

SUBJECT TO CHANGE



ARAB INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S FORUM
المنتدى العربي الدولي للمرأة

WOMEN IN SUSTAINABILITY,
ENVIRONMENT AND
RENEWABLE ENERGY



Women Building Resilient Communities



Royal Academy
of Engineering

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME (ONE-DAY)

TUESDAY 24 JUNE 2025 09:30 – 17:00 | ON THE SIDELINES OF LONDON CLIMATE ACTION WEEK
ROYAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING | LONDON, UK

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* Subject to confirmation

0930 – 1000 **Registration & Tea / Coffee / Breakfast Pastries**

1000 – 1030 **Opening Session**

Proposed 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; Advisory Council Member, World Agriculture Forum

Dr Lamya Fawwaz, Executive Director of Brand and Strategic Initiatives at Masdar, and Program Director of WiSER; Director of the Zayed Sustainability Prize; Board Member, AIWF, UAE

Rachel Kyte, UK Special Representative for Climate; former Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and CEO of Sustainable Energy for All; former World Bank Group Vice President and Special Envoy for Climate Change, former Vice President for Sustainable Development at the World Bank, former Vice President Business Advisory Services at the International Finance Corporation, UK

TBC, PepsiCo AMENA

TBC, Royal Academy of Engineering, UK

PILLAR I: INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

1030 – 1110 **Panel: Transforming Food & Water Systems for Climate Resilience**

In this session, panellists will identify and map out scalable, women-led solutions for regenerative agriculture, sustainable aquaculture, or water conservation practices.

Session Chair

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

Confirmed Guest Speakers (in alphabetical order)

Hassan Halawy, CEO, Elite Agritech Division, UAE

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

Joanna Purcell, Head of Partnerships, Crop Trust, Germany

Dina Saleh, Regional Director of the Near East, North Africa and Europe Division, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Italy

1110 – 1130 **Networking & Refreshments**

1130 – 1210

Panel: **AI for Equitable Climate Action**

In this session, panellists will explore how AI can be leveraged responsibly—taking into account gender equity and community engagement—to tackle climate risks.

Session Chair

Professor Rym Ayadi, Founder and President, Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association; Professor at the Bayes Business School, City University of London; Co-Founder of the Brain Capital Alliance and of the Brain Economy Hub, Spain

Invited Guest Speakers (in alphabetical order)

Professor Dhiya Al-Jumeily OBE, Professor of Artificial Intelligence, Liverpool John Moores University & Senior Member, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), UK
Lauren Pilgreen, Head of Startup Innovation, Sustainable Ventures, UK
Patricia Torres, Global Head of Sustainable Finance Solutions, Bloomberg
Dr Anand Verma, Founder & CEO, Expect AI

1210 – 1230

Short Talk Series

Brief, TED-style presentations featuring visionaries—from grassroots activists to established climate leaders—showcasing personal journeys, bold ideas, and calls to action.

Elena Sinel, Founder of Teens in AI, UK
Sarah El Battouty, UN Climate Change High-Level Champion, Entrepreneur, Climate Activist, Architect & Non-Resident Scholar at Middle East Institute, Egypt

PILLAR II: ACCESS TO FINANCE

1230 – 1310

Panel: **Financing Women-Led Climate Ventures**

This session aims to demystify the funding landscape—impact investing, blended finance, microfinance, etc.—and showcase successful case studies of women-led climate startups.

Session Chair

Nadine Habbal, Founder & Director, Further Edge; Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors, Arabia Insurance Cooperative Co (AICC), UK

Confirmed Guest Speakers (in alphabetical order)

May Al Karooni, CEO and Founder of Globe Chain, UK
Wedad Almarzooqi, Head of Sustainability, Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, WiSER Pioneer
Lola Fernandez Flores, Principal, VentureSouq, UAE
Sophia Swire, Founder & CEO, GEDI (Gender Equity Diversity Investments Ltd), UK

1310 – 1350

Panel: **Bridging the Financing Gap for Women-Led Climate Enterprises**

In this panel, we explore innovative financial instruments and partnership models—from carbon credits to climate bonds—to help women entrepreneurs access and manage capital for scalable climate solutions. This session will include practical case studies, interactive exercises on proposal development, and guidance on building strong investor and philanthropic partnerships.

Session Chair

Fatima Hadj, Chairwoman of Structured Finance Advisory & ESG Columnist, HSBC

Invited Guest Speakers (in alphabetical order)

Maxine Chehab, Senior Investment Manager, Finance in Motion, Germany

Doris Honold, Chair, Climate Bond Initiative, UK

Michael Liebreich, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, Liebreich Associates

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

Dr Miray Zaki, International MD of Pegasus Capital Advisors and Co-Founder of Chanya Impact, UK / UAE

1350 – 1440

Sustainable Buffet Lunch & Networking

1440 – 1500

Short Talk Series

Brief, TED-style presentations featuring visionaries—from grassroots activists to established climate leaders—showcasing personal journeys, bold ideas, and calls to action.

Dr Hanan Albuflasa, Assistant Professor of Renewable Energy, University of Bahrain; former Acting Director General of Energy Efficiency at the Ministry of Electricity and Water Affairs, Bahrain

Alexis McGivern, Head of Stakeholder Engagement, Oxford Net Zero, UK

Dr Angela Wilkinson, Secretary General, World Energy Council (Video)

PILLAR III: POLICY & LEADERSHIP

1500 – 1540

Panel: How Local Solutions Can Feed into Broader Policy

This session will highlight grassroots innovations that have successfully attracted investment and scaled to broader impact.

Session Chair

Dina Saleh, Regional Director of the Near East, North Africa and Europe Division, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Italy

Guest Speakers (in alphabetical order)

Hajer Al Ketbi, Director of Government Communication, UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, UAE

Dr Sonia Ben Jafar, CEO, Abdullah Al Ghurair Foundation, UAE

Camilla Melis, Max Thabiso Ekins Climate Ambassador – World Bank Group; former Advisor to the G7 Italian Presidency at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Y20 EU Delegate; WiSER Pioneer

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

Lamé Verre, Director, Net Zero, UK

1540 – 1620

Panel: Empowering Next-Generation Sustainability Leaders

This session will focus on emerging youth leadership in the climate space—how they're innovating, mobilizing communities, and influencing policy.

Session Chair

Dr Christelle Comair, Head of Women's Research Centre, Royal University for Women, Bahrain

Confirmed Guest Speakers (in alphabetical order)

Fatima Afghan, Sanitation Projects Planner, Dubai Municipality, WiSER Pioneer

Gihan Hyde, CEO, CommUnique, UK

Amina Sundby Merkebawi, Sustainable Development Specialist & Member of the Governing Council, London School of Social Enterprise & Sustainable Economics, UK

Dr Souad Mohamed, Strategic Advisor on Leadership Development and Women's Advancement (UK, MENA, Africa); Senior Visiting Fellow and Programme for Africa Leadership Faculty, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), UK; CEO, IEL International, UK; Advisory Council Member, Harvard Business Review, UK

1620 – 1640

Networking & Refreshments

1640 – 1710

Fireside Chat

In conversation with a prominent female policymaker or climate negotiator, exploring personal experiences, lessons learned, and recommendations for accelerating women-led solutions in governance.

Kate Hampton, Chief Executive Officer, Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF)

Mercedes Vela Monserrate, Chief Executive Officer, Global Climate Finance Center (GCFC)

1710

Closing Remarks

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