

April 2025

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EDITO Empowering Women in STEM & Sustainability – A Year of Action

Empowering Women in STEM & Sustainability – A Year of Action
As we step into a dynamic second quarter of the year, WOMENVAI continues to strengthen its commitment to gender equality, STEM innovation, and sustainability. We are excited to welcome you all to our General Assembly on May 16 in Kraków, Poland, in continuation of the SMUS Conference, chaired by WOMENVAI co-founder Professor Lidia Zakowska. This year, SMUS will focus on sustainable urban mobility systems, tackling pressing challenges in transport accessibility, smart cities, and climate resilience—a conversation deeply aligned with our mission of fostering inclusion and equitable solutions. More on the SMUS programme and our General Assembly in this Newsletter!

March was particularly impactful, with our 20 delegates actively engaging in CSW69 at the UN WOMEN in New York, where discussions centered on accelerating the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The session emphasized policy development, investment strategies, and global collaboration to advance gender equality. However, challenges remain, including the rise of right-wing authoritarian politics, online hate, and persistent gender-based violence, which threaten progress. The need for stronger commitments from governments, increased funding for gender-focused initiatives, and better protection for women in digital spaces was widely acknowledged. More on our member delegates at UN WOMEN CSW69 views in this Newsletter!



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Earlier in the year, WOMENVAI contributed to critical discussions at the UNESCO Water and Gender Workshop in Pisa, Italy, addressing the intersection of gender and water security, and at CBD (COP16-2) in Rome, Italy at FAO- Food and Agriculture Organization, where we emphasized the role of women in biodiversity and ecosystem conservation. As we push forward with our KidsVAI and WOMENVAI Academy initiatives, we need passionate volunteers ready to take leadership roles in local implementation, ensuring that education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) reaches those who need it most. Access to STEM education is a powerful catalyst for socio-economic development, equipping young people—especially girls and women—with the critical thinking, problem-solving, and technical skills necessary to thrive in an increasingly digital and innovation-driven world. In many developing regions, the lack of educational infrastructure, financial resources, and gender-inclusive opportunities limits access to STEM fields, perpetuating inequalities and preventing communities from harnessing the potential of technology for sustainable growth.

By engaging youth and local communities, we foster ownership and empowerment, ensuring that knowledge is not only transmitted but also adapted to local needs.

Girls and young women gain the confidence to pursue careers in STEM, breaking traditional barriers and becoming agents of change within their societies. Communities, in turn, benefit from increased technological literacy, enabling them to leverage science and innovation for local challenges, whether in climate resilience, renewable energy, healthcare, or sustainable urban development. These efforts reinforce global partnerships and elevate visibility at high-level platforms, ensuring that grassroots movements are recognized and supported at an international scale.

But to realize this vision, we need dedicated individuals willing to mentor, train, and advocate for inclusive STEM education, shaping a more equitable and prosperous future for all.

8th General Assembly of WOMENVAI : INVITATION to join

Dear Member, we are delighted to invite you to WOMENVAI's **8th General Assembly**, a pivotal moment for our community to reflect, strategize, and inspire one another on **Friday the 16th May 2025 from 5pm CET to 6:30pm CET** at the Cracow Technology University and online.

Agenda:

- * Welcome and opening Remarks
- * Presentation of 2024 reports (rapport moral et financier)
- * Discussion on 2025 activities and budget
- * Votes and closing remarks



Your participation is invaluable in shaping the future of WOMENVAI and advancing our shared mission.

To confirm your attendance or sign your proxy, please fill in form (QR code enclosed) or send us an email contact@womenvai.org before 15th May 2025.

We look forward to welcoming you to this inspiring gathering! Warm regards,

Yvette Ramos
President, WOMENVAI



**Become a member, a partner, a volunteer!
We need you here !!!**

Looking ahead, we will be actively engaged in key international forums, including UNFCCC-SB62 in Bonn (June), UN Ocean in Nice (June), and WS-IS-ITU in Geneva (July).

These moments are opportunities to amplify our impact, bring gender-focused solutions to the global stage, and build bridges between policy makers, researchers, and grassroots changemakers.

Join us in making a difference—whether by contributing to our initiatives, participating in upcoming events, or sharing our vision within your network. Together, we create lasting change!

WOMENVAI advancing Gender Equality in water & climate action: WOMENVAI at United Nations Water & Biodiversity events in Italy



At the UNESCO Water and Gender Workshop in Pisa and United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (COP16 round 2) in Roma, WOMENVAI actively championed gender-inclusive policies and technological innovation in environmental governance. In Pisa, we emphasized the crucial role of women in STEM for advancing sustainable water management, addressing systemic barriers to gender equality in access and decision-making. At the CBD conference in Roma, our advocacy centered on pollution control, biodiversity preservation, and climate justice, calling for stronger commitments and funding mechanisms to protect vulnerable communities from environmental degradation. Through these engagements, WOMENVAI reinforced its mission to integrate women's expertise in science and engineering into high-level global dialogues, ensuring inclusive and impactful solutions for a sustainable future.

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The international workshop on Water and Gender, held in Pisa from January 28-31, 2025, brought together experts, policy-makers, and practitioners to address persistent gender inequalities in water governance. Despite international commitments, women remain underrepresented in decision-making roles across water institutions, from national agencies to local management bodies. The workshop explored barriers to progress, including limited interaction between academics, policymakers, and practitioners, and sought solutions through policy innovation, investment strategies, and knowledge-sharing. Discussions aligned with the UNESCO WWAP's Call for Action, aiming to accelerate gender equality in water access and governance by 2030.

WOMENVAI contributed by emphasizing the role of women in STEM and advocating for gender-inclusive technological solutions in water management. The organization highlighted the importance of digital literacy and innovation in empowering women to take leadership roles in water governance and sustainability efforts. Through its initiatives, WOMENVAI reinforced the need for cross-sector collaboration, ensuring that women's expertise in science and engineering is integrated into policy frameworks and practical solutions for equitable water access.



At the occasion of 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP-16-R2, WOMENVAI and its partners delivered a Statement urging governments and international organizations to take stronger action against pollution to protect public health and advance sustainability in Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Pollution—including plastics, mercury, and other toxic substances—is a major threat to both human health and biodiversity, worsening poverty and slowing economic growth. The case of Cameroon highlights the severity of the crisis: plastic waste clogs waterways, causing floods and diseases; mercury contamination from artisanal mining affects neurological health and ecosystems; and air pollution from industry and waste burning contributes to respiratory illnesses. Our collective statement calls for urgent policy reforms, including:

- Stronger enforcement of pollution control laws and bans on hazardous materials.
- Increased funding for modern waste management infrastructure in LDCs.
- Education campaigns to empower communities and businesses to adopt sustainable practices.
- Shifting toward prevention rather than reacting to pollution-related damage.
- Stricter regulations on agricultural pollutants to protect ecosystems and public health.
- Integration of gender equality in climate action, ensuring women and marginalized groups are actively involved in designing and implementing solutions.

Without sustained action, pollution will continue to cripple LDCs—harming health, productivity, and the right to a clean environment. The signatories stand ready to collaborate with governments, UN agencies, and civil society to drive meaningful change.

More on: <https://womenvai.org/statement-on-the-impact-of-pollution-on-public-health-and-advancement-in-least-developed-countries-at-the-occasion-of-the-16th-meeting-of-the-conference-of-the-parties-cop-to-the-convention-on-biolo/>



Celebrating the World Engineering Day – by Lidia Zakowska, Chair Ethics Committee

Distinction in the SCIENCE category in the «GOLDEN ENGINEER» plebiscite for our colleague from KST WIL PK, prof. LIDIA ZAKOWSKA, PhD, DSc, Eng.

On 4.03.2025, we celebrated World Engineering Day - WED 2025 - World Engineering Day, established by the International Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) under the patronage of UNESCO. This year's WED celebrations were held under the slogan «Technology in the fight against poverty», and the central celebrations in Poland were organized by the FSNT-NOT and the Lodz University of Technology and the Conference of Rectors of Polish Technical Universities (KRPUT) and took place in Lodz.



As part of the celebration of the Engineer's Day, a Gala was held, during which outstanding representatives of the engineering community were awarded. The diploma in the SCIENCE category was received by Prof. Lidia Żakowska, the winner of the 31st edition of the plebiscite for the title of «Golden Engineer of the Technical Review», which was presented jointly by the Deputy Minister of Science, Prof. Marek Gzik, Ewa Mankiewicz-Cudny - President of FSNT-NOT and Jolanta Czudak-Tomaka, editor-in-chief of the 159-year-old «Technical Review». Congratulations to all the Winners.



Highlighting WOMENVAI delegation at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) – UN WOMEN, New York, 11-22 march 2025

By Rabiadou, Niger on the KIDSVAI train-the-trainers session held on 14th March 2025 at the United Nation Library

The #KidsVAI training of trainers workshop reminded me of the joy in helping children discover how approachable technology can be and how easily they can grasp it. It's also a fantastic way to keep breaking down STEM stereotypes from a young age.

My «Redefine Possible» session became a vibrant exchange about turning barriers into springboards. Sharing stories from Developpe-Les in Niger alongside Google Women Techmakers' initiatives and campaigns illustrated how economic and digital inclusion manifests differently in each community, yet shares universal truths about access and opportunity.

Meeting my WOMENVAI colleagues in person was a true highlight. Swapping «aha moments» fostered collaborative connections, turning online acquaintances into realworld allies in our shared mission.

CSW69 showed me again how grassroots energy and global collaboration can reshape systems. This wasn't simply a series of events; it was an enriching experience that equipped me with new tools, forged stronger connections, and reignited my conviction that lasting change is built through hands-on learning and systemic advocacy. I am returning with a renewed sense of purpose and a stronger determination to put these insights into action.

Words from our young delegates: Miriam, UK-Italy: empowering Women at CSW69: A Transformative Experience

Taking part in the WOMENVAI delegation at CSW69 was an incredible, enlightening, and thought-provoking experience. It provided a unique opportunity to delve deeply into key issues affecting women and young girls, gaining valuable insights and perspectives from global experts and changemakers. One of the most impactful moments was participating in a session on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). This discussion not only deepened my understanding of the issue but also provided a platform to explore potential solutions. Beyond that, I had the privilege of meeting inspiring individuals dedicated to making a tangible difference in the lives of women worldwide.

Another highlight was the KIDSVAI training, a truly inspiring and meaningful experience. Witnessing firsthand how these workshops empower young women to pursue STEM careers—and how they create a ripple effect that positively impacts families and communities—was incredibly rewarding.

Additionally, participating in the side event at the Italian Cultural Institute was a valuable experience. It offered greater insight into the Age-it Project, allowing me to engage with perspectives and discussions that I might not have encountered otherwise.

“WOMENVAI's mission of empowering women and girls as vital partners in sustainable development is something I deeply admire. Their commitment to gender equality and addressing global challenges aligns with the UN's Pact for the Future, making their work even more essential.” Being part of this journey has been truly inspiring, and I am excited to see how WOMENVAI continues to drive meaningful change in the years to come.



Highlighting WOMENVAI delegation at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) – UN WOMEN, New York, 11-22 march 2025

By Elisabetta, Secretary General WOMENVAI on the side event held on 17th March 2025 at the Istituto Italiano di Cultura : *Ageing well in an ageing society: analysis of population structure and specific needs in a sustainable view, an International Workshop for the dissemination of the results of the Age-IT program*

The results of the Age-IT program were presented at the meeting, along with the perceptive opinions of scholars and experts from around the world who have contributed to the discussion by bringing their global experience in the areas of gender issues, sustainability issues, and the challenges faced by an aging population. Prominent academics and interested parties from many disciplines and countries convened for the summit to talk about the most recent developments in the field of mobility research, issues with aging populations, accessibility, and relevant laws. The objective was to enhance the Age-IT program through a process aimed at constructively implementing the project outputs achieved thus far and disseminating them globally.

Elisabetta Venezia of the University of Bari Aldo Moro in Bari, Italy, Silvia Mongardo of the Istituto Italiano di Cultura in New York, USA, and Yvette Ramos of WOMENVAI in Geneva, Switzerland, gave the welcome remarks. Then speakers were asked to discuss a variety of topics, including: strategic board for greater sustainability equality; flexible and inclusive mobility for an aging population; women's reproductive health in an aging society and private-public action; funding for universal education and leadership; staying put to age for a long, healthy life; SDG 3's goal is to create a healthy world for everyone; rethink what's feasible: using entrepreneurship to promote economic inclusiveness, and the elderly's access to the transportation system is one aspect of social justice's distributive dimension.

Sincere gratitude is extended to Silvia Mongardo, Alessandra Botta, and Malina Mannarino of the Istituto Italiano di Cultura in New York, USA; Mariangela Latorre from the University of Bari Aldo Moro; Yvette Ramos from the University of Lisbon, ICS-Portugal; Sara Landini and Simona Viciani from the University of Florence, Italy; Tiziana Campisi from the University of Enna Kore, Italy; Lylia Coelho from SUEZ, Brazil/France; Francesca Morganti from the University of Bergamo, Italy; Jola Pypno-Crapanzano, USA/Poland; and Rabia Moussa from Niger.



By Chong, China: Together, let's work to make the world a better place

I have consistently looked forward to participating in the conferences at CSW, and I am always inspired by the amazing women I meet through WOMENVAI. As an educator from Asia with over two decades of experience in the field, I know firsthand how intelligent and driven female students are. They have so much potential to contribute to the development of our community, including in the field of technology. Education and access to networks that provide young people with the knowledge of technology are absolutely essential. The training programs created by WOMENVAI for younger learners, which integrate technology, games, and knowledge related to women's liberation, are not only accessible but also present great opportunities for students to engage. These programs offer a learning package that helps students grow intellectually and enhances their social awareness.

The conference on «Aging Well in an Aging Society» highlighted how women are deeply invested in the well-being of society. We care not only about financial and material development but also about ensuring that ordinary people are treated with dignity and care. This is why I believe women are the true creators of a more peaceful world, driven by love. Caring and supporting others are ingrained in our nature.

Highlighting WOMENVAI delegation at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) – UN WOMEN, New York, 11-22 march 2025

By Jolanta, Poland-USA: a healthier world for All: advancing the mission of SDG 3

Representing WOMENVAI at CSW69 in New York City, I had the privilege of speaking on “A Healthier World for All: The Mission of SDG 3” during a side event on ageing and sustainable healthcare. As global populations age, universal healthcare access, disease prevention, and well-being must be prioritized.

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being aims to reduce mortality rates, combat infectious and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and strengthen mental health support. Despite progress, challenges persist, including healthcare inequality, emerging health threats, funding gaps, and misinformation.

To advance global health, strategies such as strengthening healthcare systems, improving health education, enhancing cooperation, advancing medical research, and implementing policy reforms are crucial. Communities play an essential role by adopting healthier lifestyles, supporting healthcare initiatives, and countering misinformation.

Achieving SDG 3 requires collaborative action across sectors to ensure health is a universal right, not a privilege. By working together, we can build a more equitable, resilient, and sustainable world.



By Fozzia (Kenya) : CSW69 : Two Weeks of Power, Purpose, and Possibility

I spent two powerful weeks at the CSW69, surrounded by passionate women from all over the world. The energy, the solidarity, and the sense of shared purpose were unlike anything I have ever experienced. We came together to reflect on the progress made toward gender equality and to have honest conversations about the work that still lies ahead.

There has been meaningful progress. More girls are in school today than ever before. Some governments are actively prioritizing education for girls, passing laws to end child marriage and gender-based violence, and increasing investment in girls' health and leadership. Countries like Sierra Leone are leading by example by dedicating significant portions of their national budgets to education and ending harmful practices. But despite these steps forward, the numbers remind us that we cannot afford to slow down. Over 120 million girls are still out of school. Girls continue to face barriers to healthcare, digital access, and safety. FGM is still a reality in too many communities. And the organizations doing the most impactful work at the grassroots level are still underfunded and overlooked.

Throughout the two weeks, I attended many powerful events. Two that deeply resonated with me were “Power for Girls: Invest in Girls, Transform the World” and “Stepping Up the Pace to End FGM.” These sessions amplified the importance of survivor-centered solutions and called on governments and donors to invest directly in girl-led movements. They made it clear that true change begins when girls and women have the resources and space to lead.

One of the most meaningful parts of my time at CSW69 was taking part in the KID'sVAI Train-the-Trainers workshop organized by WOMENVAI. As a proud member, I joined other women from around the world to receive hands-on training in how to introduce children in our home countries to the world of basic technology. We built simple circuits and explored ways to make STEM education more inclusive and engaging. It was more than just a technical exercise. It was about shifting narratives, building confidence, and equipping us to return to our communities with tools that can inspire the next generation.

I left CSW69 feeling grounded, hopeful, and re-energized. The path toward gender equality is long, but it is not empty. It is filled with advocates, leaders, and everyday people doing extraordinary work. And together, we are moving forward.

Highlighting WOMENVAI delegation at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) – UN WOMEN, New York, 11-22 march 2025

By Christelle, Bénin: bridging the digital gender gap

At CSW69, I had the privilege of participating in several side events, including the KidsVAI workshop, which aims to spark young women's interest in STEM careers and encourage their engagement with technology and innovation. Additionally, I spoke on the "Digital Gender Mainstreaming: Advancing Equity in the Digital Era" panel on March 20, 2025, emphasizing the role of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in closing the digital gender gap and promoting women's inclusion in digital spaces.

Despite progress, gender disparities in digital access remain a major challenge, particularly in developing countries like Benin. Unequal access to ICTs limits women's opportunities in education, employment, and entrepreneurship. I highlighted five key initiatives tackling this issue, including training programs in digital skills, microcredit initiatives for financial inclusion, women-led tech communities, innovation incubators, and eco-friendly digital solutions.

However, challenges persist, including limited infrastructure, rural connectivity gaps, cultural barriers, and the high cost of technology access. To advance gender inclusion in digital policies, we must strengthen public-private partnerships, promote female role models in tech, and combat stereotypes discouraging women's participation in STEM.

This experience deepened our understanding of gender-related digital equity, shaping the future efforts of WOMENVAI and its partners to drive sustainable change for women in technology.



By Cedrique, Benin: being the change we want to see !

Attending the CSW69 as part of the WOMENVAI delegation was an inspiring journey of dialogue, connection, and impact. The event provided a unique platform to engage with global leaders, activists, and change makers committed to accelerating gender equality in the digital era. One of the most powerful takeaways was seeing the evolution of women's roles in society—not just as participants at decision-making tables, but as owners of these spaces, leading conversations and shaping policies. Yet, despite these strides, significant challenges remain.

The digital age presents both opportunities and barriers, making digital gender mainstreaming critical to ensuring equity and inclusion in emerging markets. Discussions at WSIS+20 highlighted the need for strategic capital allocation to drive lasting economic empowerment, job creation, and community resilience.

WOMENVAI's dedication to bridging the gap by amplifying local organizations on global platforms was truly commendable. The team's work fosters a strong, interconnected community of change-makers, ensuring that no voice is left unheard. As our society ages, understanding population structures and specific needs is key to sustainable development. The momentum gained at CSW must now translate into concrete actions—rethinking capital flows, prioritizing inclusivity, and ensuring investments create meaningful, long-term impact. The journey continues !

Highlighting WOMENVAI delegation at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) – UN WOMEN, New York, 11-22 marcWh 2025

By Lylian, Brazil: water governance and gender: towards an integrated management of water resources

The roundtable held on March 14 at the UN Headquarters served as a vital platform for discussing inclusive water governance, the role of AI specialists, and the contributions of development agencies in advancing gender-sensitive water management programs. It also explored how civil society and the international community set standards for equitable environmental policies. A key focus was accelerating progress on the Beijing Platform for Action, ensuring a care-centered just transition that strengthens women's leadership in environmental governance, sustainable resource management, and biodiversity protection. The discussion underscored the interconnection between the water sector, biodiversity, and AI, highlighting the urgent need to integrate gender perspectives into environmental decision-making. WOMENVAI's initiatives, including the Womenvai Academy and KidsVAI, were presented as innovative capacity-building programs designed to foster gender inclusion in STEM and environmental fields. Additionally, the event provided a space to amplify women's voices, showcase leadership through biographies and success stories, and highlight practical measures that promote women's participation in technology and sustainability efforts.



Words from our young delegates: Lara, France

I had the chance to attend CSW69 in New York, and it was an amazing experience. As a student in a double degree in Law and Languages, it was a great opportunity to connect my studies with real-world issues. One of the highlights was participating in a conference about pornography and cyberbullying, where I had the chance to listen to representatives from Sweden, France, Mexico, and Canada. It was incredibly enriching to hear different perspectives on these important topics. The event was organized in partnership with «Osez le féminisme,» which made the discussions even more impactful. Learning about the legal and social implications of pornography and cyberbullying from experts in the field was eye-opening. It made me realize how crucial it is to have strong laws and international cooperation to address these problems. Overall, attending CSW69 was a valuable experience that connected directly with my studies. It gave me a deeper understanding of how law and social issues are linked and inspired me to continue learning and working on these topics in the future.

Words from our young delegates: Rabeb, Tunisia

I was happy to speak at a side event focused on the role of women in water governance, where I emphasized the critical importance of women's leadership in ensuring sustainable and equitable water management. I highlighted how women, particularly in rural and marginalized communities, are often the primary managers of water resources, yet their voices are frequently excluded from decision-making processes. I called for greater inclusion of women in water governance frameworks, stressing that their unique perspectives and traditional knowledge are essential for developing effective and inclusive water policies. I also attended an event organized by FEMNET, Achieving Accountability through Cross-Regional Feminist Solidarity and Movement Leadership, where the discussion reinforced the importance of global feminist solidarity in holding institutions accountable and advancing gender equality. My participation at CSW69 was a transformative experience, allowing me to contribute to critical discussions on gender equality, peacebuilding, and environmental justice. From facilitating regional dialogues to advocating for women's leadership in addressing plastic pollution, I am committed to continuing this work and driving meaningful change in my community and beyond."

Highlighting WOMENVAI delegation at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) – UN WOMEN, New York, 11-22 march 2025



by Shebah, Kenya, a new member

The CSW69 provided a vital platform for advancing gender equality and empowering women and girls. This year's session was particularly significant, marking the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and reinforcing global commitments to gender equity. One of the major highlights was the emphasis on STEM education for young girls. WOMENVAI hosted an engaging Train the Trainers session, where participants collaborated on creating circuit kits to inspire girls to explore science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). This initiative underscored the need for innovative solutions in closing the gender gap in STEM fields. Additionally, CSW69 reaffirmed the importance of research-based policy interventions, particularly in addressing gender-based violence (GBV) and promoting women's economic empowerment. Engaging with the UN Library offered valuable insights into global initiatives aimed at advancing women's rights and fostering sustainable progress. March was recognized as a powerful month for gender equality, aligning with Women's Month, World Women Engineers Day, and Girls' Day in Japan—a reminder of the global commitment to uplifting and supporting young girls. A heartfelt appreciation goes to WOMENVAI for their dedication to empowering young girls through STEM education. Their impactful session perfectly aligns with the mission of advancing gender equality and fostering inclusive development. CSW69 reinforced the urgency of collective action in ensuring a brighter future for women and girls worldwide.

By Yvette, France-Portugal: the WSIS+20 side event at the CSW69, anticipating the Geneva WSIS Forum

At CSW69, WOMENVAI highlighted the importance of gender-inclusive policies in digital governance during the side event «Accelerating Gender Equality in the Digital Age: Leveraging WSIS+20 Milestones and Beyond» on March 19. Discussions focused on women's leadership in STEM, AI-driven gender inclusion, and the role of entrepreneurship in shaping equitable tech solutions. Panelists presented impactful initiatives, from digital education and environmental sustainability to IoT innovations addressing gender-based violence. Advocacy for gender-sensitive digital policies, equitable access to technology, and ethical AI remained central themes. Looking ahead, WOMENVAI will continue this momentum at the WSIS Forum 2025 in Geneva in July, reinforcing digital gender mainstreaming and women's participation in technology governance. Stay tuned as we take part in key discussions shaping the future of digital equity! See you soon at the WSIS !

Planning WOMENVAI contribution at the occasion of the WSIS+20 in July- Geneva, Switzerland

From our perspective, areas to address beyond 2025 include but not only fostering an inclusive, ethical, and sustainable digital future empowering youth as key stakeholders, and addressing intersectional challenges for marginalized communities. Our proposed session entitled “Leveraging ICT for ageing populations: addressing Gender disparities & measuring Impact: an international workshop for the dissemination of the Age-IT program results and other prospects” will try and address the challenges faced by ageing populations, with a particular emphasis on tackling gender disparities and measuring the impact of digital solutions.

Stay tuned until more information comes !

Members and partners may join us in Geneva – ask for your credentials contact@womensvai.org



Snapshot from the WOMENVAI delegation at CSW69 : with great women from around the world!



KidsVAI in partnership with Youth For Challenge, by Bachiratou Issiako, Benin

As a prelude to the international **Girls in ICT Day** (see [here](#) for more information), a workshop aiming at raising awareness and practicing ICTs was organized on April 10, 2025, at the high school CEG 2 in Kandi, Northern Benin. Led by our Ambassador Bachiratou, with the CEG 2 Kandi Alumni Association and our partner Youth for Challenge, 80 girls aged 11 to 18 discovered career opportunities in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields, while addressing the barriers they must overcome to fully engage in these fields. The KIDSVAI workshop was a highlight of the day, introducing the youngest students (Grade 6) to digital culture in a fun and participatory way. **The emotion was palpable; the young girls spoke of their thirst for knowledge and their need for reassurance and guidance!**



Présentent
PROJET KIDS VAI DANS L'ALIBORI

LES FILLES DE L' ALIBORI S'ENGAGENT DANS LES SCIENCES TECHNOLOGIES INGÉNIERIE ET MATHÉMATIQUES (STIM)

- Sensibilisation sur les STIM et le leadership féminin
- Atelier pratique KIDSVAI

PARTENAIRES

Amical CEG2 Kandi, Baani ONG, Lead-Learn, Youth For Challenge

08:00
10 Avril, 2025
CEG2 kandi

+229 0166405135



We warmly thank the CEG 2 administration, the Association of Women's Associations (AMICAL), the speakers, and the BAANI NGO. Special mention to Youth for Challenge, whose partnership with WOMENVAI helped strengthen the impact of this initiative. This powerful moment reminds us of the importance of acting early, reaching out to young people, and showing them that their place in the digital world is not only possible, but essential for a truly inclusive and sustainable transformation.

Presenting our new Sponsors and Partners

A new partnership is born : Cameroon here we go!

The École Supérieure d'Ingénierie et de Finance (ESIF), based in Yaoundé, Cameroon, is a preparatory institution dedicated to training future engineers and finance professionals. With a unique academic model, students complete two years of foundational studies in Cameroon before continuing their education for three years at partner institutions in France. ESIF emphasizes academic excellence, innovation, and international competitiveness.

In line with its mission to promote gender equality and sustainable innovation, WOMENVAI is proud to announce a partnership with ESIF aimed at empowering young women in STEM. This collaboration will focus on mentorship programs, scholarships, and hands-on workshops to increase female participation in engineering and finance.

Together, WOMENVAI and ESIF will also explore joint initiatives addressing global challenges such as sustainability, inclusive technology, and digital transformation. Through this partnership, we aim to inspire and equip the next generation of leaders—especially young women—to thrive and lead in STEM fields across Africa and beyond.



More on ESIF here

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61564277763106>

Want to join as NGO Partner, member or Ambassador : contact@womenvai.org

Who we are :

our Board members were elected for 2023-2026 at the GA in Bari, Italy (2023)

- Yvette Ramos, President, France-Portugal
- 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, Communications committee chair, Switzerland

Call for articles for our next issue August 2025!

Dear partners and members,
please send your text (max 150 words)
and photos (high definition) no later than 15th July
for a publication in August 2025 to contact@womenvai.org

WOMENVAI