

The Women's Pavilion

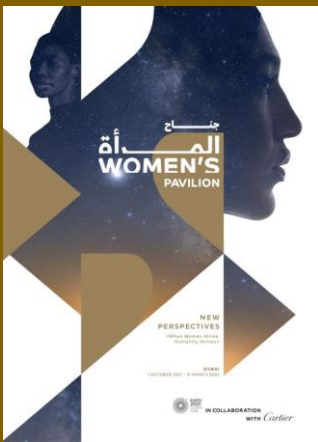
October Highlights



Expo 2020 Dubai partnered with the UAE Gender Balance Council. Under the leadership and guidance of HH Sheikha Manal bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Council will host an array of sessions throughout Expo and at the Women's Pavilion.

KEY DISCUSSIONS

Watch our Inauguration Ceremony



Explore our exhibition and upcoming events

Expo Sr Vice-President Hind Al Owais writes "The Women's Pavilion: Shattering the Glass Ceiling"

The UAE Gender Balance Council launched its report "Balance for Better"



PROGRAMME FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET

- ❖ **Climate and Biodiversity Week.** We need to recognise that women and girls are not only disproportionately negatively affected, but also how involving them disproportionately affects positive change. We must eliminate narratives that push women to the side and stereotypes that discourage girls from entering the fields of climate science and conservation. We held discussions around these topics with HE Christiana Figueres and many others. [Read more.](#)
- ❖ **Space Week.** Innovation is driven by diversity. Scientific progress goes hand in hand with combining different perspectives. That is what women, especially in the space sector, can bring to the table. Closing the gender gap in this inspirational and aspirational sector is needed to get the most out of space. HE Sarah Al Amiri gave a keynote speech and we spoke among others with HE Simonetta di Pippo and HE Marcos Pontes on how to expand equal opportunities in space. [Read more.](#)

VISIONS & JOURNEYS

- ❖ In this intimate series of fireside chats with prominent personalities from across the globe, we discussed visions and personal journeys towards a more gender equal future. We spoke about support systems, quotas and societal bias with HE Louise Mushikiwabo, HE Natasa Pilides, HE Dr. Elizabeta Gjorgievska, HE Dr. Orsolya Ferencz and many others who shared their own stories and experiences with us. [Read more.](#)

OUTLIER SERIES

- ❖ Reflecting the rich variety of partnerships of the Women's Pavilion, we discussed issues ranging from child marriage with Save the Children, to career progression with the EU, leadership with NAMA, women traders with ICC, UPS and others, gender and the digital economy with Mastercard and we staged the first of the action-oriented Cartier Outlier sessions. [Read more.](#)

THROUGH THE GENDER-LENSE

Climate & Biodiversity week | 3 – 9 October | Expo Enquiry

How do we work together to better manage climate change and protect biodiversity?



The need for gender-sensitive solutions | For policies to be effective, they must be tailored not only to the goals they strive to achieve, but also to the people who will be affected. Policies that fail to consider the impact they have on women, will be unlikely to succeed. If a solution robs a woman of her income, as conservation efforts have often done, it is not a solution. Instead, solutions should create opportunity and be viable options that allow women to sustain themselves and to thrive. Broad solutions imposed from the top or the 'outside' won't cut it: grassroots initiatives are key. Local traditions and customs must be considered to create the effective and lasting changes needed. By creating gender-sensitive solutions, we create sustainable, lasting change.



Getting women into climate science | Equal access to education for boys and girls of all cultural backgrounds is paramount, and we need to eliminate the stereotypes that discourage girls from entering the fields of climate science and conservation. As our panelists said, women have provided us with award-winning and cutting-edge sustainable technology. We need to give women more chance to be involved in solution design and implementation. Women and girls need to have access to education and be provided with the ability to apply sustainable practices to their daily lives and their family's lives. They often hold the key to develop the solutions we desperately need in climate science.



Women are Nature's First Defenders | Climate change and decreasing biodiversity are global problems. However, these problems do not impact everyone in the same way, and they do not affect everyone equally. Women's relationship to nature is often deeper than men's, as in many places women mostly rely on natural resources for their livelihoods. By the same token, women are crucial when it comes to accelerating the implementation of nature-based solutions to climate change. They are often best positioned to understand their community and thus the viability of proposed solutions.

WATCH THE FULL CONVERSATIONS



Women World Majlis:
Mother Nature's First
Defenders



Women in Arabia and Islam:
Stories of sustainability from
the Muslim World

🌸 TROUGH THE GENDER-LENSE 🌸 Space week | 17 – 23 October | Expo Enquiry

How do we safely and productively explore new frontiers?



Bring diversity to the table and into the labs | It is by embracing and combining different thought processes, different perspectives and different skills that we advance in the field of space exploration. We need to work harder to create equal access for men and women to be part of this ever more significant sector. It is a 'mission possible', also by just nurturing and picking the best talents. HE

"We all study in indoctrinated fields and gain the same form of information when we go through our education and experience processes." HE Sarah al Amiri

Sarah Al Amiri gave a keynote speech, in which she mentioned that the UAE Mars Mission's Emirati science team consists for 80% of women. Leadership in the Mars Mission team is equally divided between men and women. According to her, attitude is part of the game: we need to be open to changing the mechanisms in which we gather information, process it and translate it into insights.



Closing the gender gap in STEM | Gender inequality is extremely pronounced in the space sector. Only 20% of space professions is filled by women and it is a structural problem: the entrance ratio between men and women into the space sector has been standing at 80-20% for decades. This hurts progress, as women tend to be more community-oriented, have the propensity to work more inclusively and in teams, with their long-term thinking skills particularly valuable in solving complex problem. If we want to bring sustainable change, we need to work on a structural solution. For starters, STEM needs to be more of a childhood activity and enter schools at an early stage. Women scientists are important role models to provide young girls with the confidence to succeed in STEM professions.



Access to the space economy | We need to nurture a more realistic view of what the space economy has to offer. That it is not just astronauts, but actually a very earthy sector concerned with issues such as food security, water security, weather predictions and analytics. We need to ensure women are not left behind in this growing sector of global importance – as they were during the ICT revolution. While access starts with inclusive education and grassroots awareness, mentoring programs and more intergenerational acceptance of the commercial potential of space (and of women professionals) are also important elements.

WATCH THE FULL CONVERSATIONS



Women World Majlis:
Mission Equality: Expanding
Equal Opportunities in
Space



Women in Arabia and Islam:
Space Pioneers of Today
Anchored in an Arabian and
Muslim Past

VISIONS & JOURNEYS

WATCH THE FULL VISIONS & JOURNEYS

HE Louise
Mushikiwabo

HE Natasa Pilidou

HE Salimata Diop
Dieng

HE Simonetta di
Pippo & HE
Marcos Pontes

HE Erika Mouynes

HE Dr Orsolya
Ferencz

HE Dr. Elizabeta
Gjorgievska

HE Marie-Celine
Zialor



In this intimate series of fireside chats with prominent personalities from across the globe we discussed visions and personal journeys towards a more gender equal future. These were amongst the most prominent topics discussed:

Society needs female leaders, but also mothers | The modern economy needs women: male and female perspectives combined make for the best solutions. But society also needs a new generation and thus we need mothers. We are still struggling to find the right solution to remove this apparent 'choice'. Shared parental leave and paid care work can be starting points. Providing girls and women with the confidence of being able to be both leaders and mothers is similarly important. Professional mentoring is also perceived as highly effective.

Quotas as the solution? | Yes, no and maybe. Public and private sectors agree that we need to close the gender gap in leadership. But the linear line of women rising to the top keeps lacking and we all know the 'broken rung', 'leaky pipeline', and the 'glass ceiling' theories. Some argue quotas could help make strides. Others argue that they will result in push-back and less recognition. Still others argue that it is ethically incorrect: quotas discriminate and disadvantage men.

The impact of stereotypes and bias | The existence of ingrained stereotypes and biases are a key reason why the current system is difficult to break. The problem might be deeper than we think, as underlying data and analyses for policies are often biased too. There is a role to play for governments and policies to fix these issues. But the real game-changer lies at the heart of families and societies and the life lessons they give to their children, boys and girls.

"A woman leader is a woman who understands she has a role that goes beyond her individual self. Being a woman leader is not about accepting a title, it is about inspiring society to go further." HE Louise Mushikiwabo

OUTLIER SERIES



This series reflects the rich variety of partnerships of the Women's Pavilion as we bring together stakeholders from a wide range of sectors and geographic areas. This is a small selection of the numerous discussions.

The UAE Gender Balance Council launched its 'Balance for Better' Report which documents the UAE's successful journey to achieving gender balance and women's empowerment. During the event HE Mona Al Marri, Vice President of the UAE Gender Balance Council, gave the opening remarks, followed by an insightful panel discussion with HE Dr. Maitha bint Salem Al Shamsi, Minister of State, and HE Hessa bint Essa Buhumaid, Minister of Community Development. The Report highlights the UAE's achievements in the field of gender balance since its foundation, showcasing national initiatives, government organisations and their efforts, and leading government figures and their perspectives on gender balance in the UAE. The report can be downloaded in [English](#) and in [Arabic](#).

NAMA held a series of events that focused on the cultural power of sustainability as well as a roundtable with CEOs and leaders from public and private sectors to build the case for women's inclusion and emphasise the need for men to champion women's inclusion.

The EU along with several members states and UN WOMEN organised a Global Conversation on Women's Economic Empowerment, Policy Action and Leadership to Unlock Human Potential. The key focus was on women's empowerment across all stages of their professional careers as well as family-friendly policies and more equitable burden-sharing of childcare.

Mastercard in collaboration with Female Fusion Network, hosted the first session in a series of workshops focused on the power of the digital economy in enabling women-owned businesses to go

WATCH THE OUTLIER EVENTS

NAMA

NAMA x Irthi

Save the Children

Zeearts

Women Traders
in the AFCFTA

International
Trade Centre

EU and partners

Mastercard

Cartier



online. The event saw 50+ attendees, and speakers included Sarah Beydoun, Founder and Creative Director of social impact fashion business Sarah's Bag in Lebanon, Ioanna Angelidaki, co-founder of Instashop, and Maureen Hall, Founder and CEO of COÉGA Sunwear. Mastercard also unveiled research at the workshop conducted among the network's 20,000+ members, which highlighted the impact of digital payments, the importance of an online presence and pain points faced by these businesses.

ICC, UPS, Tralac and West Blue Consulting developed the 'Women Traders in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)' event with a focus on the nexus of women and trade, thereby gathering a diverse and influential group of business leaders, innovators, trade experts and women entrepreneurs. The distinctive event was developed by a partnership between the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), UPS, the Trade Law Centre (Tralac) and West Blue Consulting, which aims to empower women-led SMEs and support them in expanding their operations to new marketplaces in Africa and globally. The partners offer capacity building programs and tools, including co-developed trade and information portals called 'e-Trade Hubs', advocate for enabling public policy, and create electronic guidelines to help women entrepreneurs scale-up and digitise their businesses.

Save the Children in collaboration with the Women's Pavilion celebrated the International Day of the Girl with an event focused among other things on ending child marriage. Keeping girls in school as long as possible has long been identified as a way to give girls and young women a better and more productive life. UNFPA, UNICEF, Save the Children and others are predicting child marriage rates to go up for the first time in more than 20 years due to the school closures and lockdowns. The estimation is that we will see an additional 10 million child marriages before the end of the decade. Governments at the national and local levels must do what is in their powers to invest in getting and keeping girls into safe spaces such as schools.

"Education is the closest thing to a silver bullet in gender equality." HE
Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

"Women's equality and empowerment is not a choice. But it is a necessity."

HE Reem Al Hashimy



"It is said: Behind every great man is a great woman. But here in the UAE we say: beside every great man is a great woman"

HE Mona Al Marri



"I want my daughters to grow in a world where they can be themselves, not be judged badly, not facing violence."

HE Cyrille Vigneron



Expo 2020 Dubai and its key partners, Cartier and the UAE Gender Balance Council, would like to thank all the speakers and visitors of the Women's Pavilion throughout the month of October.