




WOMENVAI

We are all so different, and at the same
time we are all anchored in Humanity

Peace to all of us in 2024

***Best wishes ***

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



Yvette RAMOS,
President and co-
founder WOMENVAI
ECOSOC, NGO in
Special Consultative
Status with the
Economic and Social
Council of the United
Nations

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Executive Committee 2023-2026

1st EDITO of the new year

Dear member, sponsor and friend around the world!

At the dawn of 2024, we would like to send you a big thank you for the support that you have actively given us throughout 2023: we are really proud of the results obtained and the visibility that WOMENVAI has obtained thanks to the everyone's work and the financial support obtained, without which we would not have achieved our objectives.

Please note that our General Assembly will be held this year in New York, USA (and virtually) on Tuesday March 12, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. CET.

If not done already: join us ! The more we are the louder our collective voice becomes in advancing gender-balanced leadership. Send us your ideas for concrete projects, participate in our events, involve your organization as a partner, join us as a volunteer: if you have skills you want to share, or even improve, we offer opportunities volunteer opportunities that will allow you to make a difference.

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Joining any event as a WOMENVAI delegate under the status of NGO granted special UN consultative status with ECOSOC (since June 2023) requires understanding our mission and objectives: you will have to do your best to respect the strict and politically correct rules that we have set for ourselves, and we thank you for this!

The special consultative status of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of our organization, WOMENVAI - **W**omen and **M**en in **E**nvironment and **A**rtificial **I**ntelligence - allows you to be designated as official representatives to the United Nations headquarters in New York and to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Vienna. Our representatives will be able to register and participate in United Nations sessions, events, conferences and activities, and organizations with general and special consultative status will be able to designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at ECOSOC public meetings and its subsidiary bodies, the Human Rights Council and, under certain conditions, the General Assembly and other intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations.

We therefore believe that we can continue on this profound path and maintain high values of respect for human dignity without any form of discrimination. **Let's continue like this, and even better, because together we can guarantee and ensure a better and sustainable future for all.** We are counting on you in 2024 and wish you all the success in your passion to cooperate in the transfer of our ideas towards a better future.



COMMISSION on the
STATUS OF WOMEN



WOMENVAI - NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations



12th March 2023 – United Nations CSW68, New York, USA

CONVOCATION TO THE 7TH WOMENVAI GENERAL ASSEMBLY hybrid mode at 6pm CET

At the occasion of the sixty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (11-22 March 2024), representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as WOMENVAI from all regions of the world will be present. This is the moment when our 7th General Assembly will take place, on hybrid mode to allow all our Members, Partners and Donors to join for a max 90 minutes collaborative moment. The agenda is presented below, and participation is free of charge! If you are an active member of WOMENVAI in good standing (2023) and wish to vote but cannot attend on that day and time, please fill in the proxy below and send it to contact@womenvai.org. The session will be recorded and uploaded to our [Youtube Channel](#).

Agenda:

- ❖ Welcome note by the president, recalling our goals and presentation of the members of the Board 2023-2026
- ❖ Quick round table and count of the Members in Good Standing (2023) – treasurer
- ❖ Voting the statutory part of the GA
 - The NGO activities in 2023 (rapport moral de la présidente) – vote
 - Financial status 2023 – vote
 - Proposals and budget 2024 – vote
 - Conclusion of the GA

**JOINS US
BY
SCANNING
HERE**



Welcome Violaine Landry Orsat (Switzerland)

"I'm a lawyer and pension fund manager in Switzerland, and I've been working for over 20 years in the field of occupational pension provision, which is an exciting and constantly evolving area.

I support the members of the Board of Trustees in their deliberations and duties. As such, I assist them in ensuring that their decisions not only comply with the law, but are also aligned with the needs of insured members and the changes that are redefining the way they interact with and understand the world around them.

Changes in society, the family structures, the work environment, the economy, technology and the environment are therefore at the heart of the concerns and actions of the members of the Board of Trustees.

In this respect, the values defended by Womenvai resonate harmoniously with the professional environment in which I evolve and my convictions. I was therefore delighted to be proposed to join the WOMENVAI NGO whose existence I discovered thanks to its dynamic and enthusiastic President."



News from Inès Aivazian (France)

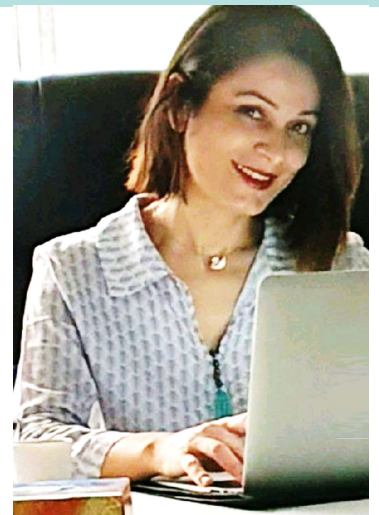
Thanks to my studies as a general engineer in mechanics-electronics-computer science, I have been working as a patent engineer for 9 months now in an intellectual property firm. Being a patent engineer means drafting invention patents in order to legally protect the innovations of our world. It also means listening to the clients and their needs, knowing and understanding the technical aspect behind the invention, following the legal process of filing the patent, and responding to notifications sent by the national/regional patent office. I work mainly on mechanics, and a little bit on electronics, and I would like to be able to work more in the field of biotechnology and medicine in the future. What I like about this job is studying and understanding varied things on a daily basis, being able to see a whole bunch of different technical fields, talking to inventors who also have different approaches regarding their invention, and learn to clearly explain in writing how a device or process works. It is a little-known profession, which requires technical, legal and editorial skills and I think it is essential to our current society.



Welcome Zaida Sammoud Touati (Tunisia)

Prior to setting up my international trading company, I worked as a Project Manager at Engineers Without Borders Association (Middle-East and North Africa- Tunisia). In one of our workshops back in 2013, I had the privilege of meeting Ms. Yvette Ramos, the President of WOMENVAI, who led the sessions.

This encounter sparked my immediate desire to become a member, and today, I am delighted to have realized that aspiration. Being part of a team of diverse and committed female engineers has reinforced my conviction that we possess the capability to accomplish anything.



The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) organised its eWeek 2023; Shaping the future of the digital economy to run simultaneously in Geneva and online from 4 – 8 December 2023.

As of 2022, approximately 2.7 billion individuals remain offline, emphasizing the urgency for inclusive digital policies that ensure equal participation. The shift of trade and economic activities to the online sphere underscores the importance of facilitating the digital transformation for small and micro businesses, preventing their exclusion from global supply chains. Despite challenges, efforts to include previously overlooked partners in the digital society have strengthened supply chains, opened new markets, and provided socio-economic opportunities, especially in developing economies. With 55% of global services exports being digitally deliverable, inclusive digital policies can bridge the digital divide and foster a more equitable and prosperous future.

The digital space's growing importance in collecting and utilizing data for business opportunities raises concerns about cybersecurity, cybercrime, and privacy breaches. Strengthening trust and security in the digital realm requires international cooperation and enhanced capacity building in policy formulation and implementation. To address the dominance of Big Tech companies, digitally advanced countries have implemented acts like the Digital Services Act and Digital Markets Act. However, more measures are necessary to unlock innovation and create space for new entrants into the digital economy.

The role of women in the digital economy is evolving, with efforts to address the gender and digital skills gap. Despite progress, women entrepreneurs face challenges such as a financing gap, limiting their ability to grow businesses. Initiatives like Gender-lens investing and government programs aim to empower women in digital entrepreneurship, emphasizing the need for equal opportunities, access to resources, and community building. Achieving gender equality in the digital entrepreneurship sector requires collaboration from governments, financial institutions, and the private sector.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) integration in the digital economy necessitates responsible use, ethical considerations, and robust governance. Collaboration among governments, academia, private sector, and civil society is essential for comprehensive AI policies that protect public interests and foster innovation. AI's impact on sectors like fintech and agriculture is noteworthy, offering opportunities for automation, cost reduction, and improved efficiency. Balancing AI's benefits with ethical considerations and governance rules is crucial for its equitable deployment and long-term success.

Data management is critical in the digital economy, with data collaboratives emerging as partnerships for societal benefit. Data stewards play a key role in managing both supply and demand sides of data, fostering collaboration, and improving data governance. Effective data stewardship requires investment, capacity building, and equipping stewards with the necessary skills. By ensuring high-quality data availability and supporting innovation, data stewardship contributes to driving innovation and effectiveness across various sectors.



Shaping the future of the digital economy

Welcome Alessandra da Fieno (Switzerland)



Back in 2017, we were already on the road to the Annual meetings in New York (USA) of the Commission on the Status of Women –UN WOMEN - By Céline Mouilleseaux (France)

First.. By attending the launch of the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) Gap Analysis Tool on March 15th, 2017. The Women's Empowerment Principles Gender Gap Analysis Tool is a business-driven tool designed to help companies identify strengths, gaps and opportunities to improve gender equality and then suggests practical solutions for companies to take action. The tool is a joint project of the UN Global Compact, UN WOMEN, the Multilateral Investment Fund of the IDB, and the Inter-American Investment Corporation. The tool is free and strictly confidential, as companies can use it to identify gaps and opportunities, learn about best practices on gender equality, set concrete goals and targets but companies can also benchmark themselves against peers and industry standards. Topics covered include among others: commitment to a gender equality strategy, equal pay, recruitment, women's health...

We know it will take an average of 135.6 years to achieve gender equality across: economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment (source: World Economic Forum (WEF), which publishes an annual report on the Global Gender Gap (2021)

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/04/136-years-is-the-estimated-journey-time-to-gender-equality/>



KIDsVAI workshop (Nov. 2023) in partnership with Swiss Engineering Geneva Chapter, SIA Femmes & Geneva Equality



netzwerk frau und sia
réseau femme et sia
rete donna e sia
network woman and sia



COP28 UAE

Elisabetta Venezia (Italy)

The COP28 has been concluded with an agreement recognizing for the first time the need for a transition away from fossil fuels. The main decision which involved almost 200 countries, concerned the Global Stock take, a five-year process of evaluating states' progress towards meeting the commitments made in the 2015 Paris Agreement. During the Global Stock take at COP28, countries agreed to move away from fossil fuels in energy systems. This clear reference to fossil fuels, with a direct association with the climate crisis, constitutes a novelty in the context of global climate negotiations.

In this impressive setting, as Womenvai, we organized a panel on Sustainability and mobility focused on the needs of women and the elderly population. Issues of great importance have emerged, not only in terms of detection and analysis of these issues but, above all, in terms of proposed solutions that consider the progress to be made in compliance with the commitments made in the Paris Agreement.

With regards to the elderly, some conclusions were reached, thanks to the results of the AGE-IT Project, the following: (a) There is a need to better understand the crucial patterns affecting the elderly mobility (b) The elderly mobility is very complex in terms of variables affecting it (c) There is the utility of having a constant listening of needs to determine the correct and sustainable priorities and allocate efficiently the tight financial resources (d) New measures can help evaluators to address policy-makers.

Back from Dubai



Lidia Zakowska and Richard Stanek (Poland)

This fascinating event in Expo Dubai let us contribute to our WOMENVAI mission globally, especially related to urban and transportation engineering solutions, gender equality and sustainability. Numerous seminars and workshops occurred to be a great platform to share experiences and to discuss future cooperations internationally. Our voice at the following outstanding sessions are worth to present: (1) Education at Global Alliance of Universities on Climate GAUC - panel discussion on the urban sustainable solutions (2) Energy, hydrogen and urban sustainability (3) Transportation and sustainable mobility – toward new transport and urban planning sessions on Transport Day 6.12.2023 (4) Climate and engineering – sessions at the World Climate Summit the investment COP (5) Mobility focus on women and senior citizens.. not forgetting our presence at the booth#10 on 8-9.12.2023 to present WOMENVAI mission and actions in cooperation with UCL University College of London (UK) and EPF School of Engineering (France)

This COP28 will have generated a lot of ink in the media around the world. This COP of excess in Dubai (70,000 accredited participants), is also a COP of the unprecedented. This is the first time that fossil fuels have taken part in the debates. It is therefore also the first time that lobbyists from these same energies are also present (2,500 industry representatives) and mobilized to defend their interests. The president of COP 28 himself, Dr Sultan Al Jaber, director of a large Emirati oil company, made no secret of it. According to him, the development of fossil fuels must appear in the Parties' final agreements as a lever for environmental transition. The entrance speech was grandiloquent, worthy of a speaker with a sharp mind : the science is clear, the climate challenges are great, we agree. but technology can still save us. Many NGOs (3'500 delegations) remain skeptical on this subject. The oil-producing countries had to face the facts and review their copy. All finally signed an agreement perceived as historic, with the ambition of "transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems". The limits (clear objectives, financing, solidarity, etc.) are numerous but the text portends real positive change. *To be continued.*



At COP27, only seven of the 110 world leaders attending were women: at COP28 that number increased to 15 women among the 133 heads of state. Although female representation increased slightly this year, women remain largely underrepresented at the COP and in all climate-related negotiation and decision-making spaces. However, it is crucial to emphasize that the participation of women, ethnic minorities and marginalized groups in climate and environmental decision-making goes beyond the simple issue of rights. It also contributes to achieving better environmental results. Policymakers at COP28 must take these elements into consideration and ensure that women and girls play a significant role in developing more ambitious climate actions.

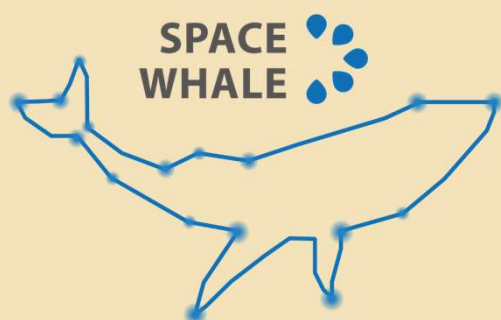
The participation of ethnic minorities and marginalized groups at COP 28 is of crucial importance in the quest for truly inclusive and effective climate action. Statistics reveal persistent Under representation, highlighting the urgent need to address this situation. Beyond fundamental rights considerations, the active inclusion of these groups in climate decision-making processes is essential to ensure sustainable and equitable environmental outcomes. Decision-makers at COP28 have a duty to create mechanisms that enable meaningful participation from these communities, thereby helping to strengthen the legitimacy and effectiveness of global climate initiatives. The diversity of voices and perspectives represents an essential asset to address current and future climate challenges in a holistic and equitable manner.

COP28 resonated with vibrant networking opportunities, providing a platform to hear diverse voices—youth, indigenous communities, women, seniors, individuals with disabilities, men, and representatives from various nations. The exchange of ideas and best practices spanned crucial topics like prioritizing opportunities over urgencies. Conversations revolved around who should have a seat at the decision table for a more sustainable and respectful world.

However, not everyone had equal access to events; special invitations or registration were prerequisites. Navigating the venue proved challenging, with unclear signals despite available assistance. Despite these challenges, there were pockets of commendable work, emphasizing the need for synergies and collaborations.

Key solutions involve recognizing the expertise of indigenous people, women, and those with disabilities, alongside fostering increased youth participation. Essential to progress is acknowledging the rights of women, indigenous communities, and all living beings, embracing healing and trauma-informed approaches. The scope extends to creating awareness and instilling sustainability education across academia, the public and private sectors, and governments. Collaboration and ethical considerations are essential to ignite conversations and inspire constructive initiatives throughout the entire supply chain.

Together, let's proactively take steps within our spheres of influence to guarantee that everyone is not only included but also empowered to voice their perspectives on all matters, thus actively contributing to a more sustainable future.



Georg Nehls (CEO of BioConsult SH) and Julika Voß (Scientist at BioConsult SH) went to CoP28 for representing their new service SPACEWHALE. SPACEWHALE counts whales and other wildlife species from space using satellite imagery. We can answer key questions about how many whales of which species inhabit a sea area of interest and when they occur. SPACEWHALE can study previously completely unexplored areas and help accelerating the designation of Important Marine Mammal Areas and Marine Protected Areas, provide environmental impact assessments for offshore wind farm operators and offer an efficient tool for mandatory baseline monitoring of whale populations.

During CoP28, Georg and Julika established valuable contacts to scale SPACEWHALE as the next step. Besides, they had the opportunity to hear state-of-the-art research on various topics in different panels and also present SPACEWHALE in three sessions.

Once again, a big thank you to WOMENVAI for giving us access to the Blue Zone at CoP28!

COP28 has concluded in Dubai, yet its echoes persist within all those committed to combating the climate crisis, whether they were present there, like myself, or not. Reflections are now evolving into Action Plans, as the key insights have already been shared by various individuals and organizations since November 30, when the "Loss & Damage Fund" was announced, just 4 hours after the official opening, and especially after December 13, when the final version of the Global Stock take was delivered.

In some sessions, as a consultant for the UN Global Compact Brazil, I presented the work we have been developing through its Ocean Business Working Group, which is currently focused on "Decarbonizing Ports and Maritime Fleets," aiming to guide the private sector towards collaboration in this direction. In other panels, I emphasized the imperative for cross-sectoral, international, and intergenerational collaborations to combat the climate crisis, underscoring the significance of incorporating indigenous knowledge into these discussions.

At this moment, my organization, Acqua Mater, which promotes the Water-Ocean-Climate nexus, is planning its actions for this year, aiming to 'walk the talk'.

Tamara Fain (Brazil)



COP28 has concluded, and the outcomes surpassed my expectations! The Conference brought together nearly 100 thousand individuals to deliberate on the global trajectory towards a low-carbon future. While the Global Stock take soberly reminds us that our current policies and commitments are still insufficient to meet the +1.5°C goal, there were significant achievements. Remarkably, the conference marked the first instance of including the theme of transitioning away from fossil fuels in a COP final agreement, a groundbreaking accomplishment. Adopting an optimistic perspective, for me, the glass is half full. Noteworthy progress was achieved under the influence of a diverse array of stakeholders, including civil society, scientists, and the most vulnerable nations. Witnessing and learning from the multitude of perspectives on climate finance, the decarbonization of hard-to-abate industries, innovative public policies from emerging countries, and the risks and opportunities associated with the deployment of disruptive technologies was truly inspiring. ... I express my gratitude to WOMENVAI for providing the opportunity to participate and contribute to these discussions.



Clarissa Lins (Brazil)

My participation at COP28 centered on the crucial task of decarbonizing hard-to-abate industries, including cement, steel, and chemicals. Collectively, these industries contribute to approximately 17% of total GHG emissions and pose challenges due to their capital and energy-intensive nature. Several side events and discussions emphasized that current barriers to accelerating emissions reduction are not technological, and that solutions such as renewables, hydrogen, Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage (CCUS), and efficiency improvements are well-known. Industry leaders acknowledge the necessity of investing in low-carbon technologies, despite their current lack of scalability and financing ease.

Therefore, there is a recognized need for innovative financial mechanisms and business arrangements, with a focus on supply chains, research and development investment, and capacity building. Many reiterated the vital role of governments, either in setting clear standards and regulations or providing incentives and signaling public procurement. The significance of innovation in testing and scaling new technologies was also highlighted throughout the Conference. Tools ranging from tax incentives to loans and grants from the public sector were discussed, emphasizing the crucial role of the private sector in fostering coalitions to generate demand for new technologies, ultimately contributing to their scalability. The decarbonization of hard-to-abate sectors is crucial to enable a 1.5°C scenario, and now its time to focus on implementation.

Zahra Khan and her team from CL GRRIPP (UK)

Seeing world leaders in real life was surreal at first but then you realise these are ordinary people just like everyone else – they just have more decision-making powers. However, truly they should be representing their people - not their own personal interests. The different themes in this year's COP were engaging and necessary to talk about climate action in a holistic way and solidified our point that social and physical sciences need to work collaboratively to ensure a just transition as there seems to be a separation from the technical angle of climate and the societal impact when both need to be considered simultaneously when coming up with new frameworks and policy.

Overall, it was a very rewarding experience, not only meeting with world leaders but grassroots organisations, attending different events and the pavilions, and connecting with people from all over the world on issues that matter the most in the world right now. I hope the final negotiations do the people justice so we can attain a more equitable, healthy and sustainable planet.



Miriam and Ella, Students – winners of the UCL-GRRIPP / WOMENVAI Challenge 2023!

Attending my first COP was an initially overwhelming experience, given the multitude of people, events, and the expansive venue. Engaging with individuals from diverse organizations, backgrounds, expertise, and countries was enlightening and enriching. The opportunity to engage in conversations with current world leaders was nothing short of incredible. Witnessing people proudly embracing and showcasing their cultures added a unique and memorable dimension to the event. Furthermore, this experience served as a profound learning opportunity, broadening my knowledge about various aspects of climate change and sustainability that were previously unfamiliar to me.

Participating in the side event has truly been an exceptional opportunity, and I relished every moment of it. The platform allowed us to articulate our perspectives on critical issues such as lithium mining and the strategic use of technology for climate change mitigation and adaptation. We delved into the nuanced understanding that these impacts are not uniform but rather manifested differently across genders. The chance to contribute meaningfully to these discussions was especially fulfilling. Collaborating with knowledgeable peers not only broadened my insights but also fostered a rich learning experience. Serving on the panel and articulating my viewpoints not only bolstered my confidence but also provided an invaluable chance to absorb insights from fellow young participants, rendering the entire experience remarkably rewarding and enriching.

The whole experience of attending the COP was very new and exciting but also not at all what I expected! This was my first time in Dubai and my first long haul flight, both of which were not quite as nice as I'd expected. The COP itself was very interesting. The venue was very beautiful but much larger than I expected. There were so many different things to do, on each day there were big events, side events, different booths to visit and many more. Although it was challenging, I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and feel that I have learnt a lot.

First ever Gender and Climate Day at a COP28, by Peter Sammonds, Professor of Geophysics, UCL Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction, and GRRIP Gender and Intersectionality Ambassador with UCL GRRIPP team (UK)



Why is this important?



Women and men experience disasters differently. Women will disproportionately be impacted by climate change for instance from extreme heat. That is women working in the fields, factories and the informal economy. Pregnant women will be particularly affected. These were points made by Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton who was moderating an event on “Women Building a Climate-Resilient World”. This was a centre-piece panel discussion covering the transition to the blue/green economy, climate finance, women in STEM and gender-based violence (GBV). As she commented, it was remarkably to have an audience of hundreds discussing gender - and not just women! And she was great. In the transition to a green economy 50% of the population are being left behind and so it is essential to keep a gender lens. Food production and preparation is disproportionately done by women but women have little impact on food decisions and only own 15% of the land. 70% of jobs in the emerging green energy sectors are taken by men. Only 10% of women have the skills for the future green economy. There is a massive digital skills gap and unequal access to technology. Only 0.01% of climate finance funding goes to women. But investing in women is investing in our common future. The starting point for action has to be understanding where we are and what are the issues. As the Head of UN Women argued as a start that means sex and gender responsive data needs to be collected. But the data needs to influence gender finance policies and that is not happening.

The Gender and Climate Day started with a “Technical Dialogue on Financing for gender-responsive just transitions and climate action”. A key point of discussion was that women (and some men) in the Care Economy will be left out as industrial sectors transition because only the Production Economy is considered. This was a line of argument which was new to me and I found revealing. We can see this for ourselves in the UK with oil workers in Aberdeen being offered investment and training - but the Care Economy is excluded. And without gender justice there will be no social justice or climate justice. The intersections with Indigenous women, women of African descent and women with disabilities were discussed. There needs to be a framework to support integration of gender and poverty issues in climate finance. There needs to be capacity building.

Finally, the COP Parties are negotiating an updated Gender and Climate Change decision requiring a strengthening of national commitments. The UNFCCC Gender Action Plan is under review with final agreement due in July 2024. So there is still an opportunity to make inputs. And yes, in my mind there can be no climate justice without gender justice so it is not an issue that can be separated out.

Having a Gender and Climate Change Day at COP is a recognition of this.



Opportunity over urgency: why we need a new narrative for climate action

Yvette Ramos, President WOMENVAI, FR | Dr Zahra Khan, Ella Bedford, Miriam Zallocco, UCL- Gender Response Resilience and Intersectionality in Policy and Practice (GRRIPP), UK | Remy Kalter, Director of Public Affairs at Solar Impulse Foundation, CH | Nathalie Reynaud, WOMENVAI, CA | Clara Botto, The Alliance for Just Deliberation on Solar Geoengineering, PT|



Yvette Ramos (France, Portugal)

Opportunity over urgency: why we need a new narrative for climate action: this is our topic for tonight and we are proud to gather wonderful panelists to discuss the key issues – sometimes not visible nor known nor understood topics, or sometimes not even highlighted nor reflected in the official programme, side events, resolutions, agreements.. : these include controversial topics such as SRM (Solar Radiation Management) Geoengineering OR critical materials exploration impacts on health or biodiversity, OR gender-based violence in climate-related conflicts OR even climate and finance regulation and global governance, etc. Taking off the invisibility cloak on these hot topics are too important not to be discussed with Youth and you all, hoping we can all combine efforts to try and work on a new narrative and new concrete implementation of solutions, with technology, with humans, with our dearest planet, with the effects of climate change, that may be reversed or not, for the future, starting now, not 2030 or 2050 or 2100, but right now, starting up a pledge with us at the end of the session.

We have here a very unique platform gathering women and men together in STEM to build and bring sustainable solutions for a better world, aligned with the SDGs. Our Goals among others are to represent the interests of women in STEM globally, strengthen their role in our society in a sustainable and inclusive way and create innovative synergies, particularly in areas with high technological added value, to benefit sustainable development and environmental issues. That is why we are here and try to be, with our wonderful WOMENVAI delegation of nearly 50 persons from 20 countries (65% women – 40% Youth) over the COP28, an actor of change, an actor of Humanity change.



SIGN OUR COP28 PLEDGE => <https://womenvai.org/womenvai-pledge-cop28/>

An immersion at COP 28 as EPF students Adrien, Diego, Matthieu and Juliette (France)

We had the chance to attend 4 days of this international event organized around different themes such as gender equality, Ocean and sustainable food. Indeed, attending a COP is an incredible opportunity as a student because it is one of the most important events in the fight against climate change, where unfortunately the youngest are mostly kept apart. We were therefore able to put our studies in Energy and Environment into practice at the EPF engineering school.

Thanks to the delegation of WOMENVAI, we also participated in a round table on the mobility of women in the world and the elderly. The main topic was therefore on the importance of understanding why the mobility of women was different from that of men, especially in the context of migrations that will be increasingly frequent due to climate change. One number has mainly marked us: 60,000 hectares of land disappear each year, forcing people to move.

Participating in a COP is also participating in the atmosphere of the event, and even if NGOs had never seen their freedoms so restricted to a COP, they managed to organize rotations at the entrance of the negotiating zone so that all could be heard.

Therefore, we supported these manifestations, that we felt were too excluded from the event, by attending to as many as we could. We are proud to have been able to discuss with many speakers and Start-Ups and hope that their innovations can respect the agreements signed and the transition out of the fossils!



Bruna Mascotte (Brazil)

I once again had the pleasure of attending a COP representing WOMENVAI. As I reflect on the past two weeks, some observations come to mind:

- > Moving beyond mere announcements - most side events displayed a heightened level of maturity in discussions surrounding decarbonization. These sessions focused on highlighting the challenges associated with scaling up climate solutions. Executives, policymakers, and civil society representatives underscored hurdles such as permitting issues, financial viability of projects, the high cost of capital in emerging economies, and the imperative for positive social and environmental local impacts;

- > Embracing an equitable and just transition - beyond the negotiation rooms grappling with the phrasing of fossil fuel phase-out or phase-down language, it became evident that the pace of transition will vary across different countries. While the term "transition away from fossil fuels" found its place in a COP final text for the first time in history, the true challenge lies in the practical implementation;

- > Climate Expo 2023? - Criticisms were raised about the large number of attendees at COP that were not directly related to negotiations, but amidst these concerns, it's remarkable to witness the growing commitment of business leaders, government representatives, and civil society stakeholders to prioritize the climate agenda. This underscores both the urgency driven by escalating extreme weather events and the potential opportunities in the transition towards a lower carbon and resilient economy.

Now, let's channel our collective efforts towards translating the commitments made in Dubai into concrete actions!

THE RIGHTS OF NATURE: TOWARDS THE RECOGNITION OF THE OCEAN'S RIGHTS

DATE: DEC 12th
TIME: 14:30
(Gulf Standard Time)

SPEAKERS:



YENNY VEGA
Lawyer Ph.D., President,
International Observatory on Nature's Rights.



MYRA L. JACKSON
UN Representative and Focal Point on
Rights of Nature, Earth Law Center



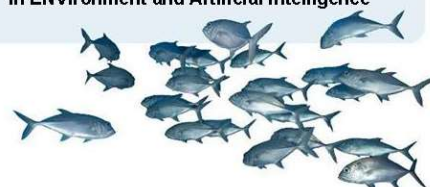
PATRICIA MORALES
Gerenta General, Filantropia Cortés Solari



MICHELLE BENDER
Legal Counsel, Ocean Vision Legal



SUSANA BORRÀS-PENTINAT
Associate Professor, Rovira i Virgili University Spain)-Research group
"Territory, Citizenship and Sustainability ((2021 SGR 00162)", Institute
for Research in Sustainability, climate change and Energy Transition-
IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law



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www.iucn.org/cop28live

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IUCN PAVILION EVENTS:**
www.iucn.org/cop28programme

**Susana
Borràs
Pentinat
(Spain)**



During COP28, WOMENVAI organised and participated in the side event entitled "*The Rights of Nature: towards the recognition of the rights of the Oceans*" held on 12 December at the IUCN Pavilion. The aim of this event was to reflect on the possibility of legally recognising the rights of Nature and how this recognition can be a potential catalyst for climate emergency. In particular, the protection of the Oceans and their rights, challenges and socio-legal implications of this recognition were analysed.

The importance of addressing this issue is justified by the fact that the big blue covers more than 70% of the Earth's surface and is an ecosystem that generates and sustains life: not only is it a very important regulator of the climate system, but it also provides food and health for all species on the planet, including humans. Our eco-dependence is oceanic, and it is time to start taking care of the blue lungs that are life.

Dr. Susana Borràs, Associate Professor at the Rovira i Virgili University (URV-Spain) and member of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law participated on behalf of the Womenvai delegation.



ITU WRC

DUBAI 2023

News from our cofounder Betty Bonnardel (France) and Sponsor Tony Azzarelli (UK, Italy) AB5 Consulting from the World Radiocommunication Conference WRC-23 held in Dubai (UAE) in December 2023 – Some of the Key Highlights

AB⁵consulting

After almost a month of intense negotiations, the International Telecommunication Union Member States have successfully reached important revisions to the global treaty governing radio frequency spectrum usage, both on Earth and in space.

🌐 **New Spectrum Resources:** The updated Radio Regulations identify fresh spectrum resources, fostering technological innovation, enhancing global connectivity, and ensuring equitable use of space-based radio resources and increased safety.

🌐 **Global Collaboration:** The Director of the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau, expressed gratitude to the 151 Member States signing the Final Acts for Navigating the complexities of spectrum sharing, paving the way towards a stable, predictable regulatory environment.

📡 **Revisions to ITU's Radio Regulations:** WRC-23 made critical decisions, including the identification of spectrum for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT).

🌐 **Satellite Constellations:** WRC23 ruled on altitude tolerances and the post-milestones operations.

📡 **Satellite Services Innovation:** The conference identified frequencies for Earth Stations in Motion (ESIMs) to deliver high-speed broadband on various platforms, including aircraft, vessels, trains, and vehicles. This is crucial for maintaining connectivity during disasters.

🚢 **Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS):** Regulatory actions were taken to support the modernization of GMDSS, including the implementation of e-navigation systems.



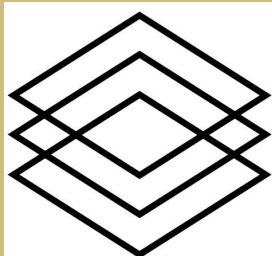
Presenting our new Sponsors and Partners

Jon Pierre, CEO presents MANTLE LABS, our new Donor and Partner!

Former agriculture options trader at leading firms including Mercuria, Hartree, Citi and Goldman Sachs Oxford, Cambridge, UCL alum and Advisor to the UK Space Agency and Satellite Catapult.

"Mantle Labs is a leading remote sensing and AI technology company dedicated to advancing environmental monitoring and data analytics. With a focus on innovation and precision, Mantle Labs' platform Geotree offers state-of-the-art solutions for assessing and improving the quality of environmental projects. Its global analytics spans nature-based solution project types including REDD+, ARR, regenerative agriculture, grassland management and sustainable rice cultivation."

More information on <https://mantle-labs.com/>



Mantle Labs

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

**Our team wishes you
& your dearest ones
the best for 2024!**

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



WOMENVAI

contact@womenvai.org
www.womenvai.org