

SUBJECT TO CHANGE



WOMEN IN SUSTAINABILITY,  
ENVIRONMENT AND  
RENEWABLE ENERGY



An initiative by



Under the Official Patronage of



## **AIWF x WiSER HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE** *on the sidelines of LONDON CLIMATE WEEK 2024*

# **Building on the UAE Consensus Women leaders in climate action and sustainable development**

**Fostering UK-MENA Partnerships for Growth, Collaboration and Innovation for  
Women and Young Leaders in Climate & Sustainability**

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**An initiative of the Arab International Women's Forum (AIWF - UK) and  
Women in Sustainability, Environment and Renewable Energy (WiSER - UAE)  
in partnership with and under the Official Patronage of the COP28 UAE  
Presidency**



**Thursday 27 June 2024 | 08:30 – 17:30**  
**Royal Academy of Engineering | London, UK**

*‘Those who are most affected by climate change today – women, girls and marginalised communities – must be involved in the design and implementation of climate response actions to ensure the equal sharing of benefits.’* UN Women, [Why women need to be at the heart of climate action](#)

## CONFERENCE BACKGROUND

In May 2023, ahead of the UAE hosting the UN Climate Change Conference COP28 in Dubai in November last year, the Arab International Women’s Forum (AIWF) and Women in Sustainability, Environment and Renewable Energy (WiSER) joined forces to champion women’s collective spirit for innovation at a major one-day conference, ‘[Building on the UAE Consensus: Women-Led Innovation in Climate, Sustainability & STEM](#)’. The event was held on 10 May 2023 at the Royal Academy of Engineering in London.

Building on their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on International Women’s Day 2021, AIWF and WiSER are committed to nurturing and enhancing connections to empower young women leaders across the UK, UAE, and the MENA region. The collaborative event "On the Road to COP28" marked a significant milestone in the AIWF x WiSER partnership, providing a unique and inclusive platform to forge new alliances in line with the spirit of SDG17 (‘Partnerships for the Goals’) and SDG5 (Gender Equality). This initiative ensured that the voices and interests of women and young leaders remain central in pivotal discussions concerning climate action, food security, water resilience, clean energy, the future of work, responsible business practices, sustainable financing, innovation, and technology-driven economies.

The May 2023 conference provided a platform for dialogue, discovery and cross-cultural business and leadership exchange in the run up to COP28. It brought into focus how women are working to mitigate challenges to women’s leadership and inclusion in climate through science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) innovation, education and entrepreneurship. The program aimed to advance innovative solutions to climate and sustainability challenges which disproportionately affect women and young people living in the MENA region.

The key learnings and recommendations that emerged from the panel sessions across five key tracks were captured in a report and recommendations published jointly by AIWF and WiSER in November 2023. The full report is available [here](#) and a summary of recommendations can be viewed [here](#).

## THE UAE CONSENSUS

The COP28 UN Climate Change Conference, held from 30 November to 13 December 2023 under the Presidency of the United Arab Emirates, was a pivotal step forward in ongoing global climate strategy and dialogue addressing climate change challenges. With over 85,000 participants, including more than 150 Heads of State and Government, among the representatives of national delegations, civil society, business, Indigenous Peoples, youth, philanthropy, and international organizations in attendance, central outcomes included enhanced commitments to emission reduction, with an emphasis on achieving net-zero targets by the mid-century.

COP28’s landmark declaration, The UAE Consensus, sets an ambitious and actionable roadmap for combating climate change and fostering sustainable development. Nations collectively agreed to ramp up renewable energy adoption, phasing out fossil fuels in favour of sustainable alternatives. Financial frameworks were a focal point, with developed countries pledging increased support for climate finance, aiding developing nations in mitigation and adaptation efforts. Significantly, the UAE Consensus underscored the urgency of integrating climate resilience into national policies, ensuring ecosystems and communities are fortified against climate-induced adversities. A notable advancement was the agreement on a 'loss and damage' fund, aimed at supporting vulnerable countries disproportionately affected by climate disasters.

This was also a landmark 'COP for Youth', with the introduction at COP28 of a Youth Climate Champion for all future COPs highlighting the importance of involving younger generations in climate action discussions and acknowledging the vital role of youth as agents of change and the critical significance of their unique perspectives and participation on climate issues.

## CONFERENCE THEMES & OBJECTIVES

On Thursday 27 June 2024, under the Official Patronage of the COP28 UAE Presidency, AIWF and WiSER will return to the Royal Academy of Engineering in London to connect young women leaders with change makers from the public, private, non-governmental organisation (NGO), STEM and environmental sectors for a highly interactive follow-up conference, '**Building on the UAE Consensus: Women Leaders in Climate Action & Sustainable Development**'.

The Conference will take place as a parallel / side event during [London Climate Action Week 2024](#) and will spotlight and explore the exciting and critical opportunities for women and young leaders to emerge from the landmark decisions made at COP28 and leading into COP29.

Throughout the day, we'll engage with business leaders, entrepreneurs, innovators, and emerging talents in sustainability and STEM fields from the UK, US, Europe, and across the MENA region. They'll collaborate, sharing best practices, strategies, and insights to drive the UAE Consensus and Action Agenda. Central to this dialogue is the prioritization of women in climate action.

This inclusive conference will construct a tangible framework of recommendations for empowering women in climate action, innovation, technology, and policy, aligned with global climate commitments and the resolutions established at COP28.

Panels are strategically designed to spotlight key elements from the UAE Consensus, including:

- Creating climate finance models that are inclusive to enhance climate innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Investigating the crucial role of AI and data in assessing the effects of climate change on women and girls, and promoting gender-responsive climate actions.
- Addressing food security hurdles through sustainable agricultural methods, agricultural technology, and enhancing climate resilience in our food systems.
- Expanding clean energy solutions to alleviate energy poverty and reinforce energy security, with a specific emphasis on the impact on women and girls.
- Fostering the development of future leaders in climate and sustainability by providing support to young leaders in these fields.

As with all AIWF and WiSER events and initiatives, we look forward to welcoming distinguished business and civil society sustainability leaders from the UK and Europe, MENA, Africa and internationally, both as panel speakers and as valued guest delegates. On this special occasion, we also look forward to welcoming key representatives from the COP28 Presidency in a high-level delegation from the UAE as well as representatives from the COP29 Organising Committee from Azerbaijan.

This booklet contains the draft program with an indication of invited and confirmed speakers (subject to change). The full agenda and the portal to register interest in attending the conference as a guest delegate is now live on the AIWF [website](#).

## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME (ONE-DAY)

THURSDAY 27 JUNE 2024 | ON THE SIDELINES OF LONDON CLIMATE ACTION WEEK

\* Subject to confirmation

**0830 – 0900**                      **Registration & Tea / Coffee / Breakfast Pastries**

**0900 – 1000**                      **Opening Keynote Session I | The UAE Consensus: Turning Agreements into Action**

Invited Guest of Honour Speakers

**Haifa Al Kaylani OBE**, President & Founder, Arab International Women's Forum (AIWF), UK; Commissioner, ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work (2017-2019); Fellow, Harvard Advanced Leadership Initiative 2017

**Dr Lamya Fawwaz**, Executive Director of Brand and Strategic Initiatives at Masdar, and Program Director of WiSER; Board Member, AIWF, UAE\*

**The Right Honourable Lord Cameron**, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, FCDO, UK

**HE Mariam Almheiri**, Chairman of International Affairs Office at the Presidential Court, UAE

**HE Ambassador Mansoor Abulhoul**, UAE Ambassador to the United Kingdom

**HE Razan Al Mubarak**, UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for the COP28 Presidency, President of the International Union for Conservation of Nature & Managing Director of the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi (EAD) and the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund (MBZ Fund), UAE

**HE Adnan Z Amin**, CEO COP28 Office, Senior Research Fellow at Harvard's Belfer Center, UAE

**Hayaatun Sillem CBE**, CEO, Royal Academy of Engineering, UK

1000 – 1100

## Panel Session II | **The role of women in driving sustainable agriculture, agri tech and climate resilience in food and water systems**

*The UAE Declaration emphasized the central role of agriculture and food systems in achieving the Paris Agreement's goals. It stressed the urgent need for adaptation and transformation in response to climate change. The Declaration highlighted the importance of creating an equitable playing field for women innovators, farmers, SME owners, and scientists in these sectors.*

*This panel will:*

- *Identify challenges faced by women and youth in food, water, and agriculture.*
- *Explore opportunities for women's inclusion in global food and water system transformations.*
- *Highlight solutions to ensure that international commitments on food security, water resilience, and sustainable agriculture prioritize women's involvement in global progress?*

### Session Chair

**Haifa Al Kaylani OBE**, President & Founder, Arab International Women's Forum, UK

### Invited Distinguished Guest Speakers (subject to change / confirmation)

**Tala Alem**, Head of Sustainability, PepsiCo, KSA

**Natasha Carmi**, Water-Peace Programme Manager, Geneva Water Hub, Switzerland

**Julian Lampietti**, Manager for Global Engagement in the Agriculture and Food Global Practice, The World Bank, USA

**Dina Saleh**, Executive Director, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Italy

**Dorothy Shaver**, Global Food Sustainability Director, Unilever; Founding Board Member, Food for Climate League, The Netherlands

**Olivia Sibony**, Founder, SeedTribe; Deputy Chair, London Sustainable Development Commission (LSDC), Board Member of UCL's Fast Forward 2030 & Foodtech Entrepreneur, UK

**Dr Rachel Waterhouse**, Team Leader, Sustainable Water & Food Systems, Climate and Environment Division at Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), UK

1100 - 1115

**Tea & Coffee Break**

1115 – 1215

## Panel Session III | **A gender-responsive approach to AI development to drive climate action**

*AI and data will play a critical role in empowering climate action, with COP28 elevating the potential for AI. However, although women are more impacted by climate change than men, they are vastly underrepresented in this space. This panel will bring together experts in gender, AI, and climate action to delve into critical issues surrounding the evolution of this technology.*

*Topics covered in this panel will include:*

- *Examining how biases inherent in datasets impede inclusive climate solutions, amplifying existing gender disparities in resource allocation and decision-making.*
- *Actions to ensure an inclusive role for women entrepreneurs in leveraging AI for climate action.*

- *Strategic steps to expand AI use in gender-aligned climate action, including infrastructure development, investment, capacity building, and policy frameworks.*
- *Empowering women-led climate tech initiatives through investment, research, and training.*

Session Chair

**Ana Avaliani**, Director of Enterprise, Royal Academy of Engineering, UK

Invited Distinguished Guest Speakers (subject to change / confirmation)

**Dr Mhairi Aitken**, Ethics Fellow in the Public Policy Programme at The Alan Turing Institute, Visiting Senior Lecturer at the Digital Environment Research Institute, Queen Mary University of London | 2023 '100 Brilliant Women in AI Ethics', UK

**Hana AlHashimi**, Chief Climate Negotiator, Office of the UAE Climate Change Special Envoy, UAE

**May Al Karooni**, CEO and Founder of Globe Chain, UK

**Cristina Bortes**, Director, Economic Development and Women's Economic Empowerment, PwC, UK

**Anna Dorangricchia**, Programme Manager Gender Equality, Union for the Mediterranean, Spain

**Professor Sana Khareghani**, Professor of Practice, King's College London; Chair - Public Engagement, Outreach and Policy, Responsible AI UK; Former Head of the UK Government Office for AI, UK

**Dana Shukirbayeva**, ESG KZ Consulting Bureau, Forest Hero StartUp & WiSER Pioneer, Kazakhstan

**Dr Paula Nieto Quintano**, Head of Mapping and Carbon Science, Space Intelligence, UK

1215 – 1315

## Panel Session IV | Fueling the Future: Women-led innovation in clean energy to address energy poverty and energy security

*Energy is inextricably linked to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals; in addition to mitigating climate change, transforming energy systems offers opportunities for job creation, livelihood enhancement, and empowerment, particularly for women. At COP28, significant initiatives were launched to address the 2.3 billion people lacking access to clean cooking solutions. This includes the Global Cooling Pledge and the Global Electric Cooking Coalition. Additionally, 130 countries pledged to triple renewable energy capacity and double energy efficiency improvements by 2030.*

*This panel will explore:*

- *Women's contributions in driving energy sector change.*
- *Policies impacting women's access to finance and capacity building in the energy sector.*
- *The ways in which gender aware policies and investments can improve the impact of clean energy deployment.*

Invited Session Chair

**Dr Angela Wilkinson**, Secretary General, World Energy Council, UK

Invited Distinguished Guest Speakers (subject to change / confirmation)

**HE Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei**, Minister of Energy & Infrastructure, UAE

**HE Dr Nawal Al Hosany**, UAE Permanent Representative to IRENA, UAE

**Dr Enass Abo Hamed**, Co-Founder of H2Go Power, UK

**Buthaina Alkhayat**, Electrical Maintenance Engineer, ADNOC Offshore & WiSER Pioneer, UAE

**Fatema Al Nuaimi**, Executive Vice President, Downstream Business Management, ADNOC LNG, UAE

**Basima Abdulrahman**, Founder & CEO of KESK, Iraq

**Ola Balbaa**, Young Professional Board Member, POWERful Women, UK

**Damilola Ogunbiyi**, CEO and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All and Co-Chair of UN-Energy, USA  
**Dr Ashok Sinha**, Chair of the London Sustainable Development Commission (LSDC), UK  
**Dr Nina Skorupska CBE FEI**, CEO, Association for Renewable Energy and Clean Technology, UK  
**Dymphna Van Der Lans**, Chief Executive Officer, Clean Cooking Alliance, USA  
**Dr Kandeh K Yumkella**, CEO Energy Nexus Network, Former UN Under Secretary General and Special Representative For Sustainable Energy for All and Director General of UNIDO, USA

1315 – 1400

### **Sustainable Buffet Lunch & Networking**

## **AFTERNOON SESSIONS**

1400 – 1500

### **Panel Session V | Creating Youth Climate Champions: Empowering the next generation of sustainability leaders**

*At COP28, inclusivity reached unprecedented levels, with a diverse range of global leaders, ministers, mayors, youth, private sector representatives, and Indigenous Peoples in attendance. Youth engagement was prioritized, leading to the appointment of a Youth Climate Champion by the COP Presidency to ensure ongoing youth involvement in climate action.*

*In this session, AIWF and WiSER will emphasize the importance of including younger generations in climate discussions as catalysts for change. The panel will explore:*

- *Challenges to youth inclusion in climate action.*
- *Opportunities for advancing and empowering youth climate champions, not only at future COPs but also in education and economic domains.*
- *Strategies to ensure that youth voices are not just heard but also influential in decision-making processes, economic development, and diverse climate leadership.*

#### Session Chair

**Rawan Al Faqir**, President of Young Diplomats in London, First Secretary at the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Embassy in the United Kingdom & 2023 Young Diplomat of the Year, UK\*

#### Invited Distinguished Guest Speakers (subject to change / confirmation)

**HE Shamma Al Mazrui**, Minister of Community Development & Youth Climate Champion of COP28, UAE

**Mona Alsaydlani**, Sustainability Manager, Neom, Saudi Arabia

**Dr Mona Betour El Zoghbi**, Programme Manager - CISL Executive Education, Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership, UK

**Professor Georgina Gough**, Professor of Education for Sustainable Development, University of the West of England, UK

**Leyla Hasanova**, Youth Climate Champion COP29, Azerbaijan

**Hannah Jones**, CEO, The Earthshot Prize, UK

1500 – 1600

### **Panel Session VI | Making climate finance work for all – financing models to support women-led climate innovation and entrepreneurship**

*COP28 highlighted the responsibility of financial actors, including governments, central banks, commercial banks, and institutional investors, to manage climate-related financial risks and ensure inclusive access to finance for women. The UAE Consensus recognized a significant shortfall in climate finance, stressing the need to increase finance flows aligned with climate goals and simplify access to these funds. Despite efforts, current levels of climate finance, technology development, and capacity-building for adaptation are insufficient to combat worsening climate impacts. Moreover, the gap in adaptation finance is widening.*

*This panel will:*

- *Explore solutions to barriers faced by women in accessing climate finance.*
- *Showcase gender-inclusive approaches and successful financing models for women.*
- *Discuss necessary policy and societal shifts to rapidly scale climate finance and enable full participation of female climate entrepreneurs in the transition.*

Session Chair

**Barbara Rambousek**, Director, Gender & Economic Inclusion, European Bank for Reconstruction & Development (EBRD), UK

Invited Distinguished Guest Speakers (subject to change / confirmation)

**Joe Cerrell**, Managing Director for Europe, the Middle East, and East Asia (EMEEA), Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, UK

**Cinzia Chiriac**, Head of ESG Regulatory Affairs, Bloomberg, UK

**Linda Fitz-Alan**, Registrar and Chief Executive of ADGM Courts & Advisory Council of WiSER, UAE

**Doris Honold**, Chair, Climate Bond Initiative, UK

**Amina Sundby Merkebawi**, Just Transition Consultant, International Labour Organization; Board Member at London School of Social Enterprise and Sustainable Economics, UK

**Dr Mahmoud Mohieldin**, Executive Director, International Monetary Fund & UN Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

**Celeste Leverton**, Associate Director & Sustainability Manager, Coutts, UK

**David Ramos**, Head of Sustainability for HSBC Bank Middle East, North Africa and Turkey, UAE

1600 - 1620

Tea & Coffee Break

1620 – 1715

## Closing Session VII | ‘The Future We Want’ AIWF Young Arab Women Leaders & WiSER Pioneers Panel

*In this special session, members of the AIWF Young Arab Women Leaders and WiSER Pioneers Programmes will convene. During the panel, speakers will share their personal journeys, challenges and success stories, inspiring other young leaders and arriving at a clear call to action to elevate institutional, educational and entrepreneurial support for innovators in climate, environment sciences and STEM.*

Invited Session Chair

**Cristina Bortes**, Director, Economic Development and Women's Economic Empowerment, PwC, UK

Invited Distinguished Guest Speakers (subject to change / confirmation)

**Mariam Al Saad**, Founder & Director, Al Manakh, Climate Change Researcher & LEED-certified Civil and Structural Engineer, Kuwait

**Reem Mussabbeh**, Serial Tech Entrepreneur, Commercial Executive and Energy Engineer, Al Futtaim Engineering & WiSER Pioneer, UAE

**Sara Mustafa**, Postgraduate & WiSER Pioneer, University of Cambridge, Sudan

**Tracey Saber**, MEng Engineering Science - University of Oxford, Participant in the Vice-Chancellor's Colloquium on Climate Change, Former Co-President of the Engineers Without Borders Oxford Chapter, UK

1715 – 1729

### Closing Remarks

**Haifa Al Kaylani OBE**, President & Founder, Arab International Women's Forum, UK

1720

Close of Conference