

SUBJECT TO CHANGE



WOMEN IN SUSTAINABILITY,
ENVIRONMENT AND
RENEWABLE ENERGY



An initiative by



In Partnership With



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)

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AND UNDER THE OFFICIAL PATRONAGE OF THE COP28 UAE PRESIDENCY

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

** Subject to confirmation*

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

0900 – 0930 **Opening Session 1A | 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

0930 – 1000 **Opening Session 1B | The UAE Consensus and SDG5**

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

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

Chiara Corazza, Private Sector Representative for France within the G20 EMPOWER Alliance appointed by President Emmanuel Macron, Member of the G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council & AIWF Board Member, France

MORNING SESSIONS

1000 – 1045

Session 2 | Panel: **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

Distinguished Guest Speakers (in alphabetical order)

Dr Manal Azzi, Senior Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Specialist, International Labour Organization (ILO), Switzerland

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

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

Sarah El Battouty, Global Ambassador UNFCCC High Level Climate Champions, Green Entrepreneur, Founder of ECONSULT, Advisor to Egyptian Presidency on Climate, Egypt

1045 – 1115

Tea & Coffee Networking Break

1115 – 1200

Session 3 | Panel: **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 (in alphabetical order)

May Al Karooni, CEO and Founder of Globe Chain, 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 – 1300

Session 4 | Panel: 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.*

Session Chair

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

Distinguished Guest Speakers (in alphabetical order)

HE Dr Nawal Al Hosany, Permanent Representative of the UAE to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) & Deputy Director General of the Emirates Diplomatic Academy (EDA), UAE

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

Dr Enass Abo Hamed MBE, CEO at H2GO Power and Board Trustee at Royal Academy of Engineering, UK

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

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

1300 – 1315

Afternoon Keynote
TBC

1315 – 1415

Sustainable Buffet Lunch & Networking

1415 – 1500

Session 5 | Panel: **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

Distinguished Guest Speakers (in alphabetical order)

Nicole Iseppi, Director of Energy Innovation, Bezos Earth Fund, The Netherlands

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

Doris Honold, Chair, Climate Bond Initiative, UK

Jennifer Jordan-Saifi MVO, CEO, Sustainable Markets Initiative, UK

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

1515 – 1555

Session 6A | Panel Discussion **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

Distinguished Guest Speakers (in alphabetical order)

Mona Alsaydlani, Sustainability Manager, Neom, Saudi Arabia

Dr Mona Betour El Zoghbi, Senior Network 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

Professor Hayat Sindi, Biotechnologist and champion of STEM in the Middle East; Founder and President of the Institute for Imagination and Ingenuity (i2institute), Saudi Arabia

1555 – 1615

Session 6B | Short Talk Series The Future We Want

Distinguished Guest Speakers (in alphabetical order)

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

1630 – 1645

Closing Keynote
TBC, TBC

1645 – 1730

Networking Refreshments / Close of Conference