashboard of cyberspace policies, incentivizing gender equality in investments, engaging women in political and humanitarian efforts, framing climate action effectively, and enhancing women's access to inclusive climate finance. Mobilizing mass campaigns for climate action and strengthening global accountability mechanisms were also highlighted.

Despite Lebanon's current dire situation, marred by decades of corruption, inefficiency, and severe human rights violations, there is still a glimmer of hope for a better future. The recognition of Najat A. Saliba as an exceptional woman leader and her active participation in high-level meetings like the 2023 Global Women Leaders Summit provide an opportunity to make significant contributions and shape future decisions. Saliba emphasizes the importance of refusing to isolate Lebanon, as the current warlords have done, and instead actively engaging in global discussions. Breaking free from the cycles of corruption, dependency, and clientelism that have plagued the country for decades is our collective duty. Saliba firmly believes that by actively participating in international dialogue and collaborating with experts from all nations, including Lebanese expats, we can strengthen our nation and pave the way for a brighter future.