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EDITO by Yvette Ramos, president WOMENVAI

The session on Plastic Pollution and INC-5.2 (Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution) in Geneva from August 5 to 14 is very important.

WOMENVAI- as a member of the WMG- Women Major Group - welcome in passing all the initiatives of non-state actors in this case the one undertaken (The Nice call for an ambitious treaty on plastics) in favor of the 3rd United Nations Conference on the Oceans to which several countries are committed to its outcome.

Indeed, the treaty on Plastic Pollution should be a reality and which will lead to a Convention in order to allow an acceleration of this danger which undermines both marine and terrestrial ecosystems. We call for bolder and more collaborative work among all initiatives for a happy outcome in Geneva, with:

- A comprehensive Treaty targeting the Full Plastics Lifecycle
Ministers need to reaffirm the urgency of ending plastic pollution through a treaty that tackles all stages—from production to disposal. This includes setting global reduction targets for primary plastic polymers, mandatory reporting by parties, and measures promoting sustainable design and circularity.
- Legally binding commitments and scientific Governance
Ministers must call for binding obligations to phase out harmful plastics and chemicals, supported by a global list and scientific review process. The Treaty should be adaptive, allowing for new evidence and decisions via UN procedures when consensus is not reachable.
- A fair implementation and an ethical financing mechanism
Ministers are to stress the need for an ambitious and well-funded implementation framework, with support for LDCs and SIDSs - Least Developed Countries and Small Island States- : funding should be guided by the polluter-pays principle, ensuring global equity and accountability.

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Two Youth committed to WOMENVAI ! Welcome to the Future!

At just 18 years old, Charlotte and Eulalie embody the power of youth-driven change. Both are deeply engaged in WOMENVAI's mission to promote gender equity and sustainable innovation. Eulalie, a dynamic engineering student at EPF in Saint-Nazaire (France), joined WOMENVAI for a transformative internship focused on STEM education. Passionate about empowering girls who are at a crossroads in their academic journeys, she designed a hands-on training kit to help young students explore science and technology with confidence and curiosity.

Charlotte, equally committed, represents the voice of youth in global policy spaces. After participating in a United Nations conference in Geneva last year, where she tackled national well-being policies, she is now preparing for her next mission: attending the second part of the 5th session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (UNEP-INC-5.2) which will develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution. Her dedication reflects WOMENVAI's values of active youth participation in shaping sustainable futures.

Youth is showing the world that bold ideas, responsibility, and ambition are not defined by age: the example given by Charlotte and Eulalie signals the next wave of leadership—thoughtful, informed, and committed to inclusive progress.

WOMENVAI is proud to support their journey.



Report from the SMUS International Scientific Symposium

SUSTAINABLE URBAN MOBILITY: INTEGRATING ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, 16.05.2025 in Cracow



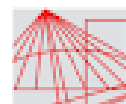
Politechnika
Krakowska
Jubileusz 80-lecia



Wydział
Inżynierii Lądowej



Katedra Systemów
Transportowych



As part of the jubilee events of the 80th anniversary of the Cracow University of Technology, an international scientific symposium SMUS was organized on May 16, 2025 on SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY IN URBAN SPACE: INTEGRATION OF ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY. The symposium was organized by the Department of Transport Systems of the Faculty of Civil Engineering of the CUT, as well as the Małopolska Regional Chamber of Construction and the international NGO WOMENVAI. The SMUS Symposium was recognized as a jubilee scientific event of the Faculty of Civil Engineering, CUT. The discussion was opened by Prof. Elisabetta Venezia, who emphasized the thematic diversity of the presented papers, including both the technical requirements of sustainable transport and the socio-social aspects of passengers (aging society, the issue of adaptation of law and infrastructure, especially for children and seniors) and practical transport solutions.

The voice of the representative of ZTP Warszawa, Eng. Michał Piwowarski, pointed to the problems of proper preparation of the transport offer, but also the high costs of solving the problems of public transport accessibility not only in large cities, but also in 40% of areas excluded from transport in Poland.

A representative of the industry, Dr. Tomasz Burghardt, emphasized in his speech that many times the current TP solutions are ineffective due to too long travel time and too low frequency. We should analyse the planned improvements more carefully so that the decision is not short-sighted.

A representative of the Public Transport Authority, M. Piwowarski, argued that it is necessary to start with organizing public transport and then improve the quality of the offer and solutions.

The voice of representatives of Koleje Małopolskie emphasized the importance of caring for the high frequency of trains within the SKA, but also the development of the Bus Feeder Lines service, which reach all districts of the Małopolska Region and thus counteract transport exclusion.

In terms of transport accessibility, Dr. T. Burghardt gave good examples from Austria and the Czech Republic. Solving the problems of transport in urban space by introducing a common ticket tariff, organizing transport on non-working days and organizing transport by contracting carriers paid for the transport performed (courses) are the summarizing conclusions in the discussion on SMUS, i.e. «Sustainable mobility in urban areas, taking into account responsibility for engineering, environmental and social aspects».



Report from the 8th WOMENVAI GA, by Yvette Ramos, Chair

The WOMENVAI 8th General Assembly held on 16th May 2025 focused on sustainability and gender issues within the engineering field, with the president Yvette Ramos introducing the session and welcoming participants, including observers. The assembly took place in Krakow, Poland, following the SMUS. The Chair highlighted the network's evolution from its origins in 2017 emphasizing its global ambitions and welcoming newcomers while expressing gratitude for their participation.

Yvette provided an overview of the NGO's recent achievements, including new partnerships with UN agencies such as FAO and UNEP. She encouraged members to apply for roles on the executive board and contribute to the upcoming tri-annual report necessary for maintaining our ECOSOC status. Advocacy projects were discussed, including the KidsVAI tool and the Secure4Good project, which aims to develop an IoT device for emergency alerts. The importance of newsletters for keeping members informed about ongoing initiatives and events was also emphasized.

Updates on specific initiatives included a series of workshops for Girls in STEM and women leaders. New members shared their focus on advocating against female violence and the need to address gender inequalities in STEM education. The assembly noted the participation of members in upcoming events, including various United Nations events at high-level and acknowledged contributions from those unable to attend. The structured approach to badge allocation for events was outlined, emphasizing transparency and adherence to established processes. The 2024 financial report presented by the treasurer detailed the organization's income and expenses, highlighting a surplus and the need for careful budgeting in 2025. She clarified that no travel expenses would be covered for members attending events like COP, but the board could allocate funds for specific events organized by members. The Vice-president supported this approach, highlighting the importance of sustainability in our operations. Funding opportunities for Students and Youth was discussed, to encourage their participation in institutional meetings. The president referenced previous successful initiatives, including hackathons at UCL (UK) and EPF (France), where students were awarded prizes and badges for their contributions.



NEWS FROM OUR AMBASSADORS AROUND THE GLOBE:

Bachiratou Issiako, Ambassador WOMENVAI in Bénin

since 2022 and Chair of programmes in Francophone Africa, is a digital strategist and entrepreneur based in Cotonou, committed to inclusive tech and youth empowerment.

As Director of Wegal Space, she champions innovation, gender equity, and sustainable development across digital and civic platforms.

She coordinated a major event in her home city Kandi at the occasion of the international Girls in STEM event.



Sustainability in the application of natural engineering to the control of vegetal biomass in the Alqueva infrastructures, by Susana Pinto (right) member of OE Portugal, with Lidia Santiago (left), past vice-president OE Portugal and co-founder WOMENVAI.

The growing pressure on water resources in the Alentejo region, resulting from agricultural intensification and exacerbated by climate change, has led to phenomena of eutrophication and the spread of invasive aquatic plants that threaten the hydraulic efficiency and ecological stability of the Alqueva system infrastructures. The research carried out demonstrates that Natural Engineering, applied in an integrated manner and adapted to the specific soil and climate conditions of the region, provides a solid path for building a truly sustainable management model. This concept of sustainability is reflected in the adoption of solutions that combine living and inert elements, allowing the rebalancing of affected ecosystems and the improvement of water quality without systematically resorting to chemical methods or aggressive mechanical actions. The results obtained through monitoring and environmental characterization reveal greater stability of margins and slopes, a significant reduction in circulating nutrients, and an increase in biodiversity, while also reducing maintenance costs and creating opportunities for the valorization of generated biomass. This approach demonstrates that it is possible to reconcile the need to ensure agricultural productivity with environmental preservation, aligning technical objectives with the protection of riparian ecosystems and the integrity of hydraulic infrastructures. The Alqueva case shows that the application of Natural Engineering can directly contribute to several Sustainable Development Goals, namely sustainable water management and biodiversity conservation, turning the concept of sustainability into a concrete practice that strengthens the resilience of the territory and ensures a balanced and responsible future for the region.



NEWS FROM OUR AMBASSADORS AROUND THE GLOBE:

Irène Francisco (Portugal-France) is a seasoned executive and transformational coach with over 15 years of experience in banking, consulting, and organizational change. After six years of academic training, she launched her career as CFO in the financial sector, where she led strategic initiatives and cross-functional teams. In the 2010s, she deepened her expertise with a master's degree in major change project management, pivoting toward human-centered transformation.

Today, Irène empowers managers and teams to align professional performance with personal fulfillment. She is a certified coach (PCC and ACTC), ESIA-accredited supervisor, trainer, and mentor, known for her systemic approach and mindful leadership. A committed member of EMCC and ICF France, she served as Secretary General and continues to support the coaching community through supervision and mentoring.

Her work reflects a deep belief in sustainable change, collective intelligence, and the transformative power of listening



Myriam Nyame (Cameroun)

Myriam Nyame is a telecom engineer and entrepreneur with a strong commitment to sustainable innovation, inclusive development, and gender equity in STEM. With a background in technical consulting and engineering studies, she has led projects that bridge digital transformation and environmental responsibility.

She is the co-founder of DeepInsight-Tech, a company that provides services, products, and technological innovations in the fields of telecommunications and electronics. Under her leadership, DeepInsight-Tech has positioned itself as a promoter of affordable, high-impact technologies tailored for emerging markets—advancing the belief that technology should empower development rather than be a barrier to it.

As a member of WOMENVAI, she contributes to global initiatives that promote inclusive technologies and empower women in science and engineering. Her work reflects a deep belief in collaborative problem-solving and the power of interdisciplinary approaches to address climate and development challenges. Myriam's entrepreneurial spirit and advocacy for ethical tech make her a valuable voice in international dialogues on sustainability and digital equity.



Catherine Formica (Switzerland)

Catherine Formica is a seasoned architect and urban designer with a deep commitment to sustainable development and inclusive innovation. Founder of Atelier d'Architecture Formica, she brings decades of experience in designing spaces that harmonize environmental responsibility with human-centered aesthetics. Her work spans residential, cultural, and civic projects, often integrating ecological materials and participatory design processes. As a member of WOMENVAI, Catherine contributes her expertise to global initiatives that bridge architecture, climate resilience, and gender equity. She is recognized for her thoughtful approach to spatial transformation and her dedication to empowering communities through design.



NEWS FROM OUR AMBASSADORS AROUND THE GLOBE:

Heidi Echeverri (Colombia)

Heidi Echeverri is a passionate advocate for sustainable development and inclusive innovation, with a strong background in international cooperation and project management. Her career spans work with NGOs, institutions, and grassroots initiatives focused on climate action, gender equity, and digital transformation. As a member of WOMENVAI, Heidi contributes to global efforts that harness technology for environmental and social impact. She brings a collaborative spirit and strategic insight to multidisciplinary teams, helping shape solutions aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Her commitment to empowering communities and amplifying underrepresented voices makes her a dynamic force in the intersection of tech and sustainability.



Shaping Engineers for Industry 5.0 with Purpose and Sustainability by Heidi Echeverri

This semester, we reimagined engineering education through the lens of Industry 5.0, where smart technologies and human values converge. With a group of Industrial Engineering students from northern Colombia, we went beyond the traditional classroom to co-create meaningful learning experiences.

Through the “GreenQuest” simulation, students applied environmental management strategies while facing real-world constraints such as CO₂ reduction, budgets, and operational impact. At first, we believed it would focus only on environmental issues. What we didn’t expect was that it would become a tool for integrating knowledge from other subjects—like linear programming—which they had studied before but never connected to sustainability.

More than a game, it became a space for critical thinking, systems analysis, and collaborative decision-making.

We also launched “Voices for Climate”, a community-based initiative where students interviewed classmates, professors, staff, and local citizens. These conversations gave rise to sustainable project proposals that reflected both technical insight and social empathy.

Beyond technical skills, students developed leadership, ethical reasoning, and a deep sense of responsibility for the world they are helping to shape. They learned that innovation means nothing without inclusion—and that future engineers must listen before they build.

In a region facing economic and environmental challenges, these young people are becoming true changemakers. Their experience shows that engineering education can—and must—serve as a bridge between global sustainability goals and local action.



WOMENVAI AT UNITED NATIONS EVENTS OCEAN CONFERENCE, JUNE 2025 – NICE (France)

ORAL Statement by Yvette Ramos, Chair WOMENVAI

Preserving ocean health requires robust international scientific cooperation, knowledge exchange, and capacity-building in marine technology and education. We want to highlight the critical role of integrated approaches in bridging science and policy, ensuring research translates into actionable solutions.: all experts need to explore innovative strategies to tackle marine biodiversity loss, climate impacts, and ecosystem resilience, emphasizing the importance of inclusive stakeholder engagement. Recognizing the nexus of gender and technology, we stress on the need for equitable access to marine innovation, ensuring that women and marginalized communities play a central role in advancing sustainable ocean management and shaping a future where science is inclusive and impactful. WOMENVAI and its partners are committed to advancing ocean sustainability through gender-inclusive technology, marine science, and water management. Our collective expertise fosters research, innovation, and policy advocacy, aligning with the UN Ocean Conference's mission to protect marine ecosystems and strengthen the science-policy interface. By integrating equitable access to ocean technology, sustainable sanitation, and conservation strategies, they empower communities to address climate resilience, biodiversity loss, and ocean governance, ensuring a more inclusive and impactful approach to global marine protection.

By Johanna Jeukendrup, University of Lisbon (Portugal)

Increasing ocean-related scientific cooperation, knowledge, capacity building, marine technology, and education
to strengthen the science-policy interface for ocean health



**UN OCEAN
CONFERENCE
NICE 2025
FRANCE**

Nice, France – wed., 11 June 2025 at 1pm CET (hybrid)

Join us online



Prof. Filipe Duarte Santos, CE3C University of Lisbon PT | Rabeb Aloui, UNEP Women Major Group TU | Yvette Ramos, Swiss Engineering Geneva CH | Johanna Jeukendrup, ICS University of Lisbon PT | Liliane Dorveaux, EPF School of Engineering, FR | Francesca Greco, Patto per il Mare Foundation IT | Fernando Borensztein, Ocean Pact BR | Ulrike Kelm, Women in Water & Sanitation Network, FR |



As representatives of WOMENVAI and being students of the Lisbon University in Portugal, we were fortunate to take part in the 3rd UNOC conference, held this year in Nice, France.

Our dedicated team presented topics on “Enhancing ocean-related scientific cooperation and stakeholder engagement for climate adaptation and sea level rise management”.

It is known that there is an urgent need to implement solutions to the climate change challenge in a fast-changing world. This can be any technical solution, any scientific development or genius idea, but it also means working in the field of advocacy and lobbying, in the field of public intervention and knowledge, international expertise, collaboration with other universities and research centers, and more.

WOMENVAI's commitment to share academic writings and essays in communities, create a sincere contribution to climate change research and action at large. At the conference, we had the opportunity to share our insights on sea level rise management, the restorations of mangroves, the status of water & sanitation projects and the new Patto Con Il Mare foundation.

WOMENVAI AT UNITED NATIONS EVENTS

OCEAN CONFERENCE, JUNE 2025 – NICE (France)

By Liliane Dorveaux, Vice-President WOMENVAI

I had the opportunity to be a WOMENVAI delegate and contribute to the UNOC-3 in Nice. My arrival on Sunday evening, however, was marked by some logistical challenges—particularly when it came to obtaining my access badge: access to the Blue Zone, the core diplomatic area of the conference, was especially difficult that day due to the very limited number of badges being issued. Despite this, I was able to take part in several engaging events held at La Baleine, a venue open to a broader audience.

One of the highlights was a series of conferences focused on the development of a European Charter for Oceanographic Research. This initiative aims to bring together research stakeholders from across Europe to improve data sharing and coordination in oceanographic observations. A particularly ambitious project was also presented: the creation of a digital twin of the ocean—a real-time model designed to help anticipate and predict environmental and climatic changes.

Other impactful sessions addressed pressing issues such as the situation of Pacific islands in the face of climate change and the urgent need to protect coral reefs. What stood out to me the most was the presence of numerous local associations and volunteers from around the world, all actively working on grassroots conservation solutions and youth engagement.

This conference gave me a deeper appreciation for the scale and diversity of local and global efforts aimed at protecting our oceans. One thing is clear: younger generations are deeply committed, and they carry a genuine sense of hope for the future of our blue planet.



By Lylian Coelho, Member WOMENVAI (Brazil/ France)

During UNOC3, WOMENVAI was honored to coordinate an official off-site event in collaboration with The Nice Commitments for the Ocean—a science-driven, inclusive initiative rooted in international cooperation and solidarity.

These commitments aim to accelerate ocean protection, foster a sustainable blue economy, and ensure no one is left behind. Our focus was on enhancing ecological protection and scientific capacity by expanding monitoring infrastructure and mobilizing communities for coastal resilience, ocean literacy, and equitable marine resource use.

We amplified the voices of youth, Indigenous peoples, women, and small-scale fishers in ocean governance, emphasizing that transformative change requires the active participation of all stakeholders.

We highlighted private sector investments in nature-based solutions and ESG*-aligned practices, promoting blue jobs and fair value chains that benefit coastal populations. Climate resilience was advanced through nature-based infrastructure, early warning systems, and integrated coastal planning. We called for alignment between blue economy policies and decarbonization goals, backed by clear accountability metrics. Under the theme Finance, Innovation & Equity, we advocated for access to blended finance, blue bonds, and philanthropic investment, prioritizing inclusive, locally led projects—especially in developing countries and SIDSs.

We're proud of our engagement and remain committed to ocean action for all. *Environmental, Social, and Governance.

WOMENVAI AT UNITED NATIONS EVENTS

By Yvette Ramos, president

UNFCCC SB62, Bonn, Germany



At the United Nations Bonn Climate Change Conference SB62 Intersessional June 2025, WOMENVAI was invited to speak at an official side-event on 24 June, moderated by the Chair of the Green Economics Institute (GEI), with the Women Environmental Programme (WEP), the World Future Council (WFC), and other partners, for a compelling session titled “21st Century Abrupt Climate Flip – How Do We Stop It? How Can We Keep to 1.5 Degrees?”.

The talk focused on empowering communities to make informed, impactful choices for a livable planet. By addressing public fear and resistance to change, the panel emphasized the urgency of climate action and the need for inclusive awareness.

WOMENVAI highlighted the role of women and youth in driving sustainable transformation—because the climate clock is ticking.

FFD4 in Seville, Spain



At the FFD4 in Seville (June–July 2025), Gender equality and climate justice emerged as central themes, with a \$420 billion annual gap identified in funding for women’s rights globally. The Feminist Forum, held just before the conference, called for systemic reforms to center women and girls in financing frameworks, especially in the Global South². Technology was highlighted as both a tool and a battleground—underscoring the need for inclusive digital access and feminist innovation.

For WOMENVAI, this aligns directly with its mission: bridging gender, climate, and tech divides through actionable, equity-driven solutions. The Sevilla Platform for Action includes initiatives that could support such cross-cutting efforts.

More information on :

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2025/06/ffd4-press-release-sevilla-platform-financing-sdgs/>

WSIS+20, Geneva (Switzerland), by Elisabetta Venezia

On July 11, 2025, WOMENVAI hosted an international workshop at WSIS+20 titled “Leveraging ICT for Ageing Populations: Addressing Gender Disparities & Measuring Impact.” In partnership with the University of Bari Aldo Moro (Italy), ESIF (Cameroon), EPF Engineering School (France), Centro-i (Mexico), Abshore (France-Tunisia), and Swiss Engineering Geneva, the session showcased results from the Age-IT program and explored inclusive digital strategies for ageing populations, with a focus on women.

Moderated by Prof. Elisabetta Venezia, the panel featured experts including, Karen Vianey Kenmoe, Dr. Elena Estavillo, Prof. Liliane Dorveaux, Dr. Asma Brini and Yvette Ramos.

Discussions centered on ethical AI, digital equity, and ICT design for active ageing, highlighting cross-sectoral collaboration and measurable impact frameworks.

The session also opened dialogue on a post-2025 agenda, emphasizing climate-responsive tech, youth engagement, and global cooperation rooted in local sovereignty—ensuring emerging technologies empower all generations.

More on:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/221>



5th session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee INC5-2, Geneva (Switzerland), by Yvette Ramos

The INC, 5th session aims at developing an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, avec WOMENVAI has co-signed the Policy Brief prepared by Ocean Vision Legal and Gallifrey Foundation « Preventing Marine Plastic Pollution: A Legal Obligation”, which clarifies that States are already legally bound under UNCLOS and international human rights law to prevent, reduce, and control marine plastic pollution.

These obligations strengthen the case for adopting a new international treaty on plastic pollution and require States to engage in good faith in treaty negotiations. The 2025 UN Human Rights Council resolution affirms that plastic pollution threatens marine ecosystems and human rights, including the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.

Plastic pollution qualifies as marine pollution under UNCLOS, triggering obligations even when harm is only likely. States must act with due diligence, guided by the precautionary principle and best available science, including UNGA and UNEP reports. Required actions include reducing plastic production, banning single-use plastics, adopting circular economy models, and phasing out non-recoverable materials. States must also enact national legislation and actively participate in international negotiations, such as the INC process, to establish global rules. These duties are enforceable, and failure to comply may result in international or domestic legal accountability. The adoption of a robust international treaty is not only politically important—it is a legal necessity.

Marine plastic pollution is not just an environmental issue — it’s a legal obligation:

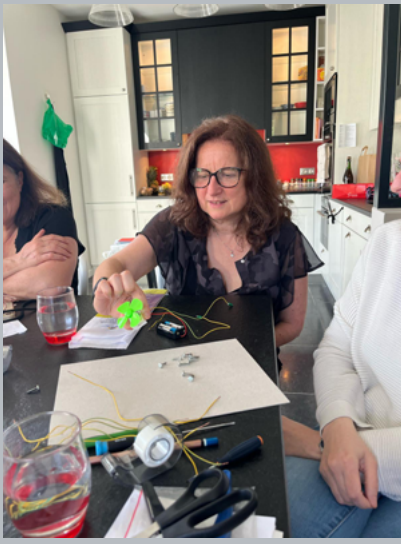
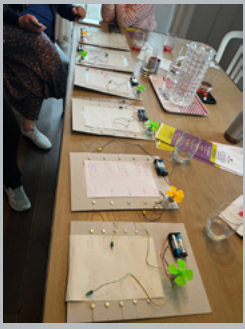
States must reduce plastic at the source, adopt circular economy models, ban single-use plastics, and phase out harmful materials. Active participation in treaty negotiations is legally required, not optional.

Non-compliance may lead to legal accountability at both international and national levels.

More here:

<https://www.unep.org/inc-plastic-pollution/session-5.2>





WOMENVAI TRAIN-THE-TRAINERS WORKSHOP in Saint-Nazaire, France

By Yvette Ramos, president EPF ALUMNI

In June 2025, WOMENVAI organized a dynamic training workshop as a privileged partner of the Qualcomm Foundation, from which it received a grant to prepare future trainers for the KIDSVAI program.

Hosted at the new EPF School of Engineers campus in Saint-Nazaire (France), the event brought together a group of passionate women—professors and alumni of EPF—dedicated to advancing inclusive digital education, with a special focus on empowering young girls.

Developed by WOMENVAI, the KIDSVAI program introduces children to STEM and digital ethics through creative, hands-on learning. This workshop marked a key milestone in scaling the initiative by equipping a new cohort of educators with the tools and methodology to deliver the program in schools and community centers.

Throughout the day, participants explored the pedagogical framework of KIDSVAI, exchanged teaching experiences, and engaged in collaborative activities designed to foster confidence and innovation in the classroom. The atmosphere was vibrant and inspiring, reflecting a shared commitment to preparing youth—especially girls—for a future shaped by technology.

We are proud to present photos from this memorable day, which highlight the enthusiasm, expertise, and solidarity of the WOMENVAI network.

This workshop not only strengthened our partnership with EPF School of Engineers and Qualcomm Foundation, but also laid the groundwork for expanding KIDSVAI across new regions.



Transforming Nature Finance from the Ground Up by Aura María Bustillo*, WOMENVAI Chair Programmes (Colombia)

This year, I was honored to be selected — among over 400 applicants from across Latin America and the Caribbean — for the 3rd edition of the Women for Sustainable Finance Program, led by the Grupo de Financiamiento Climático para América Latina y el Caribe (GFLAC) and partner organizations. Being part of this motivating community of women who are reimagining finance as a tool for environmental justice has been a greatly significant experience.

As an advisor for a city environmental authority in Colombia, a consultant in nature-related financial risks at Global Canopy and a PhD researcher on economic instruments for sustainable water management, I've seen firsthand the urgency of integrating climate and biodiversity risks into financial decision-making. This program is equipping me with the tools to bridge global frameworks — such as TNFD and the use of ENCORE — with local-level policy and action.

At the international level, we must strengthen regulatory frameworks that require financial institutions to address climate and nature-related risks, expand access to concessional finance for local governments, and promote blended finance mechanisms that reduce the perceived risk of sustainable investments. Critically, we must also recognize subnational authorities and territories as key actors in achieving climate goals.

Participating in this program reinforces my conviction that women bring essential leadership to sustainable finance — grounded in care, resilience, and equity. I am grateful for the opportunity to keep building knowledge, networks, and action — from the local level to the global stage.

I'm grateful for this learning space and eager to bring this knowledge to action. Whether in city governance, academic research or civil society platforms like WOMENVAI, I remain committed to transforming finance to truly serve people and the planet.

*Aura María Bustillo is a Colombian environmental consultant, Executive Board Member at WOMENVAI, and PhD researcher in Climate Change and Sustainable Development Policies. She works with Global Canopy on nature-related financial risks and leads climate and biodiversity initiatives from a city-level environmental authority in Cali.



Presenting our new Sponsors and Partners

FAO FAST Partnership (Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation) is a global initiative launched at COP27 to accelerate climate finance for transforming agriculture and food systems. It focuses on three pillars: access to finance, knowledge and capacity-building, and policy support. Its mission is to ensure food security, climate resilience, and economic equity for vulnerable populations.

WOMENVAI and its partners can collaborate with FAST by integrating gender-responsive, tech-driven solutions into agrifood systems, contributing expertise in ethical AI, sustainability, and inclusive innovation to amplify impact across generations.

More information on:

<https://www.fao.org/food-agriculture-sustainable-transformation-partnership/about-fast/about-us/en>



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 !

Dear partners and members,
please send your text (max 150 words)
and photos (high definition) no later than 15th October 2025
to: contact@womenvai.org

WOMENVAI