



Editorial by Our New Secretary General, Prof. Elisabetta Venezia: from Bonn to Dubai

Dear Members, Partners and Sponsors,

I am proud of the successful meetings and events in which WOMENVAI had a very high visibility on an international level. I am referring to the latest event in Bonn, where the United Nations Climate Change Conference took place. There were discussions on topics such as the global stocktake, the global goal on adaptation, the transition to sustainable societies, the mitigation work programme and loss and damage, among others. The issues

discussed lay the foundations for meetings to be held in Dubai at COP28 - where we can take a stance on phasing out fossil fuels.

Further governments, business, NGOs and cities can set up clear accountability mechanisms to keep climate promises on track. In this context, women play a key role in civil society, in the academic world and in the various economic sectors in order to direct behaviors and choices in a sustainable way. For example, regarding the transport sector, women's mobility patterns often overlap with global sustainability goals, suggesting that in a long-term framework these can serve as the foundation for development policies. In this way existing local mobility patterns may serve twice to empower women: firstly by having their lived experience serve as a foundation for policy making, and secondly by having a better chance of organic liberalization of their mobility if development trajectories align their local patterns with global goals.

See you all in Dubai, then!

Elisabetta Venezia, Secretary General of WOMENVAI

In this issue

- a. Editorial by Our New Secretary General
- b. ECOSOC Here We Are!
- c. Gender Equality Highways: Voicing at the United Nations
- d. How is Water and Climate These Days? Our Presence at Key Events (March-June)
- e. News from our Members and Partners Around the World
- f. WOMENVAI at the Women In Tech Global Summit, Paris, May
- g. Presenting Our Brand New Sponsors and Partners
- h. Help Us Award the WOMENVAI Academy

ECOSOC Here We Are!

As WOMENVAI advances gender equality and women's empowerment this year, we look forward to continuing our active collaboration with our Members and Partners -especially as we have been granted the Special Consultative Status by the ECOSOC of the United Nations.

On June 22nd, 2023, the Chief of the NGO Branch Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (ECOSOC), sent their official letter. See Extract below:

United Nations  Nations Unies

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS BRANCH
OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL SUPPORT AND COORDINATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
26th Floor Secretariat Building, United Nations, New York, N.Y. 10017
Telephone: (212) 963-8652; Fax: (212) 963-9248
Website: www.un.org/ecosoc/ngo Contact: www.un.org/ecosoc/ngo/contact

22 June 2023

Dear NGO Representative,

Subject: Follow-up to the decision of the Economic and Social Council

I am pleased to inform you that on 7 June 2023, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopted the recommendation of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to grant special consultative status to your organization, **WOMENVAI - Women and Men in Environment and Artificial Intelligence**. Please accept our heartfelt congratulations.

ECOSOC here we are! (cont'd)



As you may be aware, such status for an organization like WOMENVAI enables us to engage in a number of ways with ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies, the Human Rights Council and, under specific conditions, some meetings of the General Assembly and other intergovernmental bodies, as well as with the United Nations Secretariat.

It enables the Council or one of its bodies to seek expert information or advice from us in a subject matter; it entitles us to designate official representatives to the United Nations Headquarters in New York and the United Nations Offices at Geneva and Vienna, so that **our representatives can register for and participate in sessions, events, conferences and activities of the United Nations.**

To ensure WOMENVAI's participation, we call on our stakeholders to send us your interest in the form of a cover letter and a brief résumé by email [here](#).

Please remember to mention in all of your correspondence that you are a Member / Partner of WOMENVAI, NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.



On the Gender Equality Highways: Voicing at The United Nations

UN Women CSW#67 New York



Women in STEM: Equality Indicators for a Better Implementation of Innovative Solutions to Fight Gender Stereotypes in STEM Education and Professions

During CSW#67 of the UN WOMEN, on March 16th, 2023, Swiss Engineering Geneva and its delegates headed by Yvette Ramos -WSIS gender trendsetter in partnership with the ITU (International Telecommunications Union)- moderated a side-event exploring initiatives which not only fight gender stereotypes in STEM education and professional settings, but also brings light to monitoring and assessment plans to be adopted on national and international levels.

Partners included ICS University of Lisbon (Portugal), University of Bari Aldo Moro (Italy), Cracow University of Technology (Poland), and from civil society, Business as Nature (Portugal), and WOMENVAI ECOSOC NGO (France).

Over 80 Participants from 20 countries contributed to the recommendations which included the need to pursue multi-disciplinary research on women in STEM at international level, the utmost importance of raising the visibility of women in policymaking, power-acting and leadership roles in the STEM space and the strong recommendation to advance legislation to fight gender bias at all levels from policy making to implementation.



WOMENVAI presented the KIDsVAI project at the WSIS Forum

WSIS FORUM 2023 **WOMENVAI** **SWISS ENGINEERING**

13 March 2023 ~ 09:00-09:45 (UTC+01:00)
Innovate Stage, CICG, 2nd Floor - Geneva

KIDsVAI Train-the-trainers session to break gender stereotypes in STEM

Raising awareness about Gender stereotypes in professional orientation with a focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths

KIDsVAI www.womenvai.org



On the Gender Equality Highways: Voicing at The United Nations (cont'd)

How To Ensure the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda For Sustainable Development With Inclusive STEM Societies in the ECE* Region?

The RCEM Forum in Geneva was the opportunity for WOMENVAI and its partners to coorganize a hybrid event, with speakers invited to address the topic of sustainability through the Gender equality in STEM.

After a brief introduction by Yvette Ramos (President of WOMENVAI and Swiss Engineering Geneva), a series of practical case studies was presented by the following:

Marise Almeida (COO and CFO of Nitrogen Sensing Solutions, Vice-president of Business As Nature, PhD candidate ICS Lisbon, Portugal), **Liliane Dorveaux** (Deputy Director at EPF Engineering School Montpellier, WOMENVAI Cofounder, Professor of Mathematics and Regional Delegate for EllesBougent, France), **Lidia Zakowska** (Dr of Engineering) & **Antonina Wojtowicz** (Architectural Engineer), both from Cracow University of Technology, Poland, **Elisabetta Venezia** (Researcher in Applied Economics, Lecturer in Applied Economics at Università degli Studi di Bari Aldo Moro, Member of the Evaluation Board of public investments, Regione Puglia and WOMENVAI Secretary General, Italy), **Guillaume Pahud** (GAB-UNCTAD, Swiss Engineering Geneva, Switzerland) and **Betty Bonnardel** (MBE, CEO & Founder of Farmer Charlie, AB5 Consulting Cofounder, Chairperson for UK Chapter Space and Satellite Professionals International and WOMENVAI Cofounder, UK).

According to UIS data, under 30% of the world's researchers are women. UIS data also show the extent to which these women work in the public, private or academic sectors, as well as their fields of research. **But to truly reduce the gender gap, we must go beyond the numbers and identify the qualitative factors that deter women from pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).**

Source : [UNESCO Science report](#).

REGIONAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION
29 - 30 MARCH 2023 | HYBRID EVENT | GENEVA & ONLINE

PK UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI BARI ALDO MORO KidsVAI EPF ENGINEERING SCHOOL SWISS ENGINEERING

WOMENVAI
Women and Men in Environment and Artificial Intelligence

WOMENVAI & partners present a SIDE EVENT on 29th March 2023 at 1:30pm to 3pm CET

How to ensure the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with inclusive STEM societies in the UNECE Region?



How is Water and Climate These Days? Our Presence at Key Events, March-June



UN Water, New York (USA), March 22nd-24th by Beatriz Brandão, Brazil

My experience at the UN Water Conference was extremely enriching. Being in New York allowed me to follow the dialogue between

countries in loco, better understand major challenges to overcome in order to guarantee the human right to water and sanitation - as well as learn from best practices worldwide, connect with activists and representatives of public authorities, civil society, private sector and academia. These connections are key to taking the water agenda forward.

Personally, the best part for me was co-hosting official side-event “Climate-Water-Gender: the Unspoken Situation of the Brazilian Desertification Hubs”, alongside amazing women activists from my country: the topic was discussed by people such as Giovanna Tiboni and Carolline Querino, as well as our amazing panelists Ila Williane, Tárzia Medeiros, Rosângela Teixeira and Layane Rocha.

Additionally, I was honored to speak during several panels about the relationship between climate change, water and gender, and about the relevance of local initiatives in fighting water-related challenges in Brazil. Another high point in my journey at the UN was organizing a meeting between UN Water and representatives of Brazilian civil society and youth -which yielded relevant exchanges.



I left the conference happy to see over 700 commitments formalized by stakeholders in New York, and confident that such commitments will only go forward with effective cooperation, dialogue, financing, capacity-building and inclusion.

However, we still have many challenges ahead. Commitments made must be demanded and monitored.

The debate on water and sanitation needs to be more inclusive. We need to ensure that discussions on water are always linked to climate and gender. I will continue to contribute efforts to advance SDG 6 and all others!

10th Annual World Ocean Summit & Expo, Lisbon (Portugal), March 1st-5th by Johanna Rothman (Israël)



With a three day agenda full of speakers, it is hard to sift out the main message, but I will try and do that with a focus on women’s equity.

The main idea was **to understand how technology and closing the gaps in data can further help ocean health.**

Saving coral reefs and mangroves is fortunately not in the philanthropic field anymore, and we see a large stream of commercial companies and innovation that work together to keep the ocean wealthy and healthy.

Seaweed farms, coral reef restauration, harvesting omega 3 out of algae were some of the great new ideas discussed. The panels were professional and women were represented extremely well in the audience and the speakers.

Grassroot organizations for ocean conservation are crucial. How do we get people more nature-oriented? Local women at the coast line all over the world are many times not involved in marine conservation: they do not know how to swim, drop out of school at an early age to marry and have children. Non-literacy makes progress more difficult. **And these women are the answer. As they are leaders in their families -they can be leaders in climate and sea conservation too.**

The message is loud and clear: Try and recruit the women of the fisheries, they know the coastline, they know the reefs and they know the work in the sea. Local workforces of women that can help restore coral reefs and at the same time have a viable business, might be just what we need.

How is Water and Climate These Days? Our Presence at Key Events, March-June (cont'd)

Water Management Conference at EPF School of Engineering, Montpellier (France), April 12th



WATER MANAGEMENT:
International actions!

Ready to take action for the environment tomorrow ?
Breakdown of United Conference on water issues (March 22-24, 2023, New-York).
COP27 Highlights

17h30 Welcome by Liliane Dorveaux and Jean-Michel Nicolle

17h40 Introduction by Julia Mouton

17h50 Back from the United Nations Water Conference, NYC, by Yvette Ramos, EPF92 - PhD candidate University of Lisbon and president WOMENVAI

18h00 Lylían Coelho, Development Director at AgroParisTech-SUEZ Chair "Water for All - General Management of Water and Sanitation Services

18h10 Papers presented by Academia :
University of Aldo Moro, Bari, Italy : Professor Elisabetta Venezia
University of Lisbon, Portugal : Aura Bustillo, Johanna Jeukendrup and Marise Almeida, PhD candidates

19h00 Q&A and getting Young Eng ready for their action plan! Go to COP28!

12.04.23
17h30
Amphi K02



Logos: WOMENVAI, UNIVERSITA ALDO MORO, SUEZ, epf, UCLM, UCLM

UNFCCC SB58 – Climate Talks, Bonn (Germany), May 30th - June 4th, by Amélie Gelbmann, Switzerland



On Bonn Climate Conference SB58 – Achieving high integrity forest carbon projects

As I work closely in the field of forest carbon and REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation), I was very interested in Art.6 consultations and forest-related topics. REDD+ initiatives represent a vital pathway for combating climate change as it is estimated that globally, deforestation and forest degradation account for about 11% of CO₂ emissions. However, they encounter two key challenges: atmospheric integrity and equity integrity.

Atmospheric integrity involves the accurate quantification and verification of emissions reductions and removals associated with REDD initiatives. By using robust methodologies (the consolidated REDD methodology is a good example of methodology progress) and adopting rigorous monitoring and reporting systems (digitalization will be a great step forward), we can gain confidence in the integrity of the emissions reductions achieved through these projects.

Equity and benefits sharing integrity must ensure that local communities and indigenous peoples who play a significant role in forest conservation and restoration efforts are fairly compensated -and receive benefits from projects. It involves meaningful commitment, consultation, and participation in decision-making processes, as well as support for capacity building, and livelihood enhancement. By prioritizing equity integrity in REDD projects, we can foster social inclusivity, empower women and marginalized groups, and promote sustainable development that is rooted in justice and equality.



How is Water and Climate These Days? Our Presence at Key Events, March-June (cont'd)

**WMO Congress, Geneva (Switzerland),
May 22nd - June 2nd**



WORLD
METEOROLOGICAL
ORGANIZATION

Yvette Ramos (pictured below, left), Cofounder and President of WOMENVAI, is an international consultant working mainly with two technical agencies of the UN based in Geneva: the ITU (International Telecommunication Union) and the WMO (World Meteorological Organization) -which, for its World Congress this year, elected Celeste Saulo, Director of the Argentina National Meteorological Service, as the first ever woman Secretary General -starting her new job on January 1st, 2024.

The WMO publishes regular reports, examining the implications of the latest data and scientific research on the state of the global climate for sustainable development.

As an example, the report "Climate Indicators and Sustainable Development: Demonstrating the Interconnections" highlights how the world's climate is already changing -and how these changes will impede the achievement of the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), established in 2015. **According to the findings, if the SDGs are to be achieved by the 2030 target, the risks posed by human-induced climate change must be understood and addressed.** The report also champions the need for greater international collaboration, which it believes is essential to achieve SDGs, and to limit global warming to under 2°C or even 1.5°C by the end of this century -which we know has become a greater challenge with the latest extreme events.

7 climate indicators help understand the situation, namely Carbon dioxide concentration, temperature, ocean acidification, ocean heat content, sea-ice extent, glacier mass balance and sea-level rise. "As the international community becomes increasingly aware of the interconnections between climate change and sustainable development, more interdisciplinary partnerships for change can happen, resulting in more sustainable behavior and consumption."

It is hoped that this report can serve as a basis for more interdisciplinary research and collaboration, improved policy development and stronger commitment to both the SDGs and climate action. **"Our future depends on it" concludes the report.**



News from our Members and Partners Around the World

A Few Words From our Partner Cristina Lunghi, Founder of Arborus and GEEIS

Today, we are living a key moment in our history, which could change the course of things for the worse or for the better, and this because of, or thanks to, Artificial Intelligence.

A shared vision between women and men is crucial, because, AI carries a new system of organization and values. Because AI appears to be a unique way to increase a shared and common vision between women and men and to revisit all our value frames of reference -with the coding of our behaviors, habits and feelings- to create a new framework of values which will recast the systems of organization and governance for a sustainable -and therefore better- world.

It would be disastrous to have a male-only vision of the new world. In order to prevent this risk, we launched the 1st International Charter for an inclusive AI under French Government High Patronage and Ambassador of UNWOMEN Generation Equality Forum, Delphine O, aiming to raise awareness within companies and institutions. This will also be an extension of the GEEIS, **with the GEEIS AI label.**

Our experience in 41 countries shows that we can make AI an opportunity and a factor of emancipation and equality oriented towards technological progress for a livable world. It is urgent to propose this new vision and to take up this challenge by raising the awareness of all actors at this historical stage for our humanity. Arborus is at the service of this immense and urgent cause.



Mariana Gomes, Portugal

The role of international law in combating gender inequality in access to water and sanitation

Access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) is of the most basic human rights, but it still faces challenges, especially with regard to gender inequality. Women are often the most affected by the lack of access to clean water and proper sanitation facilities, which harms their health, education, and economic opportunities. In 80% of households with water shortages, women and girls are responsible for water collection. However, international law can play a crucial role in fighting this inequality.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments explicitly recognize the human right to water and sanitation. Additionally, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women establishes that women have the right to equality in access to natural resources, including water. These legal frameworks can be used as a basis to pressure governments to adopt policies that ensure equal access to water and sanitation for all, regardless of gender.

It is necessary to strengthen the capacity of government bodies to implement gender equality policies regarding water and sanitation, as well as monitor and hold governments accountable for their compliance. Civil society organizations as WOMENVAI play an important role in advocating for these rights through awareness campaigns, monitoring, and advocacy. Finally, the UN Water Conference brought to the world legal agenda the regulation of the water sector with a focus on women, both from a leadership point of view and in the attention to unequal material rights, through several sessions streamlined by the Global North and South in order to define which public policies do not leave women out.

As a young woman, I recognize the importance of access to water and sanitation for my well-being and future. If we are to achieve the SGD goals by 2030, leaving no one behind, **we must promote more gender-transformative water and sanitation programmes. We must recognise patriarchy, as the basis of Law, one of the greatest barriers to equal access to water. Today, international law must look for the hidden causes of the inequalities that created SDG5 and SDG6 and combat them as one.**



News from our Members and Partners Around the World (cont'd)

Autonomous weapons systems and Women, by Katayoun Formica Hosseinnejad

On the second round of consultations among selected governmental experts on autonomous weapons systems (AWS) in Geneva in May 2023, this contribution is a call for reflection on the possible role that women engineers can play in shaping and forming the ongoing discussion on the regulation of this dangerous but evolving reality that is affecting the way wars are waged.

Today, among different technical definitions of AWS, a functional definition that describes AWS as having autonomy in the critical function of selecting and attacking a target without human interventions has found more support. **The use of these weapons raises many challenges, most importantly our humanity and delegating the decision of life and death to a machine,** the responsibility and accountability for the conducts of AWS, and the level and extent of human-machine interaction at various stages of the life cycle of an AWS.

In response to these challenges, humanitarian organizations such as the ICRC advocates for a new treaty that prohibits the antipersonnel as well as unpredictable AWS while limiting other forms of AWS under strict conditions. Also, the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots as well as the Women's International League for Peace & Freedom raise awareness on how AI in any AWS would exacerbate discriminatory gender norms and thus be used to commit acts of gender-based violence. **Without questioning the correctness of these aspects, the role of women in addressing the challenges mentioned above is yet to be explored.**



Image: creative commons



Organizational Happiness Management for Healthy Companies: Enhancing Emotions and Creativity Through Clown Techniques, by Heidi Echeverri, Colombia

How companies can enhance their social impact while the world is talking about mental health

The Organizational Happiness Management Course for Healthy Companies is an innovative proposal that has generated a significant impact on the lives of undergraduate and graduate students, as well as the communities participating in the program's workshops. With a comprehensive approach, this course combines organizational management practices with emotional management activities and clown techniques. The main objective of the course is to promote healthy and productive work environments, where happiness, emotional well-being, and creativity are fostered.

By incorporating clown techniques, students who have participated in this course have experienced significant transformations in their personal and professional development. They have acquired key socio-emotional skills, such as empathy, resilience, and stress management, enabling them to effectively face challenges and develop more satisfying work relationships.

Furthermore, the communities that have benefited from the program's workshops, such as the elderly and employees of private companies, have experienced a noticeable improvement in their emotional well-being and the quality of their relationships. The playful and participatory activities of clowning have provided a safe space for emotional expression, connection, and the strengthening of social bonds.

the course aims to stimulate emotional expression, effective communication, and teamwork in the business context. This course has laid the foundation for the construction of healthier and more productive work environments, where emotional well-being and happiness are considered fundamental pillars. **It has left a lasting impact on the lives of participants, inspiring them to carry the lessons learned and apply them in their personal and professional lives.**



News from our Members and Partners Around the World (cont'd)

Welcoming a new active member: Ruth A. Richardson, The Netherlands



My mission: "Fight for the things that we have to care about, do it in a way that will lead others to join you". I focus on many issues facing women and girls rights and humanity around the world."

Blue Economy Summit 8 of June 2023

An event to connect leading figures from the worlds of science, institutions, entrepreneurship and finance to discuss about the current status of the ocean and **the urgent need to build a BLUE ECONOMY.**

It was a great honour to be there and to speak during the panel on "The role of the People in Cities". **I spoke about the role of women of women in society, in the cities but also in the climate, among other things such as water and the ocean.**

Women are the pioneers of nations! According to a report of secretary general of United Nations, Women constitute 50% of human resources, the greatest human resource next only to man having great potentiality. That is why we must not forget to empower our women by making us of their talent, their leadership, experience and their knowledge in this sustainable developing world we are living, because they are the changemaker, in the cities, in our society and in climate change. **Women can change the course of our future. Our Ocean water is Life!**

Karen Janett, Mexico

Ham Radio as a way to enhance science, create community and preserve nature

On April 18th, we participated in the first-ever Ham Radio Discussion Panel in Mexico organized by the Federal Telecommunications Institute (IFT) and different Ham Radio clubs. Many matters were covered, from how Ham Radio aids in emergencies, to how we have to keep spreading the word about it, deliver it to young people, and invite more women to be part of it.

We face many challenges: first, **very few Mexicans know about Ham Radio: only 1,700 people** do it among an estimated 126 million population in the country, out of which under 10% are women! This means that around 90 women from all over Mexico have registered to get their call signs, yet the reality is that less than 12 in the whole country are doing it, while nations like Chile boast a "small group" of 900 women.

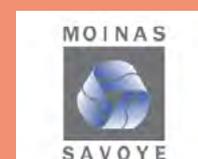
We must keep in mind that whatever their backgrounds -students, housewives, professionals, entrepreneurs, or else- women can of join in and enjoy this science-based hobby. Ham Radio is a great opportunity to teach physics, math, and breakthrough technology in the field, giving the possibility to women and youngsters to understand science and technology from a broader perspective by living and experimenting it in the great outdoors-while contributing to reinforce a sense of community both locally and globally. It most importantly allows us to start from the simplest and easiest forms of science and grow in complexity according to the user's interests -while connecting people and making them want to preserve nature as they get outside more and more.



WOMENVAI Cofounder Denis Aivazian at the Geneva Inventions Exhibition, Switzerland



Our Sponsor Moinas & Savoye, an Intellectual Property Law Firm (Switzerland) represented by WOMENVAI cofounder Denis Aivazian, was part of the Jury at the 48th edition of the Inventions Exhibition last April in Geneva, where 1,000 inventions from around the world were presented. After two virtual editions, the International Exhibition. Here with Chinese inventors.



WOMENVAI at the Women In Tech Global Summit, Paris, May 22nd-23rd

AI Ethics and Policy Making: Balancing Innovation and Responsibility
-WOMENVAI as a Moderator of the Panel With IDEMIA GOOGLE and
Start-up "Nation Policy Institute"



Yvette Ramos, Cofounder, and President of WOMENVAI – Moderator

The urgent needs of accelerating digital transformation across the Globe must not prevent us from thinking about potential collateral effects. How can we make sure that we get a good, ethical balance between Innovation and so-called "Responsibility"? These 3 key experts from different horizons shall explore the ethical and policy implications of AI.

AI is transforming the world as we know it. It is essential to ensure that it is developed and deployed responsibly and ethically. Let's address these issues: bias (eg gender), transparency, privacy, security as well as the role of policy-makers in regulating and making guidelines that promote responsible AI. We know how important coordination is amongst governmental stakeholders on the one hand and the private sector and civil society on the other hand. That is WOMENVAI's aim- to stand for women and men together in Environment and AI. As we have been awarded the status of ECOSOC by the UN, we and our partners, including WOMEN IN TECH global network, will be able to have a voice at the head of the UN.

What we have at stake is balancing regulation and innovation, as well as fighting bias -which is difficult, as bias is everywhere: algorithms struggle to maintain the same performance and success rates across different groups of population: anything that makes us different from each other- age, gender, ethnicity, physical attributes, etc. - legally defined in Europe as discriminatory criteria.

Yam Atir, Vice President of Strategy & Policy of Start-Up Nation Policy Institute

I look at technology as flowing river, a very strong one. it cannot be stopped, but it can, and must, be directed. It is crucial to create new partnerships, but getting a broad consensus on our shared values is the main challenge to navigate this river.

To ensure the ethical development and use of AI, as the VP of an innovation think tank, in the heart of the startup nation, policy-makers from around the world ask us for the secret of Israeli tech success. Everyone has heard about bold entrepreneurs, and the Israeli approach. The key is our tight collaboration between the public and private sectors over the years. Technology will always run faster than regulators. We are willing to accept this. However, I believe that with AI, we are dealing with revolutionary technology. This requires revolutionary thinking. Whoever is in charge is almost irrelevant. We need to focus on collaborations between sectors instead. This "Tom and Jerry" dynamic we are used to -with tech companies running ahead and policy chasing- can be changed.

At SNPI, we bring industry and government together. We can speak both languages and find common ground from the start, making sure everyone is included. And let me tell you, it works! AI is too powerful a tool to leave it to a small group of decision-makers. Government alone is not good enough anymore-neither are tech CEOs alone. I expect tech companies to share their visions, and governments to facilitate innovation. I believe this is an "all players" responsibility.

Amaanie HAKIM, VP Innovation at IDEMIA

The best way to always improve our algorithms, in terms of bias, and hence better secure citizens and consumers, is to have access to data with privacy respected, and explicit consent by citizens, in a clear legal environment. And for this, we need to find the right balance between regulation and room for experimentation and innovation.



IDEMIA is a leader in identity technologies used to secure citizens' and consumers' journeys -e.g. when travelling or crossing a border. We use biometry (body characteristics like face, fingerprint, iris) assisted by AI algorithms.

But unlike ChatGPT/Mid-journey, we use AI to assist human intelligence. Our algorithms do not learn in the field, and do not make decisions on their own. They are always validated by our engineers, and only accelerate decision-making. In criminal case investigation, one key challenge is to fight bias. With fingerprint or facial recognition, we cannot accept a system that would wrongfully implicate women more often than men, or vice versa. We focus on tools to mitigate technical aspects (diversity of databases -that regulations could help us improve) and organizational aspects (training and diversity of engineering teams).

Behshad Behzadi, Vice president of Engineering for Generative AI and Conversational AI for Google Cloud

AI is too important to not be regulated -to prevent its possible misuse while ensuring its societal benefits. This is not one company's job -the responsibility is collective: innovation with responsibility, sound policies for a better and inclusive society, fighting bias with technology.

Google's approach is to take a stance in Responsible AI. This means developing AI in a way that maximizes the benefits to society -while addressing the challenges. There is a natural tension between these two- but we believe it can be embraced productively. To be truly bold in the long run means to be responsible from the start. AI is obviously already and increasingly addressing societal challenges and saving lives: Flood Forecasting, Cancer Screening/Treatment, AlphaFold Protein Prediction and many more. But we need risk awareness: thoughtful reviews of everything we do and technology addressing issues such as misinformation. GenAI is making it easier than ever to create content, but it raises the question of trust of information. We develop tools to assess online information, to investigate the origin of images or check facts. Also, our custom speech-generation and video-dubbing service -which matches speakers' voice and lip movements- can obviously, and worryingly, be misused. With watermarking images/content, AudioLM detects automatic vs. human with 99%+ accuracy. With technologies like Generative AI there is a general appetite in the corporate world to move fast -which is great- but many other factors and risks need to be considered -privacy, security, roundness of information, compliance, cost and so on. Moving too fast without thinking about side-effects can be risky. It is crucial to talk and collaborate to minimize risks and increase general awareness. Again, we think we can be collectively bold and responsible, together.

Presenting our new Sponsors and Partners



From Switzerland: ECOSECURITIES

EcoSecurities is an impact-driven provider of environmental services with over two decades of experience in carbon markets and emissions reduction projects around the world. We provide technical and financial services to projects, companies, and organisations. With a rapidly growing portfolio of

projects, ecoSecurities offers expertise and tailored services in sourcing, developing, and financing of climate mitigation projects. More information [here](#).

From the UK : UCL – University College of London

WOMENVAI has been engaged in a partnership with UCL London at the occasion of the GRRIPP STEM Summer Challenge the week of June 19th -which gathered students, professors and some of our board members.

Humanitarian and development sectors need more gender- and intersectionality-sensitive research in order to transform policy and practice to be more gender- and intersectionality-responsive. Thanks to this initiative, WOMENVAI is proud to contribute to GRRIPP development around the world. Next step? Two professors and two students of the UCL will be delegates under the WOMENVAI delegation at COP28 in Dubai.



Want to join as a NGO Partner, Sponsor or Ambassador ? Feel free to contact us at contact@womenvai.org

Who we are:

New Board Members since our General Assembly held on March 10th, 2023, in Bari, Italy

Executive Committee

Yvette Ramos, President, France/Switzerland
Liliane Dorveaux, Vice-President, France
Elisabetta Venezia, Secretary General, Italy
Inès Aivazian, Treasurer, France

Lidia Zakowska, Ethics Committee Chair, Poland
Aura Bustillo, Programme Committee Chair, Colombia
Guillaume Pahud, Communication Committee Chair, Switzerland

Help us award the WOMENVAI Academy

to be held in Benin this year:
3 laureates will be granted a Prize!



WOMENVAI

contact@womenvai.org
www.womenvai.org