

➤ October 2023

*Dear members, sponsors,
partners and friends
around the world,*



The urgent needs of accelerating digital transformation across the Globe must not prevent us to think about collateral effects this might have, and we are here to tackle on the topic of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Policy Making: how can we make sure that we get a good, nice, ethical balance between Innovation and so called "Responsibility"?

At WOMENVAI we contribute to transforming your ideas into a smarter society by making the voices of girls and women heard around the world, while building projects for the Planet thanks to new technologies such as Artificial Intelligence. We also ensure that we this voice is heard to the highest level in UN bodies thanks to the consultative status with ECOSOC which we were granted this year. How concretely can we contribute by being a member, partner, support of our projects?

AI, or Artificial Intelligence, refers to computer systems that can perform tasks requiring human intelligence. Gen AI, short for Generative AI, focuses on AI systems capable of creating new content like text, images, and more. Chat GPT is a kind of GenAI that was launched early 2023 and quickly reached the headlines, but more generally Artificial intelligence is present in our daily life, from driverless cars to flight booking and loans calculation.

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In this issue:

- a. Editorial by our Chair Marketing & Communication
- b. UN Science Summit: highlight on our two major sessions :
 - >>> the Role of the University in gender inclusion policies
 - >>> the Role of engineers and technicians in Climate Governance
- c. Presenting Our Brand New partner-sponsor BIO Consult sh, Germany



United Nations Summit : WOMENVAI and the University of Bari Aldo Moro (Italy) on the Role of the University in gender inclusion policies

On 19th September during the General Assembly of the United Nations UNGA78, and in the context of the UN Science Summit, the University of Bari Aldo Moro together with Womenvai created an event to present the results of the Horizon Seeds Project "The role of the University in gender inclusion policies".

The objective of the project, born within the Interdepartmental Center for Studies on Gender Cultures (CISCuG-UniBA), consists of the study of gendered power relations in the context of the European University. The project analyses, through specific case studies, the forms of self-representation of universities and the ways in which they reproduce or interrupt gendered power relations.

The contribution of the Economic-Statistical area consists of extrapolating from the regulatory documents of the sample universities useful information for the subsequent collection of data and for their processing to bring out, on a broad spectrum and with the application of new indicators, what the situation relating to gender equality in university contexts. (contd page 2)



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Science Summit at UNGA78
12-29 September 2023

SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY AND GENDER ISSUES

WELCOME ADDRESS BY YVETTE RAMOS, PRESIDENT WOMENVAI

PROJECT PRESENTATION BY
FRANCESCA ROMANA RECCHIA LUCIANI
UNIVERSITY OF BARI ALDO MORO
PI HORIZON SEEDS "IL RUOLO DELL'UNIVERSITÀ NELLE POLITICHE DI
INCLUSIONE DELLE DIFFERENZE DI GENERE"

SPEAKERS
ELISABETTA VENEZIA
KEY AREA PERSON HORIZON SEEDS
UNIVERSITY OF BARI ALDO MORO

SABRINA SPALLINI, DOMENICO VIOLA
HORIZON SEEDS PROJECT'S COMPONENTS
UNIVERSITY OF BARI ALDO MORO

19.9.2023 - 14:00/16:45 (NYT)
ZOOM LINK
TTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/83987154759

(contd page 1)



Furthermore, the documentary evidence allows us to verify the contribution of the adoption of strategic policies in connection with the world of work in corporate, public, and private contexts with a view to the green economy and inclusive and sustainable economic growth. In more detail, the effects produced by the adoption of policies aimed at improving the position of women at the university level will be researched and analysed.

The event was focused on "Sustainable mobility and gender issues" with the aim to discuss several aspects related to sustainability with reference to the transport sector and gender issues. Tackling complex societal problems, such as sustainability, requires an improved understanding of the relationships between gender and mobility. In this session, we presented new approaches to the study of mobility and gender to provide the knowledge base needed to inform policies on sustainable mobility policy-makers. We discussed the need to shift the research agenda so that future research will synthesize new strands of thinking by considering ways of thinking about gender and mobility, quantitative and qualitative approaches, and spatial places.

The meeting was introduced by Yvette Ramos, President of WOMENVAI with a welcome address. This was followed by the presentation of the project by Francesca Romana Recchia Luciani of the University of Bari Aldo Moro, PI of the Horizon Seeds project "The role of the university in gender inclusion policies".

Specialist interventions followed with the speakers Elisabetta Venezia, as key area person of the Horizon Seeds of University of Bari Aldo Moro, Sabrina Spallini, and Domenico Viola, as Horizon Seeds Project's components of the University of Bari Aldo Moro.



(contd from Page 1)

AI uses past data and experiences to learn patterns, make predictions, and inform decisions, enabling it to solve problems, automate tasks, and improve performance in various domains. This usage of past experiences and data – called “training” the AI – can generate biases, amongst which gender biases, perpetuating stereotypes and having detrimental impacts. This is reinforced by the under-representation of women in AI professionals. Only 13.83% of AI paper authors are women, only 18% of authors at the leading AI conferences are women and just 2% of venture capital was directed towards start-ups founded by women in 2019.





To address this, diverse and representative training data, bias audits, ethical guidelines, transparency, and diverse development teams are crucial. AI developers must actively work to eliminate gender bias to ensure fairness and inclusivity in AI systems. By doing so, we can unlock the full potential of AI for all, regardless of gender, and create a more equitable future.

In November 2021, all 193 United Nations member states adopted UNESCO’s Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, the first global standard-setting instrument for AI.

The recommendation emphasizes a digital transformation grounded in human rights, gender equality, and environmental sustainability. It calls on governments to prioritize gender equality, diversity, inclusiveness, and fairness in AI development. Proposed actions include allocating public funds for gender-related initiatives, integrating gender action plans into digital policies, addressing workplace wage and opportunity gaps, promoting female entrepreneurship in AI, and supporting girls’ and women’s participation in STEM fields. UNESCO is developing tools to assess readiness and ethical impacts of AI. The article underscores the choice between advancing progress and perpetuating gender disparities in the digital realm, highlighting the need to challenge gendered social norms for lasting change.

WOMENVAI is actively taking part in the effort of building a gender-neutral AI by several means. One of them is our active participation in the Gender Advisory Board with the UNCTAD. The [Gender Advisory Board](#) serves as an advisory body to Commission on Science and Technology for Development on gender and science, technology and innovation, and its objectives are:


- Explore the gender dimensions of STI, by contributing with inputs on gender-related matters in documents of the CSTD.
- Facilitate, as appropriate, sharing of country experiences, highlighting best practices, and suggesting policy recommendations that support the work of the CSTD on gender mainstreaming.
- Provide, up-to-date information on opportunities and challenges women and girls in STI are facing, and to explore and suggest ways and means of cooperation to best address them, within the mandate of CSTD.

Science Summit at UNGA78
12-29 September 2023

**Climate Governance:
what can Engineers and Technicians
bring in the political / policy arenas**

New York time
Monday, September 18 • 2:00pm - 4:45pm

At the occasion of the Science Summit at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA78), WOMENVAI with special consultative status to UN ECOSOC and its partners coorganize a session fully aligned with the broad Summit objective which is to advance awareness of the contribution of science and innovation to the SDG agenda. Specific objectives address through this proposed session key priorities for the UN Summit of the Future planned for 2024, and refer to the policy and programme developments such as the UN TFM , the AU-EU Innovation Agenda , the AUC digital transformation strategy 2030 , and others . he need to receive updated and good knowledge about climate change: Recent reports of the IPCC show that it is important to have a good scientific knowledge of the science of climate change, its impacts, and vulnerabilities to make the right decisions and implement measures both in terms of adaptation than mitigation. Governments and governmental institutions do not always have the geopolitical and legal tools to act effectively and efficiently at the local, and even less in a coordinated way at the global level. It seems that the financial, economic, technical, and societal issues to put in place rapid measures to adapt and to mitigate to climate change could be resolved more easily. Knowledge is not the only lever to implement decisions relating to adaptation and mitigation. Solutions must include both the mastery of scientific knowledge and technical skills, legal skills and a good understanding of the governance systems operating the levers at the global level. At another level, governments and institutions being busy with daily life, do not always have the motivation to deeply investigate the short, medium, and long-term complexities of climate change and the needs to adapt and mitigate. When the daily distraction from the urgency to act has its toll, presenting short essays that strengthen the need to act, can be of enormous value to boost the motivation of officials.

Social science being the scientific study of human society and social relationships involves research on all aspects of history and literature, both classical and modern, philosophy, art, culture and the media, communication and linguistics, and all fields of social science at the periphery of Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM), such as law, economics, political science. Robert Burton Clark, UCLA Professor Emeritus of Higher Education and Sociology, was one of the first sociologists to study higher education from a global perspective. With research interests in various domains of higher education systems, he proposed a three forces perspectives triangle (Clark, 1983) to help position national systems of higher education of various countries, the three dimensions being: the state authority, the market, and the academic oligarchy.

Thanks to our brilliant panelists !...

(see next page)

Yvette Ramos, moderator - Cofounder WOMENVAI ECOSOC granted status (France) and president Swiss Engineering Geneva (Switzerland). MSc., MBA, PhD candidate University of Lisbon, Institute of Social Science (Portugal). Expert to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

*** Not only we aim at bringing light to the contribution of University Stakeholders engaged in Climate Change and Sustainable Development Policies, but also presenting tools, ideas, and different perspectives on Governance issues when it comes to Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Geoengineering. Motivated students, researchers, engineers, technicians can bring a valuable opinion to the community: they receive the latest news and research articles and are used to produce papers and research materials as part of their studies and professional careers. When being able to “ventilate” these writings and essays in communities beyond their close ones, a sincere contribution can be found to the latest research at large.



Elisabetta Venezia, Director of Applied Economic Research Lab, University of Bari Aldo Moro (Italy)

*** The proposed framework is based on the theory of nudges, first advanced by the Nobel Prizes in behavioral economics Richard H. Thaler and Cass R. Sunstein (2009), which serves as a reference for policymakers to define medium- and long-term strategies and policies for improving the sustainability and resilience of transport mobility governance.



Dr Abdullah Belhaif Al Nuaimi Former Minister of Climate Change and Environment (UAE), Visiting Lecturer,

As a respected figure in the field of climate change and environmental policy, Dr Belhaif was instrumental in shaping and executing the nation's climate resilience and ecosystem protection strategies through the formulation of impactful policies and initiatives. Beyond his ministerial duties, Dr. Belhaif chaired both the UAE Council for Climate Change and Environment and the National Biosecurity Committee. Recently, Dr. Belhaif has transitioned into a thought leadership role, delivering keynote speeches on navigating uncertain environmental futures for various organizations.

*** Climate Change, Renewable Energy and the built environment, Youth Mentorship



Janos Pasztor, Executive Director, Carnegie Climate Governance Initiative (C2G) (Switzerland)

With four decades of work experience in the areas of energy, environment, climate change, and sustainable development, Janos was the UN Assistant SG for Climate Change in New York under SG Ban Ki-moon. He directed the UNSG's Climate Change Support Team (2008-2010) and later was Executive Secretary of the UNSG's High-level Panel on Global Sustainability (2010-2012). During 1993-2006 he worked and over time held many responsibilities at the Climate Change Secretariat (UNFCCC). He has BSc and MSc degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

*** Reducing the Risks of and the Risks from Temperature Overshoot: According to the IPCC, the world is now more likely than not to overshoot the 1.5C temperature goal. The real question now is how long this overshoot will last, and how high will it go? The outlook is not good. While focusing on the priority of transformative and massive emission reductions that would reduce the risks of overshoot happening, the world needs to begin to also consider explicitly and more intensively how to address the risks from overshoot, i.e., the impacts of the increasingly high temperatures. In that overshoot context, the world needs to address what role - if any - solar radiation modification (SRM) may have in alleviating these impacts, as a supplementary, emergency measure, while the world moves away from fossil fuel use. How should the world go about it?



Aasima Kamal Mowni, Co-founder at Solar Radiation Modification Youth Watch (Bangladesh)

A passionate climate change advocate currently pursuing her master's degree in climate change and development at the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB). An active member of the Youth Climate Voices for Emerging Climate Governance project hosted by the C2G, dedicated to contributing to effective governance discussions around Solar Radiation Modification.

*** The rationale is to enrich inclusive governance discussions by highlighting the necessity of youth perspectives on climate-altering technologies like Solar Radiation Modification (SRM). This also involves exploring the governance challenges and options faced by climate-vulnerable countries and acknowledging the influence of technological developments on existing gaps in wealth and power. Discussing the steps that should be taken to ensure that innovation does not exacerbate the existing disparities.



Telly Valérie Onu, Managing Director, Quintessence Consulting Inc; eGovernance, Digital Finance Infrastructure. Architect, Climate Finance Expert (St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Saint Kitts & Nevis)

Entrepreneur, Management Consultant, Private Banker, International Speaker & Mentor with over 20yrs of Experience as a Digital Economist, Global Strategy, Strategic Planning, Management & Development Consulting, and Financial Planning with a passion for Private Sector Development specifically industry and enterprise transformation and Access to Finance. 8 years as a Financial Innovator. 5 years as a Climate Finance Specialist, project coordinator for 5C - Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre.

*** Data Management as key, Gender mainstreaming, Inclusivity, Business and Private Sector, Case of Small Islands



Lylian Coelho, Development Director of the Chair at AgroParisTech-SUEZ (France-Brazil)

Following the outcomes expressed in Agenda 2030 during UN Water March 2024

*** We will discuss ideas to prevent the risks of war, evolution on the programmed aggravation of inequalities, the accentuation of discriminations against women but also against all diversities, biodiversity, and the hindrance to sustainable development, we must act now. Bringing capacity building, inclusion, and new technologies to prepare decision makers with integrity, good governance, listing engineers, scientists represent an opportunity to move the lines and become the vector that will lead to equality. The pillar of the new world that is emerging and that it is a challenge of civilization and survival.



Flavio Jorge, President Electromagnetic Env't & Interference, Commission E, International Union of Radio Science Portugal

Early Career Representative of URSI Commission E at international level and a Spectrum management expert with the directorate of Earth observation programs of ESA. He also serves the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)-Radiocommunication Sector Working Party 7C as chairman of its working group on passive sensors issues. Previously he was with ANACOM, where he was the head of delegation for Portugal at the ITU, while executing spectrum monitoring and enforcement in all radiocommunication services.

*** The role of Earth observation on climate change science and sustainable development policies: Facing a climate crisis threatening the future generations, the development of sustainable development policies and the deployment of respective effective practices is urgent. Science plays a key role on this endeavour.



Aura Bustillo, Civil Engineering – Master in Environmental and Natural Resources Economics, PhD candidate Instituto Superior Tecnico - Universidade de Lisboa (Colombia)

Environmental expert with more than eighteen years of experience in Environmental science, Economics and Engineering, both in the public and private sectors, in Colombia and Panamá. With scientific knowledge and skills to execute projects related to improvement and conservation of natural resources with a sustainable development approach, her experience includes studies of ecosystems and generation of viable strategies at a technical level that are economic, environmental, and socially sustainable.

*** Climate Change Governance: Who governs, designs, and monitors the spatial planning/ adaptation to climate change relationship? The discussion centers on Portugal and Colombia, highlighting the pivotal role of spatial planning and adaptation strategies as the world experiences increasing urbanization trends. Despite their unique vulnerabilities and strengths, both countries have established robust policy frameworks and national adaptation strategies, monitored through comprehensive indicators. The Notre Dame-Global Adaptation Index (ND-GAIN) reveals that Portugal, with higher readiness and governance scores, exhibits greater political stability and government integrity. This analysis underscores the relevance of multilevel climate governance, demonstrating how engineers and technicians can contribute to effective urban planning as a critical element in climate adaptation efforts within both nations.



Jacob Ngumbah, Deputy Director & Communications Coordinator at Nevis Disaster Management Dept, St Kitts & Nevis

Experienced Communications Manager and Deputy Director with a demonstrated history of working in the government administration industry. Skilled in Nonprofit Organizations, Crisis Communications, Government, Entrepreneurship, and Decision-Making. Strong media and communication professional with a bachelor's degree focused on Journalism and Mass Communications from University of Buea and Postgraduate in Project Management (IT) from University of Liverpool.

*** Governance issues in Disaster Risk Reduction and management, Case of Small Islands



Weber (Neves) Amaral, Professor at University of Sao Paulo ESALQ, entrepreneur and investor (Brazil)

Ph.D. and M.A. degrees from Harvard University, USA. He also holds a Master of Science and Forestry Engineering from the University of Sao Paulo. Founder of Plan C, a climate tech business and, coordinator of the nature-based solutions group at IEA, USP Over the past 30 years, has been working on the interfaces of science, technology, and innovations for sustainable production of food, fiber and protein and the process of making decisions on complex issues and their dynamics associated with climate change and their enablers towards new business models.

*** Sharing professional and personal experiences as a professor, entrepreneur, and investor, how can we face future uncertainties together and how to create new opportunities for young talents, existing professionals and business across knowledge and discipline boundaries? Instead of providing answers to these challenges, questions on why and how we need to join forces and to create robust frameworks for the future of the planet and the people shall be raised.



Presenting our new Sponsors and Partners

As an ecologically oriented research and consulting office, BioConsult SH was founded in 1998 and contributes since then significantly to linking the use and protection of valuable natural areas. The team of experts and national and international cooperations makes them an independent pioneer and market leader of innovative solutions in the ecological sector. Making a contribution to the challenges of climate change and biodiversity crisis is their passion – always at the cutting edge of science. One of these innovative solutions is the service SPACEWHALE, which started in 2018: By counting whales from space using satellite imagery and AI, they can study previously unexplored areas and accelerate the designation of Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) - key tools in helping tackle the global climate and biodiversity crises and supporting coastal communities. SPACEWHALE won the GRAVITY Challenge by Deloitte and Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC) in 2022, the Ocean Data Challenge by the World Economic Forum in 2023 and was selected as one of the champions for Cohort 6 of the Expo Live Innovation Programme.

More on www.bioconsult-sh.de



Julika Voss, Marine Scientist will be present at COP28! Stay tuned!



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



Lidia Zakowska, Poland (center) cofounder of WOMENVAI present at the WEC2023 in Praha, Czech Republic October 2023

WOMENVAI

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