



Dear colleagues and friends of the WOMENVAI platform,

**Achieving SDGs is only possible if we all want peace... We are all barely emerging from the Covid crisis, and really did not need this.**

The situation in Ukraine is tragic and the scientific community also is showing support. **Like others, WOMENVAI strongly condemns the war of aggression waged by Russia against Ukraine.** In these dark hours, all our thoughts go out to the affected populations. It is not

for us to engage in a legal debate on the definition of neutrality or to set ourselves up as censors of the action of governments during this unprecedented crisis. However, we cannot deny its consequences on the cost of energy and its availability, as well as on the supply of agricultural raw materials - cereals in particular, are fast becoming a hot topic.

Once again, women and men entrepreneurs will have to show resilience and inventiveness.

It has been two years since COVID-19 struck and the pandemic has claimed over 5 million lives, driven tens of millions into poverty, and negatively impacted our businesses, communities, and lives in unprecedented ways.

**We want 2022 to be different!** We have the tools, the science, and the resources to end pandemics and we have brains and empathy whatever it takes to end wars. History has shown that we can solve big problems when we work together. We have a common future. We must stand together as a global community to simply try and live together, better.

Especially in this month of the **IWD, International Women's Day**, when we have so many things to tell you about what we do, what we expect and what we live on a day-to-day basis.

**Yvette Ramos, President and Co-founding Member of WOMENVAI**

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## French Women in STEM associations proposals towards the French presidential elections of April 2022



The four Women in STEM French organizations, namely **Femmes Ingénieries, Femmes et Mathématiques, Femmes et Physique et Femmes & Sciences**, supported by many other French institutions, including **IESF**, a national member of the **WFEO** – World Federation of Engineering Organisations, as well as other professional women

organisations, including **BPW** (Business & Professional Women) have been working together to come up with **17 proposals and submitted these to the French Presidential candidates**. These proposals aim at guaranteeing an improvement in the education of young people with a strong focus on gender equality in STEM.

(to be cont'd on page 2)

## French Women in STEM associations proposals towards the French presidential elections of April 2022 (cont'd from page 1)

Those proposals include:

- Rethinking the **training of schoolteachers** in the field of STEM, both initial and continuous
- Making a national issue of **informing students, guidance professionals, teachers and parents** on scientific and technical professions by showing that they are equally suitable for girls and boys.
- Ensuring the implementation of a policy to **prevent violence against young women** in study areas where they are in minority and guaranteeing girls and boys **equal access to schools in all areas of education**.
- Generalizing initial and ongoing training on gender equality for teachers and guidance counsellors, and setting up and promoting an **equality charter for school textbooks**, books and multimedia productions for young people.
- Granting **public higher education institutions a budget bonus** linked to their parity results.

France, like the rest of the world, is evolving in a context of economic upheaval - with unprecedented globalization of trade, climate change, explosion of available information, scarcity of raw materials, redistribution of water resources, new societal responsibilities and environmental challenges. Developing research and scientific and technological innovation is essential to meet these new challenges.

To bring its talents to global development, to fight against unemployment and poverty, French industry must reinvent itself and rely on innovation and cutting-edge skills, including computing. It needs scientists, technicians, and engineers to manage this change and adapt. However, in France as in all industrialized countries, the needs of scientific and technical professions are not met with a sufficient supply of graduates - and women remain, without objective reasons, a minority in these professions. In companies, universities and research centers, the skills of women scientists, technicians and engineers are not sufficiently recognized and used. This results in a loss for the economy of the nation, as well as an injustice for these women.

These proposals were already submitted five years ago and have been updated for a better inclusion of statistics and evolution of the STEM careers.

Details are provided [here](#).



## Invitation to the WOMENVAI 5<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 – 5pm to 6:30pm CET, Montpellier (France)



Dear stakeholders, voting members and friends,  
I have the pleasure of inviting you to our next General Assembly to be held Friday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2022.

The meeting will be held in hybrid mode, both in presence at EPF Montpellier, France, and via Zoom - for the online meeting, please click [here](#).

### Proposed agenda includes:

1. Welcome note by the President, recalling the goals of our NGO (10')
2. Breaking the glass: Introduction of new members and their projects (15')
3. Counting voting members (5')
4. Statutory part of the GA and group photo (30')
  - a. The NGO activities in 2021 (President's Annual Report) - vote
  - b. Financial status 2021 – vote
  - c. Proposals and budget 2022 - vote
  - d. Election of the members of the Board
5. Questions and Answers (30')



If you cannot make it, please send your Proxy form to [contact@womenvai.org](mailto:contact@womenvai.org) as soon as possible.

# Our Sponsor FARMER CHARLIE kicks-off pilot projects, by Betty Bonnardel

In 2018, I led a study for the European Space Agency (ESA), about potential applications and services of large satellite constellations, such as OneWeb and SkyBridge, with six experts, in 5G, satellite communications, emergency response, digitalization in Africa, weather and disaster risk management. One of the experts on weather and disaster risk, and deputy project manager, was Yvette Ramos, the President of WomenVai.



The study showed the potential for a range of applications, including connecting weather stations. **There are the same number of weather stations in Africa as there are in Switzerland.**



After the ESA study, we worked within **AB5 Consulting** to understand the need better and see if there was a cost effective solution. The weather information is very important for many reasons, **and this is especially true for farmers.** But they need many more information beyond the farm management. For instance, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) last week published that over all there is 15% of post-harvest waste. In cassava production, research shows that post-harvest waste can range between 50% and 75%. In addition, inefficiency in the food chain (storage, transport, transformation) means that **more waste happens, and farmers do not get the revenues they deserve.**

**Farmer Charlie, a spin-off of AB5 Consulting, is designed based on an affordable business model with three elements, an agribusiness app,** capable of connecting with local third-party apps, weather and in field sensors, wifi Internet connectivity and power to the field and farms where necessary. Farmer Charlie brings information to farmers in their fields, in an easy plug and play solution, affordable to the farmers, which **addresses the farmers needs 360 degrees**, in a smart and localized way. It integrates with other third party apps.

It has been a long journey, with many technical and commercial challenges. In many ways, Farmer Charlie is very innovative, in bringing a sustainable business model, supporting farmers' in farming techniques which are caring for the environment, managing natural resources (e.g., water) more effectively. Farmer Charlie is the story of people who helped us reaching the solution: **the farmers in Nigeria, Sicily and the UK** who have been sharing their needs, so that we can serve them better. It is the staff and work experience students who have been helping us shape our solution. It is the stakeholders, advisors, friends who have provided feedback and support when we questioned ourselves. It is also the result of a strong collaboration and synergy that the WomenVai community enables.

**As we now enter the next stage of growth in Farmer Charlie, ensuring that technology is used to support sustainability in a cost-effective way is leading us forward. Get in touch if you want to know more and support!**



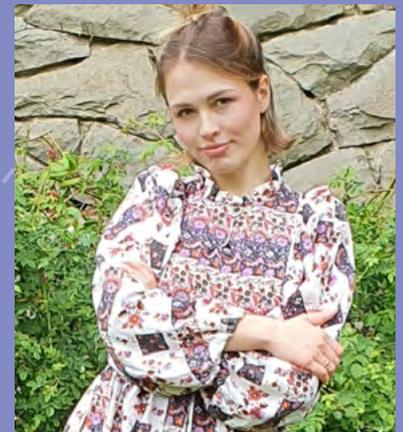
# Antonina, new member from Poland, presents the World Urban Forum #11

by Antonina Wojtowicz, Poland

As a new member of WOMENVAI, I am very excited to join and contribute with new actions and ideas.

I recently got my Engineering Bachelor in architecture and I am currently studying for a Master's Degree at Cracow University of Technology in the field of Architecture. My interest in feminism and gender equality started about two years ago, and since then I took part in a Maltepe University International Student Congress in order to share my experience facing gender inequality in public space. This is a really important topic to me and to many young ladies around me.

Through dissemination of my presentation at University, I was invited by prof. Lidia Zakowska to contribute as a speaker during the **WUF - World Urban Forum that will be held in Katowice, Poland**, from June 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> 2022, and I believe this will be a great opportunity to raise the visibility of WOMENVAI members. It will be a great inspiration for what I want to achieve on an academic and personal development level. I really hope to encourage my friends and colleagues, both women and men, to contribute to this network projects, locally and globally.



WORLD  
URBAN  
FORUM  
ELEVENTH SESSION



## Shut up the weapons and move on to dialogue

by Cátia Rosas, Portugal



**What we did not want to happen happened. On February 24<sup>th</sup> Putin green-lit the invasion of Ukraine. We do not know how long the conflict will last, but everyday we get images of the Ukrainian determined to defend their country, their roots. The resolution condemning this Russian invasion, approved by the majority of member states at the UN General Assembly, on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, emphasizes Russia's moral and diplomatic defeat.**

**Shut up your weapons and move on to dialogue, the world's appeal to Putin.**

Ukraine is made up of courageous people. The enlistment of women in the Ukrainian army intensified after the ban on men from leaving the country. For some, staying is also defending those who had to stay. While some enlist in the army, others manufacture weapons and equipment and there are still those who leave the country, protecting children and elderly. Whatever the decision, everyone resists for their homeland, in this unjust and tyrannical war.

**This may be Europe's biggest refugee crisis of this century - it calls for solidarity**

The UN estimated in the beginning of march that 12 million people in Ukraine would need help and protection while four million refugees may need protection and assistance in neighboring countries in the coming months. The numbers continue to grow.

**Other conflicts and natural disasters persist in the world**

At the end of June 2021, people were displaced mainly from Syria (nearly 7 million), Venezuela (4 million) and Afghanistan (2.6 million). Humanitarian aid has been crucial in these emergencies (shelter, food, water, medical care) and helping to build a future of hope and dignity.

**The UN reveals that women are at greatest risk during and after conflicts and natural disasters.**

Namely greater exposure to sexual violence, less access to education or health care - particularly in Afghanistan, Tigray ( Ethiopia) or Cabo Delgado (Mozambique), among other territories.

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With the Taliban returning to power in August 2021, women's advancements of the last 2 decades were crushed. Despite inspiring 2020 figures (3.5 million girls in school, 100,000 women in universities, 1,000 women business leaders, 500 women judges or prosecutors and 12,000 women in police and army), women and girls were prevented from studying or holding public jobs. Along with these setbacks, tortures and executions methods were internationally condemned.

**In January 2022, the UN launched an appeal for US\$5 billion in funding for the Afghan people,** including for essential services such as health, education, sanitation and electricity supply across the country. **But Afghanistan's leadership must recognize and protect women and girls rights.**

**In Tigray (Ethiopia), hundreds of women and girls were subjected to sexual violence at the hand of the military.** Survivors continue to experience considerable physical and mental health issues.

**The conflict in Cabo Delgado is also having a worrying impact on children and women,** with little access to support for survivors of gender-based violence and to shelters and safe spaces.

**Meanwhile, in the world's largest refugee camp from Syria (in Zaatari, Jordan), over 14,000 babies were born without a single maternal death.** Syrian women are provided with health services there - safe childbirth, psychosocial care, and help towards surviving violence.

**Identifying and supporting durable solutions for refugees to rebuild their lives and live in safety and dignity is a priority humanitarian strategy.** Therefore, also in areas such as defence, civil protection and humanitarian aid, gender-sensitive strategies are needed in the face of human security needs, as well as humanitarian and environmental crises, where engineering and science are essential.

**These efforts should focus on:**

- **Reducing women's vulnerability.**
- **Promoting gender-sensitive emergency responses.**
- **Involving women in decision-making processes.**

After 8 days of war in Ukraine, the UN asked for US\$1.7 billion in humanitarian aid. The escalation of aggression by Russia continues, despite negotiations and sanctions by the European Union.

**Ukraine and the international community want peace. WOMENVAI adds its voice in this defense of human rights, where women and men contribute side by side. Shut up the weapons and move on to real and sincere dialogue - now.**

## Support Afghan lady artist Shamsia Hassani!

Shamsia Hassani's graffiti works have been showcased around the world.



Her murals are pieces of art on walls of Afghanistan, United States, Italy, Germany, India, Vietnam, Switzerland, Denmark, Norway, and other countries. While mainly doing graffiti in Kabul, Afghanistan, her last murals abroad were created in Wide Open Walls of Sacramento, and 20x21 Eugene's mural project in Oregon.



California, United States

For more information visit her website: [shamsiahassani.net](http://shamsiahassani.net)

Kabul, Afghanistan



## Portrait of Dr. Olena Lazorenko



**We contacted the President of the Ukrainian NGO "League of Professional Women" (LPW)**

Dr. Olena Lazorenko, Senior Researcher, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine & president of the LPW, told us that after the 7th day of Russia's war against Ukraine she was, with her family, planning to evacuate from Lviv (West Ukraine) to Salsburg, Austria, and that we will have the possibility to interview her in the next few weeks. Meanwhile we would like to introduce her here - so we never forget women fighting for their rights, everywhere on the planet, and on any occasion.

Dr. Lazorenko is a Ukrainian Social Researcher, Civil Society Organizations Leader and now a Senior Researcher at H. Skovoroda Institute of Philosophy of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine - as well as the President of Ukrainian NGO "League of Professional Women" in Kyiv, Ukraine. An LPW representative in the Women's Major Group & UNECE RCEM (global/regional advocacy SDGs from the stakeholders' perspective) and other international platforms, she also founded and managed a service on academic entrepreneurship for 16 years, which was sold to new owners in spring 2017.

More information on the LPW network [here](#).

# NEWS from our Cofounders and Ambassadors

## An engineer and scientist with an atypical career path, by Marwa Zaghib, Tunisia

I must admit: **my last professional career move was the most challenging experience** ever in my life. But it is true: nobody ever told me pursuing a career was easy.

**I have been in the Health industry, precisely working in medical devices** as a Supplier Quality Assurance Engineer for the past years, and I have also been involved for about ten years in NGOs, including JCI Junior International Economic Chamber, ATFI: the Tunisian Association of Women Engineers, as well as other global networks of women's organizations in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

**I got very interested in WOMENVAI, especially when Yvette asked me to join right from the start as a cofounder- as I felt I could finally engage and build my own projects.** After two years of career changes, **I am now back to actively contributing** to projects with men and women around the world for the benefits of STEM quality education and Women entrepreneurship. This is where I feel useful and helpful to society: when men and women work together, efficiency and pragmatism are key words, **so I encourage all you readers and not yet members to just join the team!**

**My motto? "Our destiny belongs to us, every day belongs to us, every day is a new opportunity to renew ourselves, realize and move forward".**



## Israel Climate Change Conference 2022, by Johanna Jeukendrup-Rothman



**This was the first Israeli conference on Climate change**, organized by the Haaretz newspaper and the Hebrew university and supported by NGO's like Ecopeace, Heshel and the Israeli train transport.

The program was highly interesting and important subjects were discussed: Climate change as not only an environmental crisis, but as a humanitarian crisis; Environmental diplomacy as a tool for peace progress; Public transport and its challenges; Innovation for climate change and more.

**John Kerry**, Head of the special presidential envoy for climate in President Biden's administration, spoke about his vision for a better global climate. Israeli female Minister of environmental protection **Tamar Zandberg** was invited to answer questions about the level of activities of the government on Climate change. She told us that a **National Climate law**, long-

overdue but still absent in Israel, could be ready by June 2022, which gave us hope and loud applause.

**NGOs are also working hard to persuade the public** to take action, even if government offices still lack public involvement. I must say that during the meeting **a lot of strong female voices were raised, and there was no hesitation to ask painful questions.** The day was filled with courageous discussion about the steps to take to meet sustainable goals. I also appreciated the fact that food was completely vegan, no dairy was served and batches and papers were recycled. Well done, and looking forward to next year's meeting - hopefully by then, by the government's initiative.

## Research Work on the beautiful Nature Isle of the Caribbean, by Armelle Isaac, ambassador, Dominica

**Hi readers! My name is Arnelle Isaac and I am writing to you from the beautiful Nature Isle of the Caribbean – Dominica.**

**In the past few months, I conducted research** in Dominica on behalf of an international university to gain knowledge in **community disaster response mechanisms.** While organizational disaster response is well documented, the research team felt it imperative to understand organic community responses to disasters.

I have also been part of other exciting work on island including preparation of the upcoming Population and Housing Census, and different activities geared towards increasing schools and communities' **resilience against various hazards.** These projects granted me an opportunity to re-discover my island and meet amazing people along the way.

**This has been very rewarding work as Dominica continues to strive in becoming the world's first climate resilient nation.**



# What we did in March 2022 for IWD: International Women's Day

## March 9<sup>th</sup>: Les Elles de la Science, Nîmes, France

On March 9<sup>th</sup>, our President made it to Nîmes - a beautiful ancient renovated city in Southern France, where the City Mayor had invited her, together with other female Scientists and Engineers, at the Natural History Museum to "ELLES de la Science" - workshops for kids aged 10-12. Around 100 young boys and girls came to meet female STEM professionals to discover funny parts of Science and Technology.

The dream to be an engineer or a scientist of some of these young ones is fast becoming a reality! And to young girls, please know one thing: STEM awaits you and the future is yours!



## March 15<sup>th</sup>: FFU Webinar on COP26 COP26, was it really the last chance?

Some of us, ladies, for whom it was our first COP, shared our experience with those who have been going for 10 years - with a brief history and reminder of the objectives of the UNFCCC and negotiations happening at the Conference Of Parties (COP), with great debates and interesting conclusions. View it [here on WOMENVAI youtube channel.](#)



## March 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>: UN WOMEN: CSW66 Webinars on Climate Change-Environment Disaster Risk Reduction

At the occasion of the 66<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) which took place March 14<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> 2022, WOMENVAI was invited by the WFEO to a side-event on the 21<sup>st</sup> of march, and coorganized with its partners ACEF Africa, Business As Nature Portugal and SSIG Argentina, a side event on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March. Representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all regions of the world were invited to contribute to the sessions. More information [here.](#)

**14-25 MARCH 2022**  
**CSW66**  
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

**CLIMATE CHANGE · ENVIRONMENT  
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**  
GENDER EQUALITY AT THE CENTRE OF SOLUTIONS

Virtual Parallel Event at the NGO CSW66 Forum

### Women in STEM and Green Economy Towards Gender Equality

24<sup>th</sup> March 2022 - 7:00-8:30 PM (CET)

[JOIN US here => https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81072498346](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81072498346)

Yvette Ramos, France

Denise Salas, Switzerland

Susana Viseu, Portugal

Marise Almeida, Portugal

Ana Sofia Fernandes, President of the Portuguese Platform for Women's Rights

Bachiratou Issiako  
Benin

Emeima Ahmed Tall Taleb and Ghilana Ahmed Cheikh Labide  
Mauritania

Olga Cavalli  
Argentina

Tambe Honourine Enow  
Cameroon

Malasiyo Mary Mulenga  
Zambia

# March 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> : UN WOMEN: CSW66 Webinars on Climate Change- Environment Disaster Risk Reduction (cont'd from page 8)



14-25 MARCH 2022  
**CSW66**  
 COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

**CLIMATE CHANGE · ENVIRONMENT  
 DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**  
**GENDER EQUALITY AT THE CENTRE OF SOLUTION**

## Creating Gender Inclusive Engineering & Technology to Address Climate Change

Monday 21 March 2022 | 10-11.30am EST (New York) / 2-3:30pm (GMT)

At COP26 in 2021 the World focused on the climate emergency like never before. Our speakers today will talk about their experience at COP26, and the work that they do to focus on the gender perspective, the implications for engineering and technical solution development, and how this viewpoint must be embedded in strategy & planning.

Event hosted by the Women in Engineering Committee (WIE) of the World Federation of Engineering Organisations (WFEO)

REGISTER HERE: <https://bit.ly/34tK04w>



Jeanette SOUTHWOOD  
 Moderator  
 Vice President, Corporate  
 Tech & Strategic Partnerships,  
 Engineers Canada  
 WFEO WIE, Canada



Dawn BONFIELD  
 Visiting Professor, Aston  
 University,  
 WFEO WIE Deputy Chair,  
 UK



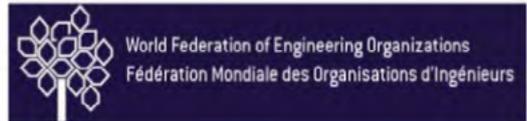
Alice CUNHA DA SILVA  
 Nuclear Engineer  
 COP 26 Nuclear Delivery  
 Team  
 WFEO WIE, Brazil



Yvette RAMOS  
 President Swiss Engineering  
 Geneva  
 Consultant to the World  
 Meteorological Organization  
 WFEO WIE, Switzerland



Alba Saray PÉREZ TERÁN  
 Climate Change & Innovation  
 Officer at Ordem Belgium  
 Member of Belgian Consultative  
 Council on Gender &  
 Environment



## March 30<sup>th</sup>: UN 25<sup>th</sup> Commission on Science and Technology for Development

At the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the CSTD Commission on Science and Technology Development of the UNCTAD, **WOMENVAI** had the privilege to cochair a side event on **Technology Assessment**.

Technology is key when developing a new and complex project, as well as stakeholders' engagement and communication tools together with strategic planning. Having a proper scientific process that links social sciences and STEM is a modern way to act, especially where modernization is needed, for example in LDCs and SIDSs. Energy and Agriculture are essential socioeconomic sectors in these regions of the world and we, social society, international and national NGOs, STEM societies, use innovative tools to help identify priorities and sustainable projects in these socio economic areas and developing regions.

Thanks to this great opportunity offered by the UNCTAD, **WOMENVAI** shared its experience when introducing new technologies on the field and made a statement, emphasizing our will to work with UNCTAD and all partners with the the TA Methodology, as it appears a useful guide for us and our project beneficiaries. More [here](#).

UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON  
 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)  
 TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

SIDE EVENT

### TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT: HOW TO DO IT

organized by UNCTAD in collaboration with WFEO (Geneva office)<sup>1</sup> and WOMENVAI<sup>2</sup>

30 MARCH 2022, 16:45 TO 18:00

HYBRID MEETING VIA WEBEX



UNITED NATIONS  
**UNCTAD**



**WFEO / FMOI**

# Why designing and implementing Gender Equality Plans for Faculties in STEM ? By Lidia Zakowska



## GEP (Gender Equality Plan) – Why it is so important and urgent?

[Implementing GEP at universities determines the funding of research](#) in Horizon EUROPE 2021-2027.

**The main objective of the GEP is to ensure that Higher Education is a safe place for all**, with respect for equality, diversity, free from discrimination, and ensuring freedom of scientific and personal development.

**These values contribute to the development of science.** The social mission of Universities is to educate highly qualified professionals, also engineering and scientific staff, to serve the economy and society as a whole by solving problems, while respecting individual beliefs, rights and aspirations of all its members.

**According to studies, some people face both prejudice** and various institutional obstacles regarding opportunities for scientific and professional development - such as gender discrimination, sexual harassment or difficulties in combining work and family life. **This result in scientific careers of women slowing down**, and a possible loss of interest in further scientific development. Combining work and family life **also discourage fathers** who seek to engage in both spheres of life.

**The need for integrated equality measures at university** is pointed out by various institutions. **The European Commission lists the following objectives of the Gender Equality Strategy in Research and Innovation (2012):**

- **Promoting equality in scientific careers**
- **Ensuring gender balance in decision-making processes and bodies**
- **Including gender, in biological and social dimension, in research and innovation content.**



In line with the Communication from the European Commission on a strengthened European Research Area (2012), **the EU Member States are encouraged to address gender inequalities:** removing legal and other barriers to the recruitment, maintenance and career development of female researchers, respecting EU law on gender equality ([Directive 2006/54/EC](#)), ensuring that at least 40% of women participate in decision-making processes and recruitment/career development, and in the design and evaluation of research programmes ([EIGE 2016](#)).

**Good practices are emerging in Poland and in most EC countries.** Studies by the Commissioner for Human Rights Office (2018) and the Helsinki Foundation (2019) highlight **sexual harassment issues at universities and the need for anti-discrimination policies.** The first GEP in Poland for the University of Warsaw was created (Ordinance No. 194 of the Rector of the University of Warsaw) as of August 27, 2020 - a model for the [Gender Equality Plan for Polish HE institutions](#).

**I had a pleasure, as a partner of the EU Horizon 2020 Project GEECCO, to coordinate the GEP team at Cracow University of Technology (PK)** along with three other technical universities and the best European gender experts.

This long-term strategy for equality as a lasting value in the educational culture of PK is based on the following statements:

- A good GEP for engineering practice is crucial for the engineering community due to a world shortage of engineers, a growing need for engineering solutions, to solve current and future human problems
- Careers of female engineers helped by a GEP will greatly benefit regional development and national and international prosperity. The benefits will apply not only to women - but also to men
- The goals of GEP are strongly supported by the European Commission. Gender equality and equal opportunities between women and men are fundamental principles in the EU Treaties and thus have to be respected by Member States

A new paradigm for the engineering profession will show how much women fit into this concept and erase the "engineer-man" stereotype. **Success in building and implementing GEP depends on the extensive involvement of university authorities**, from decision-makers to employees to students, and on support from the Rector. **Universities have a responsibility to create and build equality culture.**

This will also positively impact the quality of research, teaching and strengthen the institution's scientific and research position in a competitive environment. **Equality and diversity in science and higher education also influence well-being at work. Equality policies create clearer procedures, and contribute to better working environments as well as attracting and retaining scientific talents.**

# Last Minute News

## UN Ocean Summit

**WOMENVAI has been recently accredited to the UN OCEAN SUMMIT - to be held in Lisbon, Portugal, June 27<sup>th</sup>- July 1<sup>st</sup> 2022.** The Ocean Conference, co-hosted by the Governments of Kenya and Portugal, comes at a critical time as the world is seeking to address the many of the deep-rooted problems of our societies laid bare by the COVID-19 pandemic and which will require **major structural transformations and common shared solutions that are anchored in the SDGs.** To mobilize action, the Conference will seek to propel much needed **science-based innovative solutions** aimed at starting a new chapter of global ocean action. **Solutions for a sustainably managed ocean involve green technology and innovative uses of marine resources.** They also include addressing the threats to health, ecology, economy and governance of the ocean - acidification, marine litter and pollution, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and the loss of habitats and biodiversity. If you wish to join, let us know ASAP! More information [here](#).



United Nations



UNITED NATIONS  
**OCEAN**  
CONFERENCE  
LISBON  
27 JUNE -  
1 JULY  
2022  
Portugal

## WSIS Gender Trendsetters

WOMENVAI is honoured by the WSIS process and nominated Yvette Ramos among 20 global WSIS "Gender trendsetters". More information on the [wsis.org/forum](https://www.wsis.org/forum) website

**MEET THE WSIS GENDER TRENDSETTERS!**

 Mr. Vala Afshar Chief Digital Evangelist, Salesforce	 Ms. Susana Arrechea Digital Community Center Project Director, New Sun Road for-profit public benefit company	 Ms. Elena Estavillo Flores CEO, Centro-i para la Sociedad del Futuro Think Tank	 Ms. Mei Lin Fung Chair and Co-founder, People Centered Internet	 Ms. Gab-Hingonne Gadbibe National Coord. Action pour l'Education & la Promotion de la Femme, TCHAD
 Ms. Mikaela Jade CEO and Founder, Indigital EduTech	 Ms. Kirthi Jayakumar Coder and Creator at Saahas	 Dr. Tawfik Jelassi Assistant Director-General, UNESCO	 Mr. Malcolm Johnson Deputy Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union	 Ms. Tatyana Kanzavelli Founder and CEO, Open Health Network
 H.E. Ms. Lotte Knudsen Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, European Union	 Ms. Fang Li Deputy Director Research Institute of Technology and Standard, CAICT	 Mr. Benoit Louvel Service Design Front Office Director, Customer Service & Operations, Orange Business Services	 H.E. Ms. Neema Lugangira Member of Parliament of Tanzania & Founder of NGO, Omuka Hub	 Ms. Samantha Paoletti Research and Business Dev. Manager CSEM
 Ms. Ari Qayumi Founder and CEO, Mindful Venture Capital	 Ms. Yvette Ramos President, WomenVai	 Ms. Natalja Rodionova Founder, Sisters of Code & IT Academy STEP Cambodia	 Ms. Magatte Wade Entrepreneur, Magatte Wade	 Ms. Vidhya Y. Cofounder and Trustee, Vision Empower

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## Who we are: the co-founding members

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Asma Brini, vice-president, France/Tunisia  
Inès Aivazian, deputy-treasurer, France  
Sophie Magner, treasurer, Belgium/France  
Lidia Zakowska, secretary general, Poland

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