



## Announcing our 9th General Assembly 11th June 2026 in Geneva, Switzerland (hybrid)

see details page 2

The time has come to gather, reflect, and celebrate our collective achievements. We are delighted to invite you to our 9th General Assembly, taking place on June 11th at 14:00 (CET) at the MIA in Geneva. This will be a moment to connect, share insights, and shape the future of Womenvai together.

But the celebration starts earlier! On June 10th, we invite you to a boat cruise on Lake Geneva: a perfect opportunity to network and enjoy the beauty of Geneva. The next morning, June 11th from 10:00 to 12:00, we will visit the UNOG, offering a unique perspective on international cooperation.

> Please register by May 10th by sending an email to [contact@womenvai.org](mailto:contact@womenvai.org)  
 Further details will be shared with registered participants

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## Editorial: Together, Shaping the Future of Gender Equality, Climate Justice, and Ethical AI

By Yvette Ramos, President & Co-founder

Dear Members, Partners, and Friends of WOMENVAI,

As we stand at the midpoint of 2026, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the collective impact we continue to make. Our journey is one of resilience, innovation, and unwavering commitment to gender equality, climate justice, and the ethical development of artificial intelligence.

A year of milestones and advocacy: In March 2026, WOMENVAI had the honor of participating at the UN WOMEN CSW70 where our delegation presented our urgent call for gender equality, climate justice, and an equitable future in AI. Our oral statement, which you can read here, resonated with global leaders and reaffirmed our role as a catalyst for change. We are not just advocating for a seat at the table; we are building the table itself, ensuring that women's voices and expertise shape the policies and technologies of tomorrow.

Empowering the next Generation: Our commitment to education and empowerment remains at the core of our mission. We have been actively training educators and future engineers, notably at Engineering faculties, namely EPF (France), where our KidsVAI educational kit has sparked enthusiasm among young minds. This hands-on tool, which includes electrical assembly games, is designed to demystify STEM and inspire the next generation of innovators. I am also thrilled to share that KidsVAI 2.0 will be soon available, integrating robotics to attract young people to STEM at the same time raising awareness about AI biases, a critical step toward a more inclusive tech future.

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**Innovating for Safety and Justice:** Our Secure4Good® project is another testament to our dedication to leveraging technology for social good. By developing tools to launch alerts and protect victims of violence, we are turning innovation into action, ensuring that technology serves as a shield for the most vulnerable.

**Looking ahead:** upcoming global engagements : WOMENVAI will contribute to two major international events: [the SB64 \(UNFCCC, June 2026\)](#) and once again, we will raise the voice of civil society, particularly women engineers and scientists, in the fight against climate change. Our delegation will advocate for gender-responsive climate solutions and the inclusion of women's expertise in shaping a sustainable future.

We shall also be part of the [WSIS](#), held in parallel to the [AI Summit in Geneva](#) (July 2026), as WOMENVAI shall host two side events focusing on smart cities and STEM/IA education for young girls, reinforcing our commitment to bridging the gender gap in technology and innovation.

### Join our Executive Committee! A call for action:

- As we expand our horizons, we are looking for passionate individuals to join our Executive Committee. If you are eager to lead innovative projects and contribute to a sustainable future, we invite you to step forward and help us drive change.
- As we prepare for these exciting events, I encourage each of you to reflect on how far we have come and how much further we can go together. Whether you join us in Geneva, engage in our upcoming global forums, or support our mission from afar, your involvement is what makes WOMENVAI a force for change.
- Let's continue to break barriers, inspire innovation, and build a future where gender equality, climate justice, and ethical AI are not just ideals, but realities.
- Your skills, vision, and dedication can make a real difference in advancing our mission.

With gratitude & determination, **Yvette Ramos**



### \*\*IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT OUR GENERAL ASSEMBLY\*\*

Deadline to register : 10 may 2026

### WOMENVAI 9th GA- 11th June, 2:00 PM CET, Geneva, Switzerland

All active members are invited to join our General Assembly, which will take place at MIA – 15 rue des Savoises, Geneva. For remote connection and proxies, please send an email to the President at [yvette.ramos@womenvai.org](mailto:yvette.ramos@womenvai.org).

We are delighted to welcome you from June 10th for a two-hour boat cruise on Lake Geneva, departing from Quai du Mont-Blanc at 5:00 PM CET.

On June 11th a visit to the United Nations Office at Geneva will be organized from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM (a passport scan will be required for security purposes). If you are interested in joining, please register by May 10th by sending an email to [contact@womenvai.org](mailto:contact@womenvai.org). No registrations will be accepted after this deadline.

# Looking back on a busy and fruitful month of March, 2026: highlights at EPF School of Engineers, France

## Leadership in action by Yvette Ramos, President

March has been an exceptional month for WOMENVAI and its partners. We started with the EPF Alumni organization, actively strengthening its community and promoting equality in engineering, as we opened the month at EPF Cachan during UNESCO's World Engineering Day, celebrating generations of Alumni and reaffirming the school's commitment to innovation and gender equality.

Throughout the month, we led key engagements across campuses: meeting students and Alumni in various French cities (Cachan, Nantes, Paris, Saint-Nazaire), supporting inter-generational gatherings and encouraging vibrant Alumni afterworks! I proudly represented the network at the EPF graduation ceremony at the Cirque d'Hiver, honoring the Class of 2025. Together with my exec board team, EPF Alumni continues to grow, with new opportunities for members to join the Board and contribute to the network's future.

From sharing insights on women's entrepreneurship at ENS Paris (Ecole Normale Supérieure) to joining global leaders at UN Women's CSW70, this month has been rich in dialogue and action. Each space reinforces how vital it is to support women's leadership at every level. I'm proud to help advance these conversations both locally and internationally.



## ParityLab: Building Momentum for Gender Balance in STEM and driving Change Across Research, Recruitment, Training and Society

By Prof. Liliane Dorveaux, Vice-President, Womenvai and Fanny Oursel, new active Member (France)

At Womenvai, we are proud to see the ParityLab initiative gaining momentum and demonstrating how coordinated action can reshape the future of STEM. Developed with our partners and deployed at EPF Engineering School, ParityLab is not only transforming learning spaces : it is advancing change across several key axes: research, recruitment, training, and societal awareness.

The recent conference organised by Fanny Oursel, deputy Director of the Faculty, new member of WOMENVAI, with all first-year students in Montpellier marks a significant step forward. By engaging young men, challenging stereotypes, and giving students a platform to reflect and act, we are building the foundations for lasting cultural evolution in engineering. ParityLab is a living laboratory for inclusion, designed to expand to other institutions and inspire broader societal transformation. Together, we are opening new pathways for young women in science and technology and strengthening the movement toward true gender balance in STEM.

More on <https://www.epf.fr/formations/paritylab>

# Celebrating UNESCO World Engineering Day (WED) and Women's Day 2026

Central celebration in Warszawa, many other at engineering universities, branch organizations and governments, by Lidia Zakowska, Professor at Civil Engineering and Transportation PK, cofounder WOMENVAI, Poland



On the eve of the 7th WED for Sustainability, a solemn celebration of this Day took place in the Warsaw House of Technology NOT, Poland: this year's celebrations were held under the slogan «Space research and sustainable development». Civil Engineering Faculty at Cracow University of Technology PK has organized the special FORUM with many experts discussing the future of engineering careers in the AI area. This event attracted researchers, practitioners and students of engineering. The Zakopane government is another example of the local events organised for all citizens and tourists coming to this popular Polish region. This special event was connected also with the Women's Day and was called "Time of Women".



Recalling that Women Engineers are United in SCIENCE: our President celebrating WED and Women Day with WOMENVAI Members: Irene (Portugal) in France, Chong (China) in NYC, Kattayoun(Iran) in Geneva and young Students in Belize.



# WOMENVAI delegates at UN WOMEN, 70th assembly of the Commission on Status of Women, New York city, UN HQ. 9-18 March, 2026

## Building the World Women Deserve, by Mariam Kouyate (Mali, Kenya) -right on the photo below-



Mariam attended CSW70 in New York representing WOMENVAI, and the experience affirmed everything she is working towards. Sitting in each session, surrounded by women from every part of the world, she was reminded of something she already knew but needed to feel again: building just systems for women is urgent work. At a time when progress is being contested, being in that space was a reminder that the commitment holds, the work continues, and the people behind it are unwavering. The women present, survivors, lawyers, scientists, activists, indigenous rights defenders, were some of the most inspiring people she has encountered in this work, each one carrying a depth of commitment she will not forget.

The conversations around technology, justice, and care in public life were

the ones that stayed with her most. Much of what Mariam heard affirmed something she carries into her own practice every day: that when policy is rooted in lived experience, real change becomes possible. That is the foundation of WOMENVAI's work at the intersection of technology, environment, and women's rights. Together, we are building the world women deserve. She left energised, with new connections and a deeper sense of purpose.

## Beyond the Illusion of Justice, by Fozzia Aden (Kenya) -left on the photo-

I attended a range of events at CSW 70 at the UN HQ in New York City this year. These events focused on advancing the rights of women and girls globally. While the atmosphere felt quieter than in previous years, the urgency in the room had not diminished. If anything, it had shifted to less performance and more reckoning. There was a clear understanding that conversations alone are no longer enough.

One of the first events I attended focused on ending child marriage, led through the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage and in partnership with Girls Not Brides. What stayed with me wasn't policy language, it was the reminder that, despite years of commitments, progress is still not happening fast enough. There was a clear sense of urgency in the room, and an awareness of the gap between what is discussed in global spaces and what is happening in reality. The conversation made it clear that the issue is not a lack of solutions, but whether those solutions are truly reaching the girls they are meant to protect.

A few days later, I spoke at an event on female genital mutilation (FGM), a moment that was deeply personal. Before I took the stage, a clip from my documentary, *The Day I Will Never Forget*, was shown. Watching my own story unfold in that space, one that so often speaks about survivors, was grounding. When I stood to speak, I was not there only as an attorney or advocate. I was the story. I spoke about survival, about what is taken from girls, about the responsibility we carry when we say we are working to end it, and about the silence that allows it to continue. When survivors speak, silence begins to lose its voice. That moment was not about awareness, it was about accountability. It was about making it clear that protection for girls cannot remain conditional or delayed.

Across many of the events I attended, one idea continued to surface i.e. the illusion of justice. Systems exist that appear to protect women and girls, yet too often fail them in practice. Laws are written, frameworks are established, commitments are made, but access remains uneven, enforcement inconsistent, and lived realities unchanged. Justice, as it stands for many, is something promised but not delivered. These conversations reinforced that justice is not defined by its existence on paper, but by whether it can be reached.

Beyond these moments, I attended several other discussions addressing gender-based violence, economic empowerment, and global policy reform. While each conversation differed in focus, they all pointed to the same conclusion: progress requires more than participation, it requires trust, inclusion, and a willingness to shift who holds influence.

What stayed with me most is this: it is not enough to create space for voices if those voices do not shape outcomes. Being heard is not the same as being valued, and visibility is not the same as change. The work ahead is not just to continue the conversation, but to ensure that it leads somewhere real.

More <https://youtu.be/nnHoLIsD9II>



See you next year at CSW71 as a WOMENVAI delegate ! Contribute to our written statement! Interested? [contact@womensvai.org](mailto:contact@womensvai.org)

# WOMENVAI delegates at UN WOMEN, 70th assembly of the Commission on Status of Women, New York city, UN HQ. 9-18 March, 2026

## An inspiring and insightful experience, by Miriam Zalloco (UK/ Italy)

Attending CSW70 was an inspiring and insightful experience, filled with learning, meaningful conversations, and the opportunity to reconnect with colleagues I hadn't seen in a while.

I attended a range of sessions, but one that stood out was a side event on climate change leadership hosted by the Commonwealth. It explored different programmes in the Bahamas aimed at mitigating and responding to climate change, highlighting key challenges such as scalability, partnerships, flagship initiatives, and data gaps.

My biggest takeaway was the diversity of perspectives, particularly around the gendered impacts of today's global issues. The growing emphasis on intersectionality and interdisciplinary approaches was both thought-provoking and encouraging.

I look forward to seeing how Womenvai can play a role in contributing to these important conversations and driving meaningful change.



## A Journey of Advocacy, Learning, and Empowerment, by Aisha Hussein Roba, Kenya

As a survivor of female genital mutilation (FGM) and the Executive Director of Every Girl's Dream, attending the 2026 CSW was both an honor and a deeply personal journey. For years, I have worked at the grassroots level in Isiolo County Kenya, advocating for the rights of women and girls, ending FGM, and promoting education and economic empowerment. CSW offered me a global stage to amplify the voices of those we serve and to connect with advocates from around the world who share the same vision for gender equality.

During the sessions, I had the privilege of hearing from inspiring leaders, including government officials, activists, and young changemakers. One session that particularly resonated with me focused on the importance of inclusive youth engagement and the role young people play in shaping sustainable development. Another session highlighted the critical need to address barriers faced by marginalized groups, including refugees, women living with disabilities, and girls at risk of harmful practices such as FGM. Listening to these diverse experiences and perspectives reminded me that the fight for women's rights is both universal and deeply personal.

I was especially honored to meet Yvette from WOMENVAI, a moment that opened the door to exploring ideas and areas of collaboration. I am excited about the possibility of introducing girls from my community to STEM opportunities and other empowering programs, bridging local advocacy with global initiatives to expand access, skills, and confidence for young women.

CSW also gave me the opportunity to network with global advocates and policymakers, building relationships that will help strengthen the work we do at Every Girl's Dream. I left with new strategies for community engagement, innovative approaches to advocacy, and ideas on how to mobilize young people to be leaders of change in their own communities. Importantly, I now feel better equipped to cascade these learnings to my team, our volunteers, and the communities we serve, ensuring that every conversation and workshop we facilitate is informed by global best practices.

One of the most powerful takeaways from CSW was the affirmation that grassroots voices matter on the global stage. My journey as a survivor and advocate has taught me the importance of resilience, courage, and hope—and seeing these qualities reflected in other advocates worldwide strengthened my resolve to continue this work. I returned from CSW inspired and committed to deepening our advocacy efforts, expanding our initiatives to engage more community stakeholders, and continuing to empower girls in Isiolo to live free from FGM and with equal opportunities to pursue their dreams.

Attending CSW 2026 was more than an event—it was a reminder that change is possible when we amplify voices, share knowledge, and build partnerships across borders. I am grateful for the experience and for the opportunity to represent Every Girl's Dream, our communities, and the countless girls whose lives we strive to transform.

See you next year at CSW71 as a WOMENVAI delegate ! Contribute to our written statement! Interested? [contact@womenvai.org](mailto:contact@womenvai.org)

# WOMENVAI delegates at UN WOMEN, 70th assembly of the Commission on Status of Women, New York city, UN HQ. 9-18 March, 2026



## From Aspirational Justice to Financial Architecture: Rethinking Access to Climate Finance, by Elisabetta Venezia (Italy) -left on the photo here above-

The issue of fair access to climate finance is at the heart of whether climate justice can be put into action or is still just a dream. This was made clear during the CSW70 side event on advancing climate justice organized by The Commonwealth and to which Womenvai was invited with its delegates. The contribution focalized on the following aspects. In particular, from an applied economics standpoint, the challenges encountered by small island developing states (SIDS) and women-led organizations should be considered not incidental because they are structural. Climate finance systems have developed based on assumptions of scale, institutional maturity, and high transaction thresholds, favoring large, centralised projects and marginalising distributed, community-based resilience economies. Women in SIDS are at the forefront of adapting to climate change, though: they are keeping food systems going, rebuilding informal markets, and keeping care economies going after shocks. Their work has a big effect, but it is not worth much money, so it does not fit with the way funding is set up now. To close this gap, institutions need to be redesigned in a specific way. Models of proportional accreditation can help lower transaction costs that are too high. Support for readiness needs to go beyond training and into measurable capital flows. Women-led climate micro-funds and blended finance structures are examples of financial instruments that can better show how resilient a community is.

To finally get equal access, we need to spread out risk, make gender a part of national fiscal systems, and make gender-responsive data a stronger part of our financial infrastructure.

Climate justice will only become a reality when financial systems are intentionally designed to reflect the economic experiences of women.



See you next year at CSW71 as a WOMENVAI delegate ! Contribute to our written statement! Interested? [contact@womenvai.org](mailto:contact@womenvai.org)

## Spotlight on WOMENVAI Members: this month we present Mia SNYDER, researcher (USA)

Mia Snyder is an environmental governance researcher and Womenvai delegate to UNEA-7 in Kenya. She studies AI, sustainability, and global policy, drawing on experience with the Maryland General Assembly and international negotiations. A Washington College student graduating cum laude, she has earned distinctions including a UNEA-7 travel grant and MIT's Sustainable AI certification. Her work focuses on accountability, environmental policy, and equitable technology governance.

Mia's study examines how Artificial Intelligence (AI) is being integrated into global environmental governance, focusing on accountability at the 7th UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) held recently in Nairobi, Kenya. "AI is already embedded in governance practice and widely used by delegates, yet oversight mechanisms remain limited», she says. Through surveys, interviews, and observation, her research finds that 80% of participants use AI tools, often informally during negotiations, while simultaneously expressing strong concerns about bias, trust, and unclear responsibility. A major development at UNEA-7 was the adoption of the first resolution on the environmental sustainability of AI systems, which acknowledges that AI has its own environmental footprint. However, the resolution relies on voluntary cooperation rather than binding commitments, reflecting broader governance gaps highlighted by participants. Key concerns include non-representative data, Global North dominance in AI development, risks of misinformation, and the exclusion of Indigenous and local knowledge systems. Interviewees emphasized that accountability is fragmented across governments, private companies, and international institutions, making it difficult to assign responsibility when AI influences decisions. Issues such as "chat talking to chat," overreliance on AI-generated drafts, and linguistic inequalities further complicate participation. Participants also stressed the need for lifecycle assessments of AI's environmental impacts and warned about "sacrifice zones" where communities disproportionately bear the costs of AI infrastructure. Overall, the study concludes that AI's future role in environmental governance will depend less on technological progress and more on building transparent, inclusive, and accountable institutional frameworks.



Mia Snyder, researcher (USA)

### Next 2026 activities: WOMENVAI at the heart of global dialogues

Leveraging our ECOSOC consultative status, we are proud to bring our voice and mission to some of the most influential global platforms:

→ In June, we are participating in the UNFCCC SB64 meetings in Bonn, Germany, and contribute to critical discussions on climate action, gender equality, and the integration of innovative technologies for sustainable development. Our focus will be on ensuring that gender perspectives and the needs of women and girls are central to climate policy and implementation strategies

→ In July, we shall present at both the WSIS and AI for Good Summit in Geneva, Switzerland: these events are pivotal for shaping the future of digital cooperation and ethical AI governance, as we advocate for inclusive, gender-responsive AI solutions and highlight the importance of women's leadership in STEM and digital innovation;

→ In October, at the UNCBD-COP17 in Yerevan, Armenia, we join global leaders to advance biodiversity conservation and gender-sensitive environmental policies, as this landmark event offers a unique opportunity to align our KidsVAI and gender-climate initiatives with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

→ In November, at the UNFCCC- COP31 in Antalya, Turkey, WOMENVAI will engage in high-level dialogues on climate finance, adaptation, and the empowerment of women as agents of change, using this platform to showcase our partnerships and projects at the nexus of gender, climate, and STEM.

Beyond these major events, we are excited to deepen our collaboration with the University College London (UCL, UK) to inspire student-led projects at the intersection of the SDGs, particularly in gender, climate-environment, and STEM.

We also shall lead a series of train-the-trainer workshops in Tunis, Tunisia, as part of the Women Entrepreneur Day in November, expanding our KidsVAI program and empowering the next generation of changemakers.

> INTERESTED? Don't hesitate to join us !! [contact@womenvai.org](mailto:contact@womenvai.org)

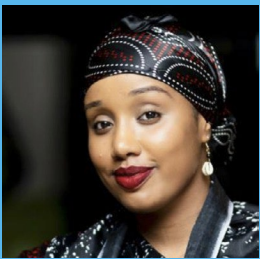


## Dr. Nwakaego Rosemary Emmanuel Ego Bekee, (Nigeria)

Educationist, entrepreneur, and humanitarian whose work advances the UN SDGs. With advanced degrees in Educational Management, she leads the Ego-Bekee Foundation, which sponsored hundreds of students, youth, mostly women and girls. Her initiatives include health campaigns and skills training for economic empowerment. Honored with traditional titles and an honorary doctorate, she aims to expand educational support, extend healthcare outreach and boost women's economic participation by 40%. Her work focuses on measurable, sustainable impact and inclusive development.

## Shanea Latoya Young, (Belize)

First female agrometeorologist, Senior Climatologist and Head of Climate Services at the National Meteorological Service of Belize. With a MSc in Applied Meteorology (Agrometeorology) and 16+ years' experience, she bridges STEM, climate science, and gender equity, leading Belize's climate services for agriculture and disaster resilience. A UNFCCC/IPCC delegate and WMO expert, she co-chairs regional climate teams and authors key reports on climate risks and drought management, advocating for inclusive, science-based climate action.



## Aisha Hussein Roba, (Kenya)

Young leader with a background in communication studies and a passion for empowering women and girls. A survivor of FGM and an award-winning activist, she raises awareness through her personal story and founded a survivors' network amplifying affected voices. She champions girls' education and economic empowerment, driven by the belief that every girl deserves safety, dignity, and the chance to reach her full potential.

## Fanny Oursel, (France)

Deputy General Director for Parity, Influence and Societal Innovation at EPF Engineering School, where she leads transformative initiatives advancing gender equality in STEM. With a strong background in strategic development and educational innovation, she drives projects like ParityLab that challenge stereotypes, empower students, and promote lasting cultural change across engineering education.



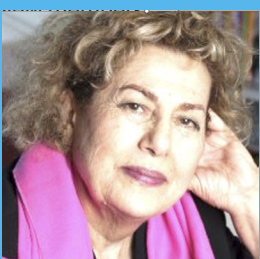
## Mariam Kouyate (Mali, Kenya)

A professional based in New York, committed to global development and cross-cultural engagement. With international experience spanning Mali, Kenya, and the USA, she brings a strong communication background and a passion for empowering communities. She supports initiatives that advance education, gender equality, and youth leadership, driven by the belief that inclusive opportunities and global collaboration are essential for meaningful, sustainable change.

## Adiya Urionu Ngozichukwuka, (Nigeria)

Accomplished author with works published in the USA and approved by the Library of Congress. A seasoned media consultant and development strategist with experience spanning news casting, documentary production, and inclusion-focused campaigns. CEO of April Benjamin and Dawn Communication Limited and the Executive Director of EDWIN. She also serves as a mining consultant to the Taraba State Government.

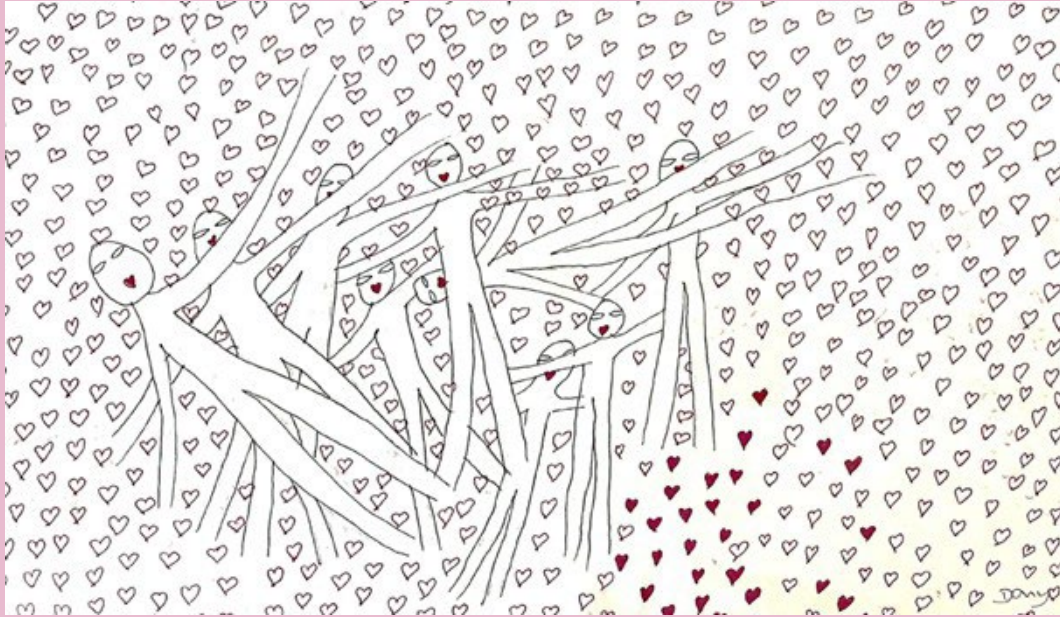
Her professional affiliations include being a Academically, she earned a BSc from the University of Lagos and an MBA from Trinity College Dublin.



## Dr. Svetlana A. Aslanyan, (Armenia)

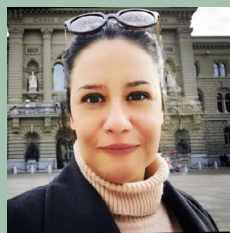
Professor Emerita of Yerevan State University, is a leading scholar with over 30 years of experience in research and teaching. As Director of Gender Studies at the UN-accredited Center for the Development of Civil Society, she has published more than 200 works and pioneered Armenia's first gender-studies course. A Fulbright and IREX Fellow, she has held research appointments in France, the Netherlands, and the United States. Her work has significantly advanced gender equality, women's rights, and civil society development in Armenia and beyond.

## Dany Garrido: a Portuguese artist whose work focuses on women's issues



**Dany Garrido** is a Portuguese artist whose work focuses on women's issues, using painting and illustration to explore themes of strength, courage, and the wild, untamed nature of women. One of her most notable works, "As guerreiras" ("The Warriors"), celebrates all women who stand out in the world, whether through art, painting, or writing. Garrido believes that every woman is a warrior, each possessing a wild, resilient spirit that deserves to be recognized and honored. In August 2025, Garrido presented her exhibition "O Enredo" at the Biblioteca Municipal Afonso Lopes Vieira in Leiria, Portugal, showcasing new paintings that continue her exploration of female empowerment and identity. Her art is deeply personal and socially engaged, often addressing the struggles and triumphs of women in contemporary society. Garrido's work is part of a broader movement of Portuguese women artists who use their creativity to challenge stereotypes, promote gender equality, and give voice to marginalized experiences

New Board proposal by the president for  
Executive Committee to be elected 2026-2030:  
in addition to the existing members, we are honoured to welcome  
Katayoun Formica (Iran, Switzerland) as resource mobilizer and  
Zaida Sammoud (Tunisia) as co-Chair programmes for Middle-East & North Africa,  
happy to have you both on board soon !



[Katayoun Formica](#)  
[Hosseinnejad](#)



[Zaida Sammoud](#)

### Who we are :

- 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

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