



Wishing you  
all the best  
for 2026 !!!

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December 2025

Member  
Newsletter

EDITO by Yvette Ramos, President and Liliane Dorveaux, Vice-president

As we approach the end of 2025, a year marked by both progress and persistent challenges, our thoughts turn to all those who work tirelessly for a fairer, more inclusive, and more sustainable world.

In a year that saw pivotal global gatherings with many of our members and partners, we are reminded that real change requires not only local action but also international solidarity. Now, more than ever, it is essential to nurture hope and redouble our efforts with conviction.



We wish each and every one of you a restful holiday season and a new year filled with commitment, collaboration, and collective success.

At WOMENVAI, we remain steadfast in our belief: innovation, engineering, and technology can only thrive sustainably when all voices, perspectives—and especially all women—are fully represented. Yet, the numbers speak for themselves: despite years of advocacy, women still represent only about 30% of engineering students worldwide. Deep-rooted gender stereotypes, present from childhood, continue to shape educational choices and deter too many young women from pursuing scientific and technical careers. This is why we celebrate and support transformative initiatives that place bias awareness and inclusion at the core of higher education reform.



The ParityLab® program, launched by EPF Graduate School of Engineering in France, stands as a beacon of progress. Unique in its approach, ParityLab® offers a dedicated admission pathway designed specifically for women, addressing the structural barriers they face and unlocking potential that has too often been overlooked. This groundbreaking initiative not only responds to the urgent demand from companies for more women engineers—because diversity fuels innovation—but also aligns perfectly with Womenvai's mission to break down barriers and empower female talent in STEM.

The inaugural ParityLab® cohort, welcomed in September 2025, represents a milestone. Early feedback from the admissions jury and applicant surveys is already shedding light on the motivations, challenges, and aspirations of these future engineers. These insights are invaluable as we work together to redefine orientation practices, making scientific pathways more inclusive, attractive, and equitable for all.

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At WOMENVAI, we will continue to champion our mission: to encourage, support, and empower women in every field of engineering, because “The future needs all of our intelligence.” But we cannot do it alone. The fight for gender parity in STEM—and beyond—demands stronger sorority across nations and movements. Whether at the UNFCCC COPs, UN Women's CSW, the WSIS, or other global forums, feminist voices must unite, amplify each other, and push for systemic change. Parity is not a distant dream; it is a daily commitment, and every action counts.

As we look ahead to 2026, let us make it a year of bold collaboration. Let us build bridges between feminist movements, share best practices, and ensure that no woman or girl is left behind in the transition to a sustainable, tech-driven future.

May this new year bring us closer to parity, open new doors for young women, and inspire projects that help our world grow and thrive. Together, let us continue our mission with determination and optimism.

With our deepest gratitude for your unwavering support,

Warmest wishes for the holiday season,

And here's to 2026—resolutely committed to progress, parity, and global sisterhood.

more information on: [the ParityLab® program](#)

## Calling for action in 2026! Gender and AI for sustainable STEM in Society

At WOMENVAI, we believe that preparing the next generation for the era of Artificial Intelligence is both urgent and inspiring.

Our project “Engineers of the Future in the Age of AI” introduces children aged 10–12 to STEM through playful robotics and simple AI concepts. By engaging young minds early, we aim to dismantle gender stereotypes, foster creativity, and highlight female role models in technical fields.

The kit combines hands-on robotics, visual programming, and scenarios that make AI tangible, while raising awareness of ethics, bias, and responsibility. It is designed to be inclusive, collaborative, and adaptable across schools and communities.

We now invite our members and partners to join us in co-creating this educational kit. Together, we can pool expertise, share resources, and build a powerful tool that inspires curiosity and equality. This collective effort will ensure that children everywhere see technology not as distant or exclusive, but as a space where they belong and can thrive.

If interested, please send us an email [contact@womenvai.org](mailto:contact@womenvai.org)



Report on the participation of President Womenvai Eng. Yvette Ramos Prof. Eng. Lidia Zakowska in the General Assembly of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations 2025 (WFEO 2025 GA) and in the World Engineering Congress (WEC) in Shanghai on October 12-16, 2025

**By Prof. dr hab. eng. Lidia Zakowska, delegate of Polish FSNT NOT to WFEO and WEC 2025, Chair Ethics of WOMENVAI**

We had a pleasure and honor to represent European engineers, participating as delegates of our national engineering organizations (Lidia from Polish FSNT NOT and Yvette from SwissEngineering Geneva) in WFEO 2025 GA and in the WEC World Engineering Congress. This prestigious event was jointly organized this year by the World Federation of Engineering Organizations, the China Association of Science and Technology, the Chinese Academy of Engineering and the Shanghai People's Municipal Government.

Under the slogan «Engineering Shaping a Green Future», the congress focused on the key role of engineering technologies in combating climate change, supporting green economic growth, shaping a globally sustainable and human-centric development framework, and improving the quality of life through engineering methods. The cooperation of experts and scientists in the field of engineering with WOMENVAI delegates help us the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

During the meeting of the board and members of the WIE WFEO (Women in Engineering) Committee, which we co-founded, we have presented the engineering activities carried out by Womenvai members worldwide and in the European Union in 2024 for the equality of women in and the sustainable achievements of women associated in our organizations.



Engineering >>>>>>>  
shapes a Green Future

**World Federation of Engineering Organizations 2025 General Assembly  
& Global Engineering Congress**

Shanghai, China | October 12-17, 2025



**By Yvette Ramos, co-lead of Theme 3 on Strategic Indicators - WFEO Women in Engineering (WIE) Committee**

Yvette contribution at the occasion of the World Engineering Congress held in Shanghai focused on presenting the critical task of building systems to measure what we treasure. Despite the growing recognition of women's role in engineering, there is still no universal framework to track their participation across countries. Percentages and ratios of women engineers are inconsistently reported, and in many contexts, data is either unavailable or incomparable. Our work seeks to address this gap by developing strategic indicators that can be applied globally, enabling reliable measurement of women's representation in engineering education, employment, leadership, and innovation. Such indicators are essential to identify progress, highlight disparities, and guide evidence-based policies. Without measurement, achievements remain invisible and challenges unaddressed.

By advancing this theme, we aim to ensure that women engineers are counted, valued, and supported. Measuring participation is not only about numbers—it is about recognizing contributions, promoting accountability, and driving systemic change. With clear indicators, we can strengthen advocacy, foster inclusion, and build a profession that reflects the diversity and talent of society.

More on <https://globaleducationnews.org/unesco-women-still-just-35-of-stem-graduates-no-progress-in-a-decade/>



Report on the participation of President Womenvai Eng. Yvette Ramos Prof. Eng. Lidia Zakowska in the General Assembly of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations 2025 (WFEO 2025 GA) and in the World Engineering Congress (WEC) in Shanghai on October 12-16, 2025

The World Engineering Congress in Shanghai, China in motion





# WOMENVAI delegation back from the UNFCCC Conference of Parties COP30 held in Belem, Brazil



## Beyond Governments: Stakeholder Diversity and Women's Vulnerability in Climate Negotiations

At COP30 in Belém, climate governance entered a new phase. Once dominated by governments, the Conferences of the Parties (COPs) have become discursive arenas where civil society, businesses, Indigenous communities, academic institutions, and international organizations contest meanings, frame problems, and propose solutions. This plurality enriches debates but also complicates them, as power asymmetries and conflicting interests often hinder decisive action.

The question remains: **do COPs still matter?** Despite criticisms of slow progress and compromise, COP30 demonstrated their continued relevance. Historic pledges of \$1.3 trillion annually for climate action by 2035 were announced, even as consensus on fossil fuel phase-out proved elusive. COPs remain the only global platform where diverse actors meet, and their legitimacy depends increasingly on the voices of non-state stakeholders.

**A second critical issue is gender.** Women are disproportionately vulnerable to climate change—not biologically, but because of structural inequalities. Limited access to resources, responsibilities for water, food, and care, and heightened risks of violence during climate-induced crises place women at the frontline. At COP30, youth and women's networks highlighted these realities, insisting that inclusive governance is not optional but essential for resilience and justice. The lesson from Belém is clear: governments alone cannot solve the climate crisis. Multilateralism must evolve to embrace stakeholder diversity and integrate women's leadership. Only by weaving together diverse narratives of justice, sovereignty, innovation, and survival can climate governance strengthen legitimacy and mobilize communities toward collective action.

Yvette Ramos had the chance to comment the COP30 outputs at the kind invitation of Charlotte Mader (France) and her team, at a round table organized by JCE Annecy, a JCI member, on December 9, 2025.

Visit the link : <https://www.jceannecy.org/>

## Designing Age-Friendly and Gender-Sensitive Cities in a Changing Climate, by Elisabetta Venezia (Italy)

At COP30 the session «Urban planning policy to boost Equity, Mobility, Physical and Mental Health in the context of climate change,» led by Womenvai in collaboration with numerous partners, including the University of Bari Aldo Moro, highlighted the need to address climate adaptation and demographic ageing together. The AGE-IT project shows that older adults face growing mobility challenges, from declining independence after age 80 to significant gaps in public transport, accessible routes, and digital inclusion. A gender perspective reveals even deeper inequalities. Unsafe streets, limited services, and the digital divide hurt older women more than other groups. After dark, they feel less safe and have more trouble getting around and participating in social activities. Gender and age also play a role in these feelings of insecurity and functional limitations, which make it harder to get around and participate in social activities.

Visit the link: <https://unfccc.int/cop30>

# WOMENVAI delegation back from the UNFCCC Conference of Parties COP30 held in Belem, Brazil



At COP30, OCEANPACT Brazil — a leading company in ocean protection and innovation, and a valued supporter of WOMENVAI

Amandine Cheve, from OCEANPACT (Brazil)

Joined with four delegates to strengthen the voice of the ocean in climate negotiations, who emphasized the urgent need to bring the ocean's voice to the forefront of climate discussions. Amandine reminds us of its vital role in regulating the climate, sequestering carbon, and sustaining coastal resilience, urging a shift in perspective: the ocean must no longer be seen merely as a resource to exploit, but as a central actor in climate solutions. For Brazil, this represents a unique opportunity to make the ocean an economic, environmental, and social ally—a driver of innovation and sustainable prosperity. Amandine also highlighted encouraging progress in North–South exchanges, with growing recognition of local knowledge and stronger attention to social and environmental conditions, while stressing that financing, technology, and opportunities must flow more equitably and inclusively. Reflecting on her experience in Brazil, she described it as a country of immense contrasts and collective vitality, where trust, human relationships, and time play a central role. Despite institutional complexities, Brazil's energy, creativity, and talent make it a constant source of inspiration and a privileged place from which to contribute to the “blue transition.”

Visit the link: <https://oceanpact.com/en/home/>

UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

# COP30

## AMAZÔNIA

CUIDAR DO PLANETA PARA O FUTURO DA HUMANIDADE

BELEM • BRASIL • 2025

### Urban planning policy to boost Equity, Mobility, Physical and mental Health in the context of climate change

**17th November 2025 \*\* 3pm-4:30pm (UTC-3)**

Hangar Convention and Fair Centre of the Amazon  
ROOM 1- Blue Zone of the COP30- Belém, Brazil

<https://meet.google.com/bp-aga-mnp> Join online





Elisabetta Venezia, University of Bari, Italy | Yvette Ramos, WOMENVAI Swiss Engineering Geneva, Switzerland | Lidia Zakowska, Cracow University of Technology, Poland | Hannah Marcus, World Federation of Public Health Associations, Canada | Daniela Alba, Beyond Climate Collaborative, Italy | Graciella Faico, American Psychological Association, Global Psychology Alliance, Brazil | Lylia Coelho, WOMENVAI, Brazil | Jessica Newberry Le Vay, Climate Cares Centre, UK | Harshita Umesh, Vaada Hope Foundation, India | Rabeb Aloui, UNEP Women's Major group, TU |



WFPHA  
World Federation of Public Health Associations



Beyond Climate Collaborative



GLOBAL PSYCHOLOGY ALLIANCE  
Psychology for Global Challenges



CLIMATE CARES  
Mental Health and Climate



UNITED FOR GLOBAL MENTAL HEALTH



SWISS ENGINEERING



UniBa  
UNIVERSITÀ DEL SALENTO



SPOKE 7



Age-It



Women's Major Group  
Creating a Just & Sustainable Future



WOMENVAI  
Women and their role in environment and artificial intelligence



AIIG in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN



# WOMENVAI delegation back from the UNFCCC Conference of Parties COP30 held in Belem, Brazil

## Views of the COP30 by Tamara Fain, Bruna Mascotte, Lylian Coelho (Brazil)



“Prior to COP30, I undertook an intensive mission in Brazil to promote resilient and inclusive water and sanitation systems. I participated in several meetings with SEMIL (the Secretariat of Environment, Infrastructure, and Logistics of São Paulo) to discuss sanitation, climate adaptation, and opportunities to integrate nature-based solutions into state planning. In Brasília, we explored partnerships that could accelerate equitable service delivery, particularly in vulnerable communities. Throughout these engagements, one guiding message shaped my contributions: no city can be healthy or climate-ready without resilient water and sanitation systems. Such systems safeguard public and mental

health, reduce inequalities, and enable communities to thrive. Brazil’s leadership and openness to collaboration provide a strong foundation for progress, and I remain committed—through our NGO—to supporting this transformation. Finally, I warmly thank WOMENVAI for granting me accreditation to participate in COP30, which made it possible to carry this message forward on an international stage. »

Lylian Coelho.

« Attending COP30 as a Brazilian was both a professional milestone and a deeply personal moment. In Belém, the Amazon was not just a topic of negotiation or science, it was a living reminder of what is at stake. I saw firsthand how forests have finally taken their rightful place as one of the key topics of the global climate agenda, recognized not only for their carbon value but for their people, cultures, and ecosystems.

I would also like to point out the strength of social participation. Indigenous leaders, youth groups, scientists, and community organizations shaped the discussions with clarity and courage. Their presence made COP30 more democratic and more grounded.

Amid a complex geopolitical landscape, I believe COP30 proved multilateralism is resilient. Countries showed that dialogue is still possible, consensus is still achievable, and collective action remains our best path forward, even if not at the level of ambition required to meet our global climate targets.

I would like to thank WomenVai for the support and opportunity to be a part of COP30! ».

Tamara Fain



“Representing WOMENVAI at COP30 in Belém was both a privilege and a powerful reminder of why climate leadership must be diverse, technical, and deeply human. Participating in discussions at the heart of the Amazon gave a special urgency to every conversation about transition and implementation. I had the opportunity to join a panel on carbon removal through bioenergy with CCS, where the debate focused on the real conditions needed to scale durable removals responsibly. Across multiple sessions, the central role of carbon accounting emerged as a cornerstone for credible climate action—without transparent measurement, ambition risks becoming rhetoric. I also moderated a session hosted by the World Economic Forum on the future of electric grids also stood out as a decisive enabler of the transition. Belém showed that the climate transition is no longer just about targets. It is about implementation and people working together to deliver real change.”

Bruna Mascotte

## WOMENVAI members and partners from around the world

### Back from the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee INC-5.2, Geneva- Switzerland

During these two days of the seminar on August 7 and 8, 2025, organized by the UN Environment Programme, as a member of WOMENVAI, I was able to attend very insightful negotiations, exchanges, and discussions aimed at tackling plastic pollution, which is truly a major issue in today's society. These exchanges were divided into several groups, each addressing different topics. I was able to observe in each of these groups that the wording in treaties has a real impact and is extremely important. Many discussions revolved around which words to use, which issues to address, and in what context. It was clear that these choices have an influence on countries and how they approach matters. I discovered how these negotiations take place and how significant they are, especially when dealing with such crucial issues as plastic pollution, ecological transition, or the impact of pollution on health. Many states expressed the need for better plastic management in order to "turn off the tap," which means substituting plastic with other materials and clearly reducing production. I was also able to explore the UN environment through the NGO WOMENVAI, which strongly supports the fight against plastic pollution and is deeply committed to it. Within our NGO, we therefore addressed topics such as the impact of plastic pollution on women and their health, the challenges of childbearing. So I hope that real decisions will be taken, despite the difficulties encountered during this seminar, because beyond the danger to nature, there is a real danger to human health. A big thanks for this experience to WOMENVAI and to Rabeb Aloui, who kindly mentored me.

Charlotte Kakol (France)



Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee  
INC 5.2 Schedule



Rabeb represented WOMENVAI and the Women's Major Group (WMG) at the Plastic Treaty negotiations in Geneva. She joined to bring feminist, regional, and civil society perspectives, and took part in observer briefings, where she delivered the opening plenary statement on behalf of the WMG, calling for a gender-responsive, health-centered, human-rights based treaty. As she helped creating space for women delegates and civil society to exchange and advocate for stronger health protections, Rabeb maintained daily engagement in contact groups, highlighting health impacts of plastics and moderating a press conference with Break Free From Plastic and the Coalition of Rights Holders to share key messages with the media. Rabeb engaged with African delegates to shape regional positions, and although the negotiations did not result in a treaty, her presence ensured feminist and regional voices were heard. She considers the engagement successful and believes the advocacy in Geneva set the stage for continued action toward a strong and ambitious plastics treaty. "Moving Forward The fight for a strong and ambitious plastics treaty is ongoing. While the absence of a final agreement was disappointing, our actions in Geneva helped set the stage for continued advocacy. I believe that the next step should be a follow-up meeting with IPEN members to reflect on our experiences, assess challenges, and shape the way forward. By continuing to work together, we can strengthen our strategies and ensure that our calls for health, justice, and accountability remain central to the negotiations."

Rabeb Aloui, (Tunisia)





## Fozzia Eden (Kenya) about UNGA NYC (USA)

### Reimagining a World Where Every Child, Woman, and Young Person Thrives.

Attending the Goalkeepers 2025 event, the Semafor “Next 3 Billion” Forum, and the High-Level African Women Leadership Forum on the sidelines of UNGA 80 in New York was an experience that touched me deeply, both personally and professionally. Each space carried its own energy, yet they were all connected by a shared purpose: to reimagine a world where every child, woman, and young person has the chance to thrive. At the Goalkeepers event, hosted by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, I was moved by the powerful discussions about global health and equality. Hearing that, for the first time in decades, child deaths are expected to rise was heartbreaking. It reminded me why advocacy work can never stop and that progress must be protected through constant action, investment, and compassion. The speakers emphasized that while we have the knowledge and tools to save lives, we must close the equity gaps that prevent millions of children from accessing care. I left that room reminded that every voice, every action, and every policy matters when it comes to protecting human life.

At the Semafor “Next 3 Billion” Forum, the focus shifted toward the future and how we can empower the next three billion people coming online to become innovators, creators, and leaders. The conversations around digital inclusion and equitable access deeply resonated with me. Coming from Kenya, where technology is transforming communities, I could feel the urgency behind ensuring that the digital revolution reaches everyone, not just a privileged few. It was a reminder that innovation must go hand in hand with inclusion, and that young people, especially across Africa, deserve to be at the center of global progress.

The High-Level African Women Leadership Forum, hosted by the African Union, UN Women, and UNDP, was particularly close to my heart. Sitting in a room full of African women leaders who are bold, visionary, and unstoppable, was beyond inspiring. The discussions focused on breaking the systemic barriers that continue to limit women’s political participation across the continent. As someone who has dedicated much of my work to advocating for women and girls, it was empowering to see how far we’ve come and how united we are in pushing for greater representation and inclusion in leadership.

Leaving UNGA 80, I felt renewed and reminded that leadership is not about titles, but about service, courage, and purpose. These moments reaffirmed why I do the work I do which is to fight for equity, to create opportunity, and to use my voice for those who have not yet been heard.



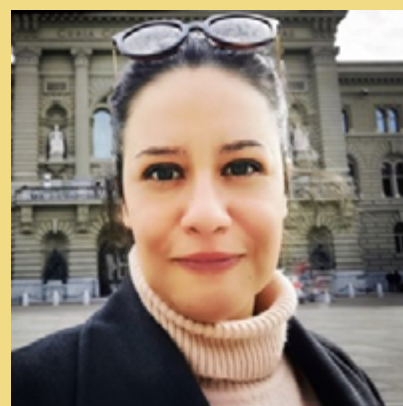
## AI and Gender Equality: A Catalyst or a Barrier?

By Katayoun Formica Hosseinejad (Iran/CH)

According to several studies, gender bias remains deeply embedded in many AI systems, reflecting broader societal inequalities and the skewed data on which these systems are trained. Addressing this challenge requires integrating gender equality from the very beginning of AI design, scrutinizing datasets for misrepresentation, diversifying data sources, and ensuring that development teams represent a wide range of experiences and identities.

Yet women remain underrepresented across the technology landscape. The World Economic Forum's [Global Gender Gap Report 2025](#) indicates that women make up only around 35% of the workforce in the Technology, Information, and Media sector, and that women’s roles in STEM are often concentrated in junior positions with limited opportunities for advancement. Expanding access to STEM and ICT education, and creating equitable pathways to leadership are essential steps toward closing this gap.

In addressing these gaps, the international governance of AI can play an important role. [The Global Digital Compact](#) (GDC) provides an important opportunity to embed gender perspectives into emerging digital and AI governance frameworks. Without deliberate action, AI could reinforce and intensify existing inequalities. With the right safeguards, however, it can serve as a powerful catalyst for promoting gender equality, for example, by correcting gender disparities, uncovering patterns of discrimination and supporting more inclusive decision-making.



## WOMENVAI delegation back from the UNEP United Nations Environment Assembly UNEA7 held in Nairobi, Kenya



The seventh UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-7), held in Nairobi in December 2025, gathered over 6,000 participants from 186 countries to address the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. As the world's highest decision-making body on the environment, UNEA-7 aimed to advance multilateral solutions for a resilient planet, reaffirming the urgency of collective action and the need to transform commitments into tangible results.

Member States adopted 11 resolutions, three decisions, and a Ministerial Declaration. These included commitments to safeguard coral reefs, strengthen chemicals and waste management, promote responsible minerals use, and explore sustainable applications of artificial intelligence. While progress was made, WOMENVAI stills notes that some critical issues remained unresolved, highlighting the challenges of global environmental diplomacy for example.

Civil society, women's groups, and youth networks played a visible role, advocating for inclusive approaches that recognize the disproportionate impacts of environmental degradation on vulnerable communities. Gender-responsive policies were emphasized as essential to ensure that environmental solutions address inequalities, while youth delegates called for urgent action to secure their future. These voices reinforced the principle that resilience must be built on equity and participation.

For WOMENVAI, UNEA-7 underscored the importance of linking gender equality with environmental governance. Measuring and amplifying women's contributions in science, engineering, and advocacy is vital to ensure that solutions are both effective and just. As UNEA-7 transitions from negotiation to implementation, our NGO remains committed to supporting inclusive strategies, empowering women and youth, and ensuring that the fight against the planetary crisis is also a fight for equality.

By Yvette Ramos (France)





# WOMENVAI delegation back from the UNEP United Nations Environment Assembly UNEA7 held in Nairobi, Kenya

WOMENVAI delegation was composed of Ms. Jeany Wendo, Ms. Marwa El Alaoui, Ms. Maurine Orare, Ms. Mia Snyder M. Rabeb Aloui, and Mr. Francis Kennedy Wanjiru. Reflections from UNEA-7 and the Global Youth Environment Assembly (YEA-3) provided valuable insights into climate resilience, soil health, and the synergies within the chemicals and waste cluster. As an example, the side events on Scaling Soil Health and Innovating for Climate Resilience highlighted the critical role of science, policy integration, and youth-led solutions in advancing sustainable land, water, and food systems.

« In Kenya, these discussions present strong opportunities for Womenvai to engage in community-based soil health initiatives, capacity building for young women in environmental science, and advocacy around sustainable agriculture and safe chemicals management. ( I happened to meet a young woman passionate on agricultural practices and soil activist called Lily Tanui , who later said she will contact me for soil testing at my workplace in Cropnuts where we do soil testing, where I am a soil testing chemist ). Partnerships with universities, youth networks, and grassroots organizations could strengthen Womenvai's visibility and impact nationally. I remain committed to supporting Womenvai's mission and advancing women and youth leadership in environmental sustainability. »

By Ken Njugi, chemist at Cropnuts Agrilab (Kenya).

At UNEA-7 in Nairobi, I joined 193 UN Member States in advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet. My focus was on the role of artificial intelligence in global environmental governance, exploring how emerging technologies can support action on the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. I emphasized the need for AI to be used responsibly, equitably, and sustainably, ensuring it strengthens multilateral cooperation. Thanks to accreditation from WOMENVAI, I was able to contribute to shaping this dialogue and highlight the importance of inclusive perspectives in environmental policy.

By Mia Snyder, student researcher on environmental and AI policy- UNEP Focus (USA)

Mya attended two side events exploring how artificial intelligence intersects with environmental governance:

**Environmental Fallout Across the Value Chain of AI: calling Global Governance:** AI's environmental footprint goes beyond energy. It involves water consumption, rare-mineral extraction for hardware, emissions, e-waste and social/ecological impacts throughout the full AI lifecycle. Expansion of semiconductor manufacturing and data-center infrastructure increases demand for ultrapure water and critical minerals, often straining water-scarce or resource-stressed regions. Some paths to reduce the footprint exist: more efficient, lightweight AI models; sustainable infrastructure design; reuse or recycling of hardware. Still, sustainable-AI research and transparent lifecycle accounting remain limited globally.

**Leveraging AI for better cooperation, collaboration and impact for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs):** AI can help strengthen environmental cooperation, improving data integration, reporting, access to information, and coordination across sectors. AI-powered tools for environmental data analysis, translation, reporting dashboards, policy modelling and capacity building could provide real benefits, especially for developing countries and vulnerable regions. At the same time, deploying these tools carries environmental trade-offs: increased resource use, energy demand and e-waste, so transparency, safeguards and equitable access must be built in from the start. This balance of risks and opportunities gives me hope that AI can support environmental action, as long as it's paired with strong governance, transparency and sustainable design.



# WOMENVAI key event “Women, Innovation and Sustainable Transition: Doing Business Differently” held on November 19, 2025, in Tunis to mark the World Women’s Entrepreneurship Day, in partnership with CCIT.



The event held at UTICA in Tunis to mark the World Women’s Entrepreneurship Day, aimed to celebrate and connect women entrepreneurs while fostering dialogue on sustainable business practices. The initiative sought to highlight inspiring journeys of Tunisian women entrepreneurs, create collective reflection on energy, digital, and ecological transitions, and share international best practices. It also promoted networking, mutual support, and identification of concrete needs through participatory workshops. A strong emphasis was placed on encouraging STEM pathways for girls from an early age, with role-model women facilitating engaging workshops.

The event was co-organized by WOMENVAI, an international NGO with UN ECOSOC observer status, dedicated to promoting women in STEM and inclusive innovation. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Tunis (CCIT) partnered as a key institutional actor supporting entrepreneurship and international cooperation. The National Chamber of Women Entrepreneurs (CNFCE) contributed its extensive network of female business leaders in Tunisia. Together, these organizations created a platform that combined local realities with international dynamics, ensuring visibility for Tunisian women entrepreneurs while anchoring the discussions in global frameworks. Partnerships were formalized through bilateral and tripartite agreements among CCIT, CNFCE, and WOMENVAI, reinforcing long-term collaboration.

The entrepreneurs showcased diverse themes reflecting the intersection of innovation and sustainability. Discussions focused on artificial intelligence and its role in enabling green technologies, smart agriculture, and climate adaptation. Other contributions emphasized technology for social impact, inclusive digital transformation, and women’s leadership in driving collaborative innovation. Success stories illustrated how women are reshaping business models through ecological resilience, renewable energy solutions, and responsible technology. The sessions also highlighted the importance of building ecosystems that empower women to transform local economies while connecting to international markets.



Several WOMENVAI members played central roles in the program, including Yvette Ramos, President, who moderated the session “Women Entrepreneurs & AI for a Sustainable Transition”, framing the debate on responsible innovation and inclusive impact. Betty Bonnardel-Azzarelli, CEO of Farmer Charlie and co-founder of WOMENVAI, presented “Smart Agriculture: Innovating for Sustainable Food Security”, emphasizing climate adaptation and rural women’s empowerment. Asma Brini, CEO of ABSHORE and co-founder of WOMENVAI, spoke on “Technology for Impact: Creating Sustainable Value through Responsible AI”, highlighting digital solutions for territorial transformation. Zaida Sammoud, CEO of HIBA Consulting and WOMENVAI Ambassador in Tunisia, contributed with “Women as Drivers of Sustainable Transition in Tunisia”, focusing on local digital and ecological transformation.



# Presenting our new Sponsors and Partners

Venue	Namagunga Primary Boarding School, Lugazi, Uganda
Date	19th September 2025
Moderator	Jacqueline Nagawa
Time	09:00 to 12:30hrs EAT



## School STEM\* Mentoring Outreach

*\*Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths*

KIDSVAI is an interactive mentoring tool designed to inspire students in STEM through school-based outreach. By connecting learners with real-world challenges and expert guidance, it fosters curiosity, critical thinking, and inclusive engagement. KIDSVAI empowers the next generation to explore STEM pathways with confidence and creativity.



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

## Publish your work in our next newsletter!

Send us your paper (max 150–200 words with photos – high def) to [contact@womenvai.org](mailto:contact@womenvai.org) no later than 15th March 2026!

We warmly thank all of you for your tireless dedication in advocating for women and girls in STEM over the years. As we continue to pursue our mission, we are always seeking new partners and sponsors—please help us amplify our voice, spread the word, and mobilize resources to strengthen opportunities for women and girls in science and technology. Inspire your families, friends, and colleagues to join us: the more we are, the stronger we stand, and together we remain UNITED.

Wishing you all the very best for 2026! Stay tuned—our General Assembly may take place in Geneva in June/July 2026, and we look forward to welcoming you there.