

جنّاح  
المائة  
WOMEN'S  
PAVILION

EXPO 2020  
IN COLLABORATION  
WITH *Cartier*

presents



المجلس العالمي للمرأة  
WOMEN'S WORLD MAJLIS

# CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY WEEK

**Mother Nature's First Defenders:** Women leading the fight to save our planet

Women's Pavilion Programming, in partnership with World Majlis

## Session Agenda



**CLIMATE AND  
BIODIVERSITY  
WEEK**

3-9 OCTOBER 2021

**HOW ARE WOMEN  
LEADING THE PRACTICES  
OF SAVING OUR PLANET?**

<b>Date</b>	Monday October 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2021
<b>Time</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertised event time: 3:00-4:30 PM Dubai Time</li> <li>• Meet at 2:30 PM at the Women's Pavilion Majlis</li> <li>• Discussion on stage 3:00-4:30 PM Dubai Time</li> </ul>
<b>Venue</b>	Women's Pavilion Majlis
<b>Brief</b>	<p><b>Women are the “greener” gender – having a lower carbon footprint as well as leading the fight to defend Mother Nature’s biodiversity; yet they are too often under-recognised.</b></p> <p>Research shows that across the world, women on average have smaller carbon footprint than men - 20% less in many countries -, which lies in the core of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Climate Institute, 2019). This is a result of both women's climate awareness as well as their energy-efficacy consumption patterns and daily habits.</p> <p>When it comes to Convention to Biological Diversity, women are also the frontline conservators for biodiversity and traditional knowledge for nature. The connection between women and planet continues to grow as men work away from home while women in rural areas cultivate the land, gather and manage resources. Women often have a more specialized knowledge of various local and neglected species.</p> <p>Research also shows that nations where women have higher political status tend to have lower CO2 emissions per capita. Yet women only comprise less than 30% of world's climate and biodiversity researchers, only 38% of world's national delegation in environmental governance, and only 12% of heads of environment sector ministries (UNFCCC, 2019).</p> <p>With little time left to keep global warming under 1.5 degrees, we must address the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do we ensure women's participation and leadership in environmental governance?</li> <li>• How do we optimize women's special relationship with nature, and their having smaller carbon footprint?</li> <li>• How can we record, distribute and celebrate women's knowledge and contribution to biodiversity conservation and preservation?</li> </ul> <p>Join us for this Women's World Majlis to discuss these questions and explore ways forward to protect and preserve our Mother Nature and build a better future.</p>
<b>Agenda</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Women's Pavilion team introduce Dr Nawal Al-Hosany on stage</li> <li>2. Dr Nawal Al-Hosany says a few words and introduces opening speaker, Christiana Figueres</li> <li>3. Keynote speech by Christiana Figueres (10 min)</li> <li>4. Dr Nawal Al-Hosany thanks Christiana, sets the scene of the conversation and introduce panelists (5 min)</li> <li>5. Moderated panel discussion (60 min) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Including virtual participant (Sam McCloskey) and referencing to Dr Sinead Walsh in the audience</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. Moderated Q&amp;A session (15 min)</li> </ol>

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## PARTICIPANTS

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### **Her Excellency Dr. Nawal Al-Hosany -- Moderator**

Permanent Representative of the UAE, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), UAE

Her Excellency Dr. Nawal Al-Hosany is the Permanent Representative of the UAE to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) since April 2018. Prior to this, she was the Executive Director of Sustainability at Masdar, Abu Dhabi's renewable energy company, and the Director of the Zayed Future Energy Prize, the UAE's annual global awards for renewable energy and sustainability. She also served as the Deputy Director General of the Emirates Diplomatic Academy (EDA) between 2017-2018.



Apart from her current position and as part of her professional career, Dr. Al-Hosany assumes many positions in various business sectors, government entities and academic institutions in the UAE and internationally. She is also a member of several boards and committees, including the advisory council of National Geographic magazine, in addition to her board membership in many local, regional and international initiatives and organizations, such as the advisory board of the Payne Institute in Colorado School of Mines, the advisory Panel for the Momentum for Change initiative of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and her previous membership in the Board of Trustees of the Khalifa University of Science and Technology (February 2017 – April 2020). Dr. Al-Hosany is also part of Sustainable Energy for All's (SEforALL) Leadership Council, a newly-formed group of globally influential leaders with a shared mission to accelerate action on Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7) and the Paris Climate Agreement.

Her professional achievements have been widely acknowledged through prestigious awards. In July 2018, Dr. Al-Hosany was presented the "Doctor of letters Honoris Causa" from Keele University in the UK in recognition for her achievements in the field of sustainability. Dr Al-Hosany also received the "Arab Woman Award" and the "Emirates Business Women Award".

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### **Christiana Figueres -- Opening statement**

Executive Secretary (2010-2016), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Costa Rica

Christiana Figueres is a Costa Rican citizen and was the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 2010 - 2016. During her tenure, Ms. Figueres brought together national and sub-national governments, corporations and activists, women's groups, scientists and spiritual communities, financial institutions and NGOs to jointly deliver the historic 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Under this Agreement, 195 sovereign governments decided on a collaborative path to limit future global warming to well below 2°C, and strive for 1.5°C in order to protect the most vulnerable in every nation. For this achievement Ms. Figueres has been credited with forging a new brand of collaborative diplomacy, for which she has received multiple awards.



Since then Ms. Figueres has continued to foster rapid action on climate change, She is the co-author of *The Future We Choose, The Stubborn Optimist's Guide to the Climate Crisis* (Penguin Random House 2019) and co-host of the podcast *Outrage and Optimism*. She also sits on the Board of ACCIONA and ACCIONA Energia.

She is a graduate of Swarthmore College and the London School of Economics and has been awarded multiple honorary doctorate degrees from academic institutions such as Yale, University of Massachusetts, Georgetown and University of Edinburgh. After decades of living and working abroad, she has moved back to her beloved Costa Rica. She has two fantastic daughters, Naima and Yihana, fountains of much joy.

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### **HE Natasa Pilidou – Panelist**

Minister of Energy, Commerce and Industry, Cyprus

Natasa Pilides was appointed Minister of Energy, Commerce and Industry on July 10<sup>th</sup> 2020. Previously, on March 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 she had been appointed as the first Shipping Deputy Minister of the Republic of Cyprus, heading the strategic development and promotion of Cyprus as a world class, integrated, maritime cluster. From April 2016 to March 2018, Ms Pilides was Director General of the Cyprus Investment Promotion Agency (Invest Cyprus), responsible for the design and implementation of Invest Cyprus' strategy in investment promotion, investor support and facilitation of reform.



She has more than fifteen years of private sector experience, notably as Director and Regional Chief Operating Officer at Baker Tilly South East Europe, heading the departments of Finance, Marketing, HR, Administration, Operations and IT, for Cyprus, Greece, Romania, Bulgaria and Moldova. She also worked, for 9 years, at PwC in Cyprus, Milan and London, in audit and tax consulting of multinational companies active in the fields of banking and finance, shipping, insurance, energy, construction and FMCG.

Ms Pilides has wide experience in delivering professional training and courses for ICAEW, ACCA and CIMA exams, in the areas of audit, tax, corporate law, ethics, financial accounting and reporting, at BPP London, a leading professional studies organisation.

She graduated from Oxford University with a first-class honours degree, with distinction, in Modern Languages and Literature (French and Italian). She is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales (ICAEW) and a member of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Cyprus (ICPAC).

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### **Alexandra Palt – Panelist**

Executive Vice President - Chief Corporate Responsibility Officer, L'Oréal  
Executive Vice President, The Fondation L'Oréal



A lawyer by training, Alexandra specialized in human rights. She began her career at a law firm and then worked for Amnesty International in Germany and at organizations specializing in diversity, change management and sustainability.

In 2012, she joined L'Oréal as Chief Sustainability Officer and launched L'Oréal's first sustainability program, with a set of objectives to be achieved by the end of 2020.

In 2017, Alexandra was appointed Chief Corporate Responsibility Officer, becoming the Executive Vice President of the Fondation L'Oréal in addition to her role as head of the Sustainability Department. She became a member of L'Oréal's Executive Committee two years later.

In June 2020, L'Oréal launched its new sustainability program for 2030, L'Oréal for the Future.

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**Dr. Reem Almealla -- Panelist**

Research Manager, Bahrain Institute for Pearls & Gemstones (DANAT), Bahrain



Dr. Reem Al Mealla is Bahrain Institute for Pearls and Gemstones (DANAT)'s Research Manager and a marine biologist by profession. She is the first Bahraini woman field ecologist and holds a PhD in Marine Biology from the University of Essex (UK) & a MSc in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation from Imperial College London (UK). She was awarded the Abel Imray Award (joint) from the University of Essex for the best outstanding research project of the year 2010 in an ecological based project and the M.E.I (Motivational. Empowering and Inspiring) Women's Award in 2017 by the University of Essex in celebration of International Women's Day.

She specialises in coral reef ecology and has over 10 years of field research experience in tropical and sub-tropical environments. Her research interests include reef carbonate budgets, population genetics, utilizing nature based solutions to mitigate and adapt to climate change in addition to environmental policies. Reem deeply believes that for future generations to exist on a healthy planet, it is mandatory for all to cultivate a culture of sustainability and environmental consciousness. This belief and commitment have led her to being involved in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) negotiation processes.

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**Dr Gladys Kalema – Panelist**

Environmentalist/Founder, Conservation Through Public Health, Uganda



Dr. Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka has become one of the leading conservationists and scientists working to save the critically endangered mountain gorillas of East Africa. She is founder and Chief Executive Officer of Conservation Through Public Health (CTPH), a 18-year-old non-profit organization that promotes conservation by improving the quality of life of people and wildlife to enable them to coexist in and around protected areas in Africa. She also founded a social enterprise – Gorilla Conservation Coffee to support farmers living around gorilla habitats.

She became an Ashoka Fellow in 2007 for merging Uganda's wildlife management and rural public health programs to create common resources for both people and animals. Dr. Gladys trained as a veterinarian at the University of London's Royal Veterinary College. Between 1996 and 2000, she set up the first Veterinary Unit at the Uganda Wildlife Authority. From 2000 to 2003, she completed a zoological medicine residency and masters in specialized veterinary medicine at North Carolina State University and North Carolina Zoological Park. Prior to setting up CTPH she also did a certificate in Non-profit management from Duke University. Most recently in 2016, she completed an MBA in Global Business and Sustainability – Social Entrepreneurship Track. She became a National Geographic Explorer in 2018 and is on the Women for Environment Leadership Council – Africa. She has recently been listed in the Avance Media 2021 100 most influential African women.

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**Sam McCloskey – Panelist (virtual participation)**

Director, Centre for Advanced Sustainable Energy, UK

McCloskey is the director of CASE, an industry-led sustainable energy research centre that bridges the gap between industry research needs and traditional academic research offerings. CASE provides access to research funding for industrial partners in Energy Systems, Bioenergy and Marine Renewables.



**Dr Sinead Walsh – Audience member for floor intervention**

Climate Envoy & Deputy Director General of Irish Aid and Africa, Department of Foreign Affairs, Ireland

Prior to this she served as the EU Ambassador to South Sudan. She has worked for Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs since 2009. She previously served as the Ambassador of Ireland to Sierra Leone and Liberia and the Head of Irish Aid in the two countries.

Before joining the government, Sinead spent ten years in the NGO sector. She has an MSc in Development Studies from UCD and a PhD in Social Policy from the LSE.

She is the co-author of *Getting to Zero: A Doctor and A Diplomat on the Ebola Frontline*.

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## Appendix

- Expo 2020 Dubai, the Women's Pavilion and the World Majlis programme
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### EXPO 2020 DUBAI

Since the first Great Exhibition held in London in 1851, Expos have connected people and provided special spaces to spark dialogue amongst those who are curious about the future.

Running from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022, Expo 2020 Dubai will bring the world together to imagine, design and build a more sustainable, dignified and prosperous world. One that is cleaner, safer and healthier. One inspired by collective action around shared challenges, and in which future generations will flourish. Under the theme of "Connecting Minds, Creating the Future" and our three sub-themes of Sustainability, Mobility and Opportunity, Expo will be a platform for positive, collaborative change.

### THE WOMEN'S PAVILION AT EXPO 2020 DUBAI

Our Women's Pavilion, under the exhibition title 'New Perspectives', is a critical component of this vision and will be curated by Expo 2020 Dubai in collaboration with Cartier. In highlighting the positive contributions of women, we will demonstrate that when women thrive, so too does all of humanity.

The UAE has dedicated itself to ensuring that issues related to gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) are centrally addressed in everything we do at Expo 2020 Dubai. By shining a light on women past and present, known and unknown, the Women's Pavilion challenges the misconceptions that women still frequently face, seeks out new perspectives on the impact women bring to our world, explores new approaches to creating a more equal world, and identifies ways in which we, together, can create new perspectives, change deep-rooted perceptions, and adjust mindsets.

Through different modes of convening, our goal is to highlight that the only way to peace, prosperity, and sustainability is through the full and equal participation of women.

### WORLD MAJLIS PROGRAMME

Deeply rooted in the traditions of the UAE, the Majlis is one of the cornerstones of Emirati civilisation. In Arabic, "majlis" means 'place of sitting' and refers to both a social gathering space and a formal legislative assembly for government. A place where people meet to hear informed opinions and shape decisions on subjects that matter to the community. The host of the majlis and his guests sit facing one another and engage in respectful but vibrant conversation, with the view of better understanding issues and exploring solutions.

*The majlis has been inscribed in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. It defines majlis as a "sitting place" where community members gather to discuss local events and issues, exchange news, receive guests, socialise and be entertained."*

The World Majlis aims to be one of the most engaging and thought-provoking dialogues ever held at an Expo. It is a space for ideas and conversations to make important and complex topics relatable to the general public. It brings together diverse points of views across geographies and generations. It invites open and informed exchanges between its participants with the objective to generate new insights and start meaningful connections between people and new ideas.

### WOMEN'S WORLD MAJLIS

The Women's World Majlis is a key programming series at the Women's Pavilion in partnership with the World Majlis. In ten sessions, we will look into ten Expo Thematic Weeks' topics through a gender lens by recognizing and celebrating women's role and positive contributions in advancing sustainable development adapting a free-flowing conversation format.

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## Appendix

- Relevant facts and figures to prepare for Majis session
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### Women as the “greener gender”

- Studies of gender consumption patterns show that men eat more meat than women and drive longer distances, potentially leading to higher total energy use by men. In this study we calculated the total energy use for male and female consumption patterns in four European countries (Germany, Norway, Greece and Sweden) by studying single households. Significant differences in total energy use were found in two countries, Greece and Sweden. The largest differences found between men and women were for travel and eating out, alcohol and tobacco, where men used much more energy than women. ([Science Direct](#))
- There’s a long history of research that indicates women are the greener gender—at least when it comes to their attitudes and preferences. Since the 1980s, most studies have found that women are somewhat more likely to express concern about environmental issues than men are, particularly when the issues are local and threaten people’s health and safety. A [recent analysis](#) (PDF) of Gallup Poll data from 2001 to 2008 also found that women take climate change more seriously: They were more likely to say they worried about global warming “a great deal,” that they believed it would threaten their way of life during their lifetimes, and that the news media underestimates the seriousness of the problem. <https://slate.com/technology/2010/11/which-is-the-greener-gender.html>
- According to a [new study](#) in *Social Science Research*, “controlling for other factors, in nations where women’s status is higher, CO2 emissions are lower.” Study coauthors Christina Ergas and Richard York, sociologists at the University of Oregon–Eugene, write: even when controlling for a variety of measures of “modernization,” world-system position, and democracy, nations where women have higher political status — as indicated by the length of time women have had the right to vote and women’s representation in parliament and ministerial government — tend to have lower CO2 emissions per capita.
  - <https://grist.org/climate-change/more-power-for-women-means-less-climate-pollution/>
- Women have long surpassed men in the arena of environmental action; across age groups and countries, females tend to live a more eco-friendly lifestyle. Compared to men, women [litter less](#), [recycle more](#), and [leave a smaller carbon footprint](#). Some [researchers](#) have suggested that personality differences, such as women’s prioritization of altruism, may help to explain this gender gap in green behavior. <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/men-resist-green-behavior-as-unmanly/>
- “*Women Generate Less Greenhouse Gas Emissions Than Men While Travelling*” <https://www.indiatimes.com/technology/science-and-future/greenhouse-gas-emissions-women-are-more-eco-friendly-than-men-while-travelling-515515.html>
- After Hurricane María struck Puerto Rico, and families struggled to endure without power or water for months, women shouldered more of the burden. <https://www.oxfamamerica.org/explore/stories/hurricane-maria-put-a-disproportionate-burden-on-women/>

### Gender equality and environmental protection

- According to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), in 2020 women held only 15 percent of top jobs in Environment Ministries worldwide. That’s an increase of just three percent in five years. <https://www.iucn.org/news/gender/202103/new-data-reveals-slow-progress-achieving-gender-equality-environmental-decision-making>
- The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is the largest global fund to fight climate change, and was launched in 2010 at COP16 in Cancun, Mexico, with an explicit gender equality mandate. <https://www.greenclimate.fund/projects/gender>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YKmvdiXIDFI&t=210s>

### Gender-responsive planning for natural disasters and climate-related emergencies

- According to UN data, women and children are 14 times more likely than men to die during a disaster. Women accounted for 61 percent of fatalities caused by Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar in 2008, 70–80 percent in the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, and 91 percent in the 1991 cyclone in Bangladesh. <https://www.wecaninternational.org/why-women> <https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/women-in-shadow-climate-change>
  - “Extreme weather events such as droughts and floods have a greater impact on the poor and most vulnerable – 70 percent of the world’s poor are women.” <https://www.iucn.org/resources/issues-briefs/gender-and-climate-change>
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<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/priority-areas/gender-and-science/cross-cutting-issues/climate-change-and-gender-equality/facts-and-figures/>

- Community rescue, support and rebuilding efforts, as well as conflict resolution, all substantially improve after a disaster if women are allowed to actively participate in disaster planning and response programmes.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/humanitarian-action/disaster-risk-reduction>

### **Women's expertise in sustainable energy and access to natural resources**

- According to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), renewable energy employs about 32% women, compared to 22% in the energy sector overall. Still, within renewables, women's participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) jobs is far lower than in administrative jobs. <https://www.irena.org/publications/2019/Jan/Renewable-Energy-A-Gender-Perspective>
- The average percentage of women working in the power sector at just 22-25% of total employees. And the number of women in the most senior roles at utilities remains low. Women account for just 17% of total board members, 21% of non-executive board members, 6% of executive board members and 15% of senior management team members. [https://www.ey.com/en\\_gl/women-power-utilities/could-gender-equality-be-the-innovation-boost-utilities-need](https://www.ey.com/en_gl/women-power-utilities/could-gender-equality-be-the-innovation-boost-utilities-need)
- Women form almost half of the agricultural labour force in developing countries, and up to 60 percent in parts of Africa and Asia, but they own less than 20 percent of the land. The Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that if women had the same access to productive resources as men, they could increase yields on their farms by 20-30 per cent, raising total agricultural output in developing countries by 2.5-4 per cent.
- Closing the gender gap in terms of access to agricultural inputs alone could lift 100-150 million people out of hunger. <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/460267/icode/>
- "Small farmers – mainly women -- produce 80% of the food in Africa on just 15% of the agricultural land, and control 80% of the seeds produced and exchanged on small farms." <https://www.unep-wcmc.org/news/empowering-rural-women-and-girls-as-a-solution-to-environmental-sustainability-and-food-security>
- Women and girls are responsible for collecting water in almost two thirds of households in developing countries. As such they hold crucial knowledge of local water systems and how to steward them. <https://en.unesco.org/news/water-gender-and-climate-better-data-better-adaptation-strategies>

### **Countries and renewable energy:**

- India is expected to be the largest contributor to the renewables upswing in 2021, with the country's annual additions almost doubling from 2020. <https://www.iea.org/reports/renewables-2020>
- In 2019, Iceland was leading the way with 79,08% of its primary energy from renewable sources. <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/renewable-share-energy>
- China is the first largest producer of renewable energy, but is one of the six emerging economies to produce 40% of the global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2019. <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/10/co2-emissions-renewable-energy-china-india-brazil>

### **Women as 'guardians of biodiversity'?**

- According to a UN Environment publication, *Biodiversity for the well-being of women*, "women provide almost 80 percent of the total wild vegetable food collected in 135 different subsistence-based societies. Up to 80 percent of the population in the many developing countries relies on traditional medicine. Women often have a more specialized knowledge of various local and neglected species."

<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/rural-women-help-preserve-biodiversity>

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