WHITE PAPER
#WomenCOP23

8th NOVEMBER 2017

Women Health & Climate

Let's move forward after COP23

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH unicef | pour chaque enfant

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Rwanda, Gisenyi area, 2007.
Girls maintain the school garden of the primary school of the village of Busamana, supported by the UNICEF.

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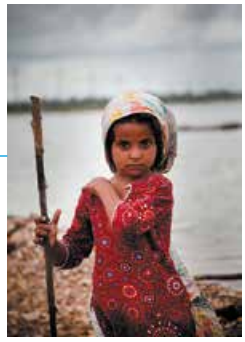

Pakistan, 2011. *September 13th, a girl is in the camp of fortune of her community in the city of Hyderabad, in the province of Sindh. The community was moved because of the rise in the water level.*

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Since 2015, we have continued to raise as much awareness as possible about the impact of climate change and the serious repercussions it has on women in particular.

After women's networks rallying for COP21, followed by conferences around COP22 in November 2016 and March 2017, we are proud to present the latest edition of our White Paper. What's more, this year marks the start of a wonderful partnership with UNICEF ! The organisation has decided to work alongside us, embracing our trademark long-term approach. UNICEF will help carry our message to new generations.

We have started to collect feedback from young U-Reporters, including the solutions they feel are necessary, pertinent and suitable for protecting the world of the future. We also intend to broaden our scope by pooling experiences and best practices from around the world, provided by our young UNICEF ambassadors.

Our White Paper will be printed in French, but it will also be disseminated in English via social media to reach a wider audience.

Louisa Renoux presented our new White Paper to Laurence Rossignol in March of this year during the CSW in New York, and to Anne Hidalgo during the WomenForClimate conference.

Muriel de Saint Sauveur gave it to the Moroccan Minister for the Environment, Hakima El Haite, during COP22 in Marrakech, and to Marlène Schiappa in July.

Before you delve into this new edition, we would like to express our gratitude to : all of our witnesses ; our partner UNICEF, including Eskandar Benaïcha, Florianne Voisin (UNICEF France) and Valérie Crab (UNICEF Indonesia) ; and the members of our network who actively disseminate the document, including Muriel, Delphine, Alric (for managing the Climat-Santé.org website) and of course Louisa Renoux, without whom this White Paper wouldn't even exist ! •

Bangladesh, 2014.
Students make their way to school after heavy floods in Sariakandi Upazila, Bogra, Bangladesh on 9 September.
© UNICEF/UNI170476/Paul

http://www.climat-sante.org/

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@louisarenoux

Children, the first victims of climate change

July 2016. Young Amaia, 11, on the coast of the Arctic Ocean. The melting sea ice has shifted her community's way of life, the Iñupiats, whose ecosystem was largely based on the robustness of the ice.

©UNICEF/UN055819/Sokhin

Today's children are the least responsible for climate change, yet it is them and their future children who will suffer its full consequences.

Because it affects the lives of children, climate change is one of UNICEF's major concerns. Every year, 66.5 million children are threatened by its devastating impacts and many already suffer from them, especially in the poorest regions of the word. This figure could reach up to 175 million within the next decade. We must act urgently for the future of our children and that of the Earth : these estimates must prompt us to act without delay and fight climate change.

Global warming will have an impact on all sectors of UNICEF's work : health, water, hygiene and sanitation, education. Particularly vulnerable during their first years because of their developing organism, children are among the first victims of droughts, floods or heat waves. More vulnerable than adults, they are more fragile to the unleashing of natural elements. However, these previously exceptional meteorological episodes are increasing in frequency and intensity. They foster malnutrition, famine, communicable diseases such as malaria, or diarrheal diseases that kill 800 children every day.

To live, grow and flourish, children must have access to safe drinking water that does not contain harmful or deadly bacteria. They must be able to go to school without having to spend hours collecting water. They must be able to breathe without getting sick because of air pollution that affects their lungs and their development, and which also harms the growth of the fetus in pregnant women.

Climate change worsens the situation of the most disadvantaged and excluded children. A poor child or a child that has no access to drinking water will see its situation further weakened if hit by a flood or a cyclone. To stop the consequences of climate change is to give all children the same opportunities to fulfill their goals.

The international community must address this situation by promoting sustainable and clean energy and by helping reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to limit rising temperatures. The voices of children and young people must also be heard. No decision can be taken, and no solution will be found at the COP23 if children's rights are not taken into account.

It is essential to invest in the fight against climate change now, so that our children won't pay the price of our inaction. •

Jean-Marie Dru, President of UNICEF France

@jeanmariedru

unicef pour chaque enfant

What is the link between women, health and climate?

The weather and climate influence our health and daily environment considerably. The world has already witnessed the impact that extreme events (heat waves, floods, etc.) and general environmental degradation have on society: water and air pollution, food shortages, vector-borne diseases, etc. Climate change is set to increase existing health risks. There are many inequalities in the face of climate change; they demand targeted action to help the most vulnerable populations.

Women are on the front line when it comes to the consequences of climate change. They account for 70 % of the population surviving on less than $1 a day. In developing countries, women produce 80 % of agricultural output, spend 3 times more time collecting water than men, but own only 2 % of the land and collect 10 % of the wages. They are 14 times more likely to lose their life during a natural catastrophe. Within the family unit, women play an essential role when it comes to education and prevention. Let us help these women and ensure their incredible initiatives the widespread recognition they deserve.

Good reading…

Feminine networks and federation networks presidents: *FinanciElles, InterElles, PWN, IBM-Elles, Femme et Société Sciences Po, DEFHISS, Femmes Business Angels, Femmes, Débat et Société, Femmes et Développement Durable* and *SupplémentdElles,* and Pascale Boistard, Secretary of State in charge of women's right in 2015.

CONTRIBUTORS

We thank particularly the participants of this White Paper for the time dedicated to these project:

Alric Baral, Sonia Bahri, Nora Barsali, Annie Battle, Sandy Beky, Marie Boucaud, Danielle Bousquet, Myra Braganti, Patrick Brothier, Annie Coutarel, Delphine Caroff, Sabah Chraibi, Frédérique Cintrat, Béatrice Cornic, Marianne de Battisti, Aicha Detsouli, Sarah Diouri, Marion Gaborit, Benoît Golitin, Claude du Granrut, Isabelle Guitton, Cyrielle Hariel, Alain Houpert, Marie-Sophie Houis-Valletoux, Nathalie Hutter-Lardeau, Alban Jarry, Chantal Jouanno, Honorine Koenig, Naima Korchi, Véronique Lacam-Denoël, Catherine Ladousse, Sarah Manta, Françoise Morvan, Yveline Nicolas, Juliette Renavand-Petiot, Laurence Rossignol, Michèle Sabban, Muriel de Saint Sauveur, Florence Sandis, Patricia Savin, Vicky Sommet, Myriam Ullens de Schooten, Catherine Vidal, Sylvianne Villaudière.

Special Thanks to Cyrielle Hariel for the use of its photography, the left hand forming the heart is the one of the photographer John Isaac, Great photojournalist of United Nations.

OBJECTIVES OF THIS WHITE PAPER

Raise the alarm about climate change and its impact on women and their health! Suggest, share and implement solutions!

Our White Paper is intended for:

- The general public
- The media
- Experts and professionals in the health and sustainable development sectors
- The political world (politicians, parties and movements)
- Private companies.

WARNING

The White Paper embodies its contributors' views at the time of going to print. Contributors cannot guarantee that information will remain accurate after the date of publication.

All product names, brands and companies named in this White Paper belong to their respective owners.

WITNESSES OF THE WHITE PAPER

01
Sonia Bahri

Women are excellent at finding solutions to the challenges of health, food safety, biodiversity and climate change

Women play a key role in transmitting knowledge and developing society. Strengthening their capabilities – and giving them the necessary resources – speeds up access to education for children and adults, healthcare, development and democracy.

During the course of my various remits with UNESCO – firstly in charge of the Health and HIV/AIDS Education programme, and then at the head of the international cooperation section for Higher Education and Scientific Policies – gender equality, one of the Organisation's priorities, has always played a central role in supporting national policies in the fields of education, research and scientific innovation for sustainable development. Creating networks of women in these different fields is also essential if we are to shore up their solidarity and create platforms for discussion and sharing within associations and universities. I have had the privilege and the pleasure of either initiating or supporting networks of universities – such as, for example, between Morocco, Togo, Côte d'Ivoire and Brazil on the integrated management of water by women. These networks are part of the many UNESCO Chairs on the issue of gender that wish to share their training modules and the results of their research.

The L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science initiative that I have headed over the past five years showcases excellence and encourages female scientists on all continents to continue furthering knowledge in order to find solutions to major challenges such as healthcare, food safety, biodiversity and climate change. Only 28 % of the world's researchers are women. We are thus depriving ourselves of a considerable portion of humanity's talents!

Thanks to the French National Commission for UNESCO and its UNESCO-L'Oréal fellowship programme, I help promote young talented female scientists and encourage them to continue their research to PhD level and beyond. Many of them are carrying out work that bears hope for the fight against climate change and its effects.

I am convinced that fellowships and prizes for women constitute effective political instruments for combatting climate change, particularly through the emulation they trigger and the role models they create. I am delighted that the Minister for the Environment and the Chair of COP21, Ségolène Royal, decided to create a Prize for *Women and Climate in Africa.* •

Sonia Bahri ran the Scientific Policies for Sustainable Development section, and the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women In Science prize, of which she was Executive Secretary, until 2015.
She is currently advisor to the Chair of the French National Commission for UNESCO for Sciences and Sustainable Development and a member of the Scientific Committee for the Peace Studies Programme (Lamsade-Université de Paris Dauphine).

02
Nora Barsali

@NoraBarsali

We have a wonderful opportunity. Let's grasp it!

The urgent climate situation is giving us a wonderful opportunity. Both collectively and individually we can still take action to protect the environment and future generations. Let's grasp that opportunity !

Let's not miss the COP22 boat. It constitutes a unique and game-changing opportunity for humanity to start with women and children, the first victims of climate change. It's a question of the future of life on earth, be it human, animal or vegetable. It's a question of world justice for populations in developing countries who are suffering the disastrous consequences of the environmental turmoil for which we are mainly to blame. It's a question of our collective responsibility towards future generations.

No one can deny the facts. Climate change first and foremost impacts the health of women and of children who are born with endocrine disorders and malformations of all sorts. Pollution impacts the social determinants of health ; it affects the daily life, drinking water, fresh air, agriculture, food and housing of complete populations, as well as all related safety, health, well-being and educational parameters.

If nothing is done, it is estimated that from 2030, which is almost upon us, climate change will lead to astronomical health expenditure and cause an extra 250,000 deaths per year, mostly in countries that are developing and thus the least prepared.

Today, women are exposed to small doses of all these environmental, social and health risks on a daily basis and they are already having a short-term impact, because they are toxic for pregnancies. They extend into the medium and long terms through their children.

Women must recognise the effect that climate change has on their health and take action by rallying through associations, joint initiatives and social networks. Thanks to COP22, women in positions of responsibility have the opportunity to be heard, to rally, to change the course of humanity. And it is to women that future generations will owe their future. Let's grasp this opportunity to play a responsible role in history. •

Nora Barsali is CEO of RSE News and of the *Club des Entreprises Responsables*. She founded the *Trophées Défis RSE* and the *Collectif des Ambassadrices et Ambassadeurs de l'Égalité.*

03
Annie Battle

Gender Equality & Human Development

All actions in favour of sustainable development are underpinned by the gradual realisation that if humans continue systematically to destroy their environment, they will eventually destroy themselves, too. As philosopher and pro-active ecologist Yves Paccalet put it with his typical dark humour : *"Humanity will disappear. Good riddance !"*

The goal of sustainable development is to pursue the human adventure in conditions that we deem desirable for our children. It is essential to respect natural balances, to manage the planet's resources in a reasonable manner, and to combat global warming and its calamitous effects, the subject of COP21. But fundamentally, sustainable development demands a mindset change, an extension →

03 Annie Battle

→ of what distinguishes the human from the animate and the inanimate: our level of consciousness, our intelligence, the enlightened management of our relations with the nature that produced us (nature means birth), of our relations with the living and with all other humans.

The sustainable development of humanity is dependent upon the development of our individual and collective humanity. And because the human is still unfinished, it can still be perfected.

A marvellous lever for development, for increasing human potential, does exist. It's called "gender equality".

How is the human part of us to grow if we don't multiply our sources of intelligence (half of which are currently underexploited) or delve into a melting pot of male and female ideas and experiences? How can we grasp – with tunnel vision – that we comprise both male and female, and that solidarity between human beings – and between humans and their environment – is a pre-requisite for living in harmony? How are we to promote *"solidarity, the only remedy to complexity",* as Edgar Morin maintains, if we do not have solidarity and equality between the sexes? And how are we therefore to rise to complex, contemporary, political, ecological, economic and social challenges?

At the *Laboratoire de l'Égalité,* we endeavour to contribute to individual and collective intelligence by developing a culture of gender equality that is not only fair and equitable, but also advantageous to all. We focus our actions on gender equality at work, because economic empowerment is a pre-requisite of female emancipation and of the deployment and validation of women's skills and talents.

We note that, despite obvious differences in scale, our experience applies to countries less favoured than our own. Around the world as a whole, being able to get a job is not enough to guarantee equality. Although there are more and more women on the job market, they constitute the majority of poor workers (70 % in France). In order to help women achieve equality, and to prove that a culture of equality nurtures universal solutions, we concentrate on the necessary pre-requisites for true employment equality: EDUCATION, training, career guidance, task sharing and gender-balanced workforces, plus equal treatment (notably for health), equal status, equal pay, banishing sexism from the workplace, and banishing archaic stereotypes [1].

"Never say a thing is normal, or it will never change." Bertold Brecht.

Both in western countries and in poor countries, we note that gender sexism has the same root: POWER in the hands of men and the arbitrary distribution of roles between the sexes (we know who get the prestigious ones!). The consequences are also universal, although obviously on different scales: substantial vulnerability to mishaps in life and nature, precariousness, poverty, illness, insecurity for women and children, generalised sexism… One trump card, however, to set against this long litany of handicaps, is women's age-old responsibility in the spheres of family, education, food and health. Their experience in agriculture also makes them major players in matters of resource management, and knowledgeable partners in decisions that will shape the future of the planet and the human race – if they have access to decision-making bodies.

The work of public and private international organisations demonstrates the link between the degree of democracy in a country and the degree of equality between its women and men, and the correlation between GDP and women's education and professionalization. Demographics and widening economic disparities stand out among the causes of damage to the planet; this should justify free contraception and economic equality.

If women and men are to "live in harmony", if good use is to be made of the planet's material and immaterial resources, and if we are to see a new humanism worthy of the name, then the unequal relations between women and men that have structured societies since the beginnings of time must be called into question. These relations are age-old, admittedly, but not natural, as popular wisdom would suggest. They can be changed. We have to change them. We're working on it! •

1. These various aspects are handled in the collection *Equal to equal.* (14 titles).

Annie Battle is a member of the *Laboratoire de l'Egalité.*
Co-director of the *Egale à Egale* collection, managed in partnership with publishers Belin.

04
Sandy Beky

@SandyBeky

Growing up in Madagascar

In Madagascar, the country where I grew up, the trajectory taken by cyclones has been altered by the effects of climate change. The number of cyclones has tripled in thirty years. The sea is rising and the seasons and rainfall patterns have been disrupted, threatening food safety, water supplies and public health systems.

This situation places the country in 5th position in the Climate Change Vulnerability Index (Maplesoft 2012). Many poor countries around the world are similarly vulnerable. At the heart of these natural disasters are millions of women who account for 70 % of the 1.3 billion individuals in extreme poverty. They and their children are weighed down by the heavy economic, health and social repercussions of climate change.

The enormous vulnerability with which these women have to cope obviously speaks to me as a long-term, female activist engaged in the war that many of us in our respective countries have been waging for greater equality between women and men at all levels of society. I have channelled my commitment for over ten years into the Professional Women's Network Paris. I was its Chair from 2013 to 2015 and launched and ran several programmes (mentoring, reverse mentoring, executive shadowing) in favour of career development for women. Over recent years I have taken a new path, tying together the need to construct a more inclusive and more mixed society with an unprecedented challenge to humanity: the urgent need to find resources to solve environmental problems.

I now specialise in the circular economy, a business model that encourages us to take a new and sustainable view of how we produce and consume. It ensures that our decisions, behaviour and actions sit comfortably with protecting and regenerating the environment.

Walking down this new path in 2014, I met Caroline Dulac, who was selling leather goods, fabric bags and stationery at a market. I was intrigued by the different materials used to make the items on display. Caroline told me about Pottias, her eco-responsible and socially conscious business. Pottias collects advertising banners, kilometres of car seat belts, and kilos of inner tubes from car dumps and the car industry – and makes leather goods from them. The fabric bags are made exclusively from scraps from the textile industry. As for the stationery, she explained that not a single tree had been felled! The paper in her notebooks is made from elephant dung from Jaipur in India. The process for washing the elephant dung involves neither detergent nor chemicals. After the washing process, the water is even recycled as fertilizer in neighbouring fields! A truly virtuous circle for the circular economy fan that I am! But the thing I love even more about this entrepreneurial project is the involvement of social enterprises in India. They give women an economic role to play in Indian society, provide them with a job and a means of subsistence, and enable their children to receive an education.

Caroline Dulac and her social partners in India are setting a fine example. By placing women at the heart of their programme, they are providing economic, environmental and social responses to the most critical problems on our planet.

Women are the first victims of climate change, but they also have a fundamental role to play in the adoption of sustainable ways of consuming, producing, and managing natural resources, that will guarantee a better environment for all. •

Sandy Beky founded KyoSei Leadership and is a Partner of IMV Management Partners, two consultancy firms specialising in leadership strategies and circular economies.

05
Marie Boucaud

Women, Health, Climate

Climate change spares nobody in its wake… but impacts differ. The poorest populations are more lastingly floored. There are 1.2 billion people on the planet with revenue of less than a dollar a day; 70 % of them are women [1]. Between 60 and 80 % [2] of southern countries'food producers are women; they are the first to have to cope with drought, desertification and flood [3]. The planet is dying, but it could be reborn by welcoming different lives. What about the women on planet earth? Their death rate is 14 times higher than that of men. The women will die out. And with them, the men. Tomorrow…

…Unless every woman and every man addresses the tomorrow in the forming that is today, and decides to act either on a micro or macro level. Every initiative counts. Every major project started with a small first step. Wangari Maathai started by planting a tree before going on to win the Nobel Peace Prize. Runa Khan wanted women not to have to choose between curing their own blindness and feeding their children [4] long before her NGO Friendship had 800 employees and helped ten million of the people most impacted by climate change.

What would have become of Runa Khan if the funding had not been forthcoming? It was a loan that opened the door to her future. Financial resources make anything possible.

Because the financial empowerment of women is so fundamental to their autonomy, to their ability to act and to their achievements, it is the keystone of Business Professional Women's (BPW) commitment and advocacy. By organising Equal Pay Day (EPD) every year, and awareness initiatives that highlight the low numbers of girls and women in Sciences, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM), BPW strives to eradicate pay differences, to counter the feminisation of certain jobs, and to promote gender-balanced workforces. In short: to achieve equality at work.

On a global scale, two thirds of work time is put in by women. Yet they only pick up 10 % of total revenue. They own less than 8 % of land and are granted less than 5 % of bank loans [5]. If they had equal access to production resources, they would increase agricultural output by 20-30 %, which would feed 150 million more people [6]. In more general terms, if women had the same salaries and access to employment as men, women would earn a total 9 billion dollars, which would then contribute to reducing poverty and to a more sustainable type of development [7].

It is time for women, environmental pioneers, to take centre stage again through Agenda 21, adopted in 1992 at the Rio Earth Summit [8]. It is time for the first victims to become the first actors in international climate negotiations. It is time for their expertise in natural resource management, and their environmental knowledge, to be harnessed during such negotiations and encapsulated in proposed strategies to adapt to climate change [9].

Women and men will be able to attain this goal together. By working within BPW, I have managed to add a few small bricks to the building. What is your contribution? •

1. http://www.ladocumentationfrancaise.fr/var/storage/rapports-publics/174000029.pdf
2. http://www.genreenaction.net/Femmes-de-mais-productrices-mais-victimes-de-la.html
3. http://www.ladocumentationfrancaise.fr/var/storage/rapports-publics/174000029.pdf
4. http://www.lejdd.fr/International/Runa-Khan-une-aristocrate-au-service-des-plus-pauvres -763645
5. http://www.adequations.org/spip.php?article363
6. http://www.ladocumentationfrancaise.fr/var/storage/rapports-publics/174000029.pdf
7. https://www.bpw-international.org/blog/categories/listings/leading-equality
8. *Femmes Environnement*, by *Egalite, Adéquations* & *Genre en action*
9. http://www.onufemmes.fr/cop-21-les-enjeux-de-lintegration-des-femmes-dans-la-lutte-contre-le-rechauffement-climatique/

Marie Boucaud is a dynamic and commited Project leader in gender equality, women's right and their empowerment (UNO women committee France, Unesco...).

06

Danielle Bousquet

Women actively combatting climate change

In our manifesto entitled *"Les femmes actrices de la lutte contre le dérèglement climatique"* ("Women Actively Combatting Climate Change"), we underline the need to: integrate gender equality and the empowerment of women into the Paris Agreement; involve equal numbers of women and men in international and national decision-making processes (COP, Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans); and guarantee women equal access to funding and new technologies.

In developing countries, climate disruption has even more serious consequences for women than for men. Let us not forget that most poor people are women. They account for 70 % of the 1.2 billion people around the world surviving on less than one dollar a day. In everyday life, climate change affects poor women more severely than men. The rarefaction of natural resources means longer journeys (they have to walk further to fetch water and wood); it also lengthens their work hours and undermines their standard of living. When a climate catastrophe occurs, they are more vulnerable because they have more constraints (single parent, illiterate, etc.). 80 % of the victims of cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh (2007) were women and girls. In zones that are devastated or struck by climate change, healthcare and access to contraception are often non-existent. This adds further hurdles to women's ability to space out pregnancies – a pre-requisite for their autonomy.

Women need to be recognised as actors in the fight against climate change. Despite the obstacles and the discriminations they suffer, women fight to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the impacts of climate change. They innovate on all continents by favouring conservation farming, which reduces water and fertilizer usage and fixes carbon. They set up reservoirs for irrigation and drinking water. They create entire waste recycling chains and pool their knowledge and their modest funds. And yet, their initiatives, often carried out on a local scale, are rarely lauded and almost never funded. Women are not being recognised in this fight. They are insufficiently included in national decisions and international negotiations. Women will be even more efficient when they are autonomous and able fully to exercise their rights.

Women and feminist associations' actions ahead of COP 21 in Le Bourget ensured that explicit mention was made in the introduction to the Paris Agreement of states abiding by their commitments in matters of Human Rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women. The need to take gender into account also features in the articles relating to adapting and reinforcing capacity. The *Lima Work Programme on Gender* was extended by two years and expanded during COP22 in Marrakesh; it must be granted the expertise and funding it needs to help reduce gender inequalities, promote what women do to combat climate change, and enable them to participate in, and benefit from, the programme at every level in order to reinforce their empowerment. •

Poster of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Guinea.
©Yves Charbit

Danielle Bousquet is a feminist activist, former member of the French parliament, and currently president of the High Council in Gender Equality.

07

Myra Braganti

@MyraBraganti

Digital COP21

Supporting COP21 means envisaging the future with conviction. It means harnessing collective intelligence to heighten awareness and activate sustainable solutions. What levers are at our disposal? Well, there's you! And there are digital technologies.

Digital technologies and women are game changers. Paris is giving London a run for its money with Station F, due to open in April, so let's take advantage of this bubbling super-ecosystem and encourage every start-up to contribute actively to this great project.

Let's move on from the idea, to deployment. Our all-women and mixed networks are levers to be activated. How? By pressing on the "networking" button! Let's activate this powerful booster.

As former Vice-President of the Oudinot network and an active member of the EPWN network with its *Responsible Entrepreneur* prize, I had the privilege of interviewing Navi Radjou, co-author of the book *Frugal Innovation: How To Do More With Less.* It explains how to be ingenious and resourceful and do more with less in an increasingly complex and restrictive environment.

Renault-Nissan, L'Oréal and Air Liquide, to name but three corporations, have adopted this approach to disruptive innovation and developed ingenious solutions that respect the environment.

Let's get this network, and the start-up network, on board. Let's shake things up! What do you think?

Entrepreneurs have nimble minds. They change constraints into opportunities. Let's use this magnificent network to reach decision-makers and colleagues, to get them involved. Let's hack the system!

I was Chief Business Officer of a start-up called Never Eat Alone. It's a mobile app. that workers in big companies can use to find a colleague to have lunch with. It boosts decompartmentalization and social interaction. It could also be a great opportunity for raising awareness of COP21 issues among workers in big groups – and even percolate new disruptive solutions to go alongside the current agenda. We're talking "bottom up" here!

Let's take the example of smart cities introduced by Gérard Mestrallet and developed by Isabelle Kocher of the Engie Group. The idea is to design how cities will grow in the future, managing flows of energy, water, waste and mobility in an integrated manner.

Smart cities are social and urban innovation projects, natural extensions of the technological solutions offered by renewable energies. The smart cities of the future will be friendlier, greener and more humane. They will better optimise the use of limited resources and take individual needs into account. They open the door to the sharing economy.

Digitalisation is one of the pillars of smart cities. It will not replace the human element, but strengthen it. In 2030, 60 % of the world population will be city-dwellers. In 2025, 37 cities will exceed the 10-million-inhabitant mark. Megalopolis management is a crucial challenge if we are to preserve our resources and ensure our communities enjoy growing old together. We need to create innovative partnerships that improve quality of life for city-dwellers. Making co-workers aware of these challenges in the business and community spheres will foster operational models that are participative and more inclusive.

Reducing energy consumption and/or pollution, and reducing environmental impacts throughout the entire life cycle of a product, are at the very heart of the challenge of the future. Digital natives are ready to change their habits. Are you?

With a view to COP22, let's activate our networks of women and men who embrace a community approach that integrates the economy, the environment and society. •

Myra Braganti was a business partner of Marie Schneegans, creator of the start-up "Nevereatalone", an innovative "change management" and "digital transformation" tool. She used to head EPWN.

08

Patrick Brothier

@PatrickBrothier

Women and the rebound effect: driving the planet forwards

The world has changed. So has the planet. Promises about new forms of individual and collegial entrepreneurship are bubbling to the surface, irrespective of an individual's gender or potential to contribute.

These opportunities are generated by the convergence of an expanding economy – fuelled by digitalisation – and numerous technological and scientific disruptions. They are, however, sadly counterbalanced by planetary threats that, in essence and in form, have never been encountered before.

On the one hand, we have the Jihadi threat driven by absolute contempt for life and touching what could appear until now to be the essence of humanity.

There is a flaring up of egoism, too, in countries with a mature economy and in those where the economy is still emerging. Pockets of populism are popping up around the planet, with no convincing trajectories to offer tangible value for the population.

And finally, climatic danger is alarming in its density and the polymorphous impacts that crystallise the most flagrant inequalities. Gender inequality is one of the most glaring. It is legitimate to underline the huge risk run by women – and their children.

The decisive position occupied by women in the family unit – usually in counterpoint to their unbearable confinement within the community – must be harnessed to lever the contributory capacity it induces.

The risk of a double sentence for women – the first to be discriminated against, the first victims – must be commuted to a stimulating rebound. Women must be supported by the broadest possible community of politicians, economists and associations and have the opportunity to become a source of regional and planetary proposals for coping with the climate challenges that lie ahead.

COP22 casts an urgent spotlight on this issue. How can we just stand by and watch? •

Tchad, 2010. A girl carries her baby in a cloud of dust in the village of Sidi, Kanem area.

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Patrick Brothier is Vice-President of *La Mutualité Française*, Chair of *Adrea Mutuelle*, Vice-President of the Aesio Group, and Chairman of the Board of MutRé, the FNMF's reinsurance body.

09

Annie Coutarel, Juliette Renavand-Petiot, Marie-Sophie Houis-Valletoux

Empowerment and family planning: emergency contraception for female students in France

Providing information about emergency contraception and the risk of an unwanted pregnancy falls within the public health remit. Said information is relayed by a student complementary health insurance company, within the framework of an added-value partnership with a pharmaceutical laboratory.

Emergency contraception in France

→ Unwanted pregnancies are a public health issue

In France, one third of pregnancies are unwanted. Two thirds of unwanted pregnancies are terminated. In 2015, 218,100 terminations were performed. The overall termination rate has been stable since 2006. However, there have been changes within specific age groups over recent years, with a drop for the under-20s and an increase for 20- to 24-year-olds. For 1,000 women of child-bearing age, the average termination rate is 14.4. Between the ages of 20 and 24 the rate is 27.

Every year, approximately 2.5 million French women run the risk of an unwanted pregnancy.

In France, 31 % of fertile women say they have had unprotected sex at least once during the past twelve months. The figure rises to 46 % for 16- to 24-year-olds.

In cases where absolutely no contraception was used, a generalised ignorance about fertility periods is to be noted : it is thought that ovulation always occurs on the 14th day, making the middle of the cycle the risk period. However in reality, only 12 % of ovulations actually occur on the 14th day. Given that spermatozoa remain alive for five days, and the variability of ovulation dates, unprotected intercourse constitutes a risk of pregnancy irrespective of the phase of the menstrual cycle.

97 % of women of child-bearing age who do not wish to become pregnant use a contraceptive device (medical or otherwise). Yet birth control failures are frequent. The *Fécond* survey from 2010 talks of the French contraceptive paradox.

→ Emergency contraception is under-used in cases of at-risk behaviour

28 % of the women questioned said they had never taken emergency contraception after unprotected or poorly protected intercourse (incident with a condom, contraception forgotten or not used). 26 % said they had used it, but not systematically.

The reasons for the lack of systematic recourse to emergency contraception after unprotected or poorly protected intercourse were that :

- 51 % of the women did not feel they were at risk because they were convinced they were properly protected (whatever the circumstances) ;
- 35 % did not think of emergency contraception ;
- And to a lesser degree, psychological barriers : (unfounded) fears of a possible "abortion effect" of emergency contraception, or the potential risk of sterility, or a negative impact on health…

Awareness of the existence of emergency contraception and of situations containing a risk of unwanted pregnancy is therefore essential for optimising recourse to emergency contraception and curbing the number of unwanted pregnancies.

→ Progress induced by public policies in favour of improved information about, and reimbursement of, emergency contraception

Oral emergency contraception can avoid an unwanted pregnancy after unprotected or poorly protected intercourse. It blocks or delays ovulation to prevent the ovule from entering into contact with the spermatozoa for at least five days (lifespan of spermatozoa), thus preventing conception.

The public authorities have defined a framework for using emergency contraception. It facilitates access thereto and makes it free of charge for minors. Emergency contraception can thus be obtained from the chemist's. There is no need to make an appointment with a health professional (GP, midwife, gynaecologist) beforehand, as this drug can be handed out for free and anonymously to minors. Otherwise it is reimbursed if on prescription, or sold but not reimbursed without a prescription. Girls and boys can get it from a chemist's. →

09 Annie Coutarel, Juliette Renavand-Petiot, Marie-Sophie Houis-Valletoux

→ The standpoint of the student complementary health insurance company

→ Use of the contraceptive pill is declining in the student population

The contraceptive pill was legalised in France in 1967. Large-scale democratisation and dissemination then ensued in subsequent decades. Use thereof seemed to have reached a plateau, particularly in the student population. Our surveys among students, however, point to a reduction in the proportion of users between 2009 and 2017: from 62 % to 48 % for students insured by SMEREP and from 64 % to 51 % for all French students.

These figures are coherent with the Fécond report from 2010, which found that 63.5 % of women aged between 20 and 24 used the contraceptive pill. It also noted the first decline since 1967 in use of the pill in this fringe of the population, a decline not totally compensated by the arrival of new hormonal methods of contraception, strongly influenced, it seems, by social and economic conditions.

Use of the contraceptive pill remains uncommon in the secondary school population, and in decline over the past three years. In 2017, 24 % of girls in secondary education in Greater Paris took the pill compared to 32 % in 2015 (30 % of all French schoolgirls questioned in 2017 compared to 31 % in 2015). Meanwhile, almost one third of secondary school pupils claimed to be sexually active (30 % of all French secondary school pupils and 33 % of secondary school pupils in Greater Paris in 2017).

→ The central question of compliance

In the event of an unwanted pregnancy, it is interesting to note that the main reason given is forgetting to take the pill (44 %), well ahead of the absence of contraception (28 %).

These results suggest a serious lack of compliance when taking the birth control pill. As the efficacy of oral contraception is largely linked to regular use – and even "rigorous" use for the ultra-low-dose birth control pill – it transpires that thorough education on how to take it must be provided.

→ Progress noted in the use of emergency contraception among students, thanks to the commitment of public authorities

France stands out for its avant-garde attitude to access to emergency contraception – the "morning after" pill. Over the past five years, there has been an explosion in the proportion of students having recourse to emergency contraception – increasing from 18 % in 2011 to 45 % in 2017 for sexually active students insured by SMEREP, and from 15 % to 40 % between 2011 and 2017 for all sexually active French students. Today, almost 1 out of every 2 students has had recourse to emergency contraception. Emergency contraception seems to have been democratised. It has become widespread throughout the student population, in step with national information campaigns, particularly one in 2012 that used humour and empathy to address the most common risks : forgetting to take the pill, incident with a condom, absence of contraception. Use of the "morning after" pill is also becoming more frequent among the secondary school population. One quarter of secondary schoolgirls claim they have already used it (34 % in France ; 33 % in Ile-de-France, in 2017).

→ Complementary health insurance for students from SMEREP facilitates access to contraception

Complementary coverage offered by SMEREP includes a pack entitled *"Vivre sa vie"* (roughly "Getting on with life"). A yearly subscription covers latest-generation contraceptive pills, emergency contraception (the so-called "morning after" pill) and condoms. For SMEREP this is a way of supporting public health policies in the field of contraception, and of providing youngsters with better access to contraception.

→ Complementary health insurance for students from SMEREP gives pride of place to information and education for youngsters

Although contraception is used massively throughout France today among all age groups of women, the number of terminations remains more or less constant at around 200,000 per year. The marked increase in terminations among under-18-year-olds recorded at the beginning of the 2000s has slowed. Our student surveys identify an overall stagnation in numbers of terminations over recent years with 6 % of female students declaring having terminated a pregnancy in 2016.

Powerful partnerships between health insurers and pharmaceutical laboratories can provide better information, reimbursement and assistance for patients/policy holders

→ A vast debate on information about, access to, and compliance with, contraception

The issue of birth control among students is complex, particularly the pill, which remains by far the most widely used form of contraception by this fringe of the population. There are three main issues :

- Firstly, access to the birth control pill is not easy. Many people have spoken out in France, particularly within →

family planning, to ask for the pill to be on sale in chemist shops without a prescription. This would make it more readily available, particularly to a young population which, above and beyond the problem of the time it takes to get an appointment with a GP, may feel a certain "fear" or "embarrassment" that deters them from consulting a health profession. Chemists, GPs and family planning have formed a group entitled *"Libérez ma pilule"* (roughly "release my pill") that advocate the OTC sale of contraceptive pills, particularly very-low-dose progestin-only versions.

- Furthermore, as we have seen, failing to comply is also an issue. It is to be feared that selling the pill over the counter will reduce even further the time taken – by a GP, for example – to explain how to take it. Gynaecological screening could also suffer, as the pill is mainly prescribed by gynaecologists (for 70 % of female students insured by SMEREP in 2015).
- Finally, the pill's image in France has been badly damaged over recent years by several health "scandals" relayed by the press. The 2012-2013 debate on new-generation pills and related risks impacted users who had started their sex lives with the birth control pill. At that time, it was at the very heart of the French contraceptive model. The youngest generations, however, are growing less and less sensitive to the social and political argument of a safe method of birth control that enabled women, for the first time in history, to take control of their own fertility. The debate seems to have tarnished the social and symbolic image of the pill. In 2016, 22 % of students insured by SMEREP and 16 % of all the French students questioned in our surveys, did not take the pill because they felt it had a negative impact on their health. On the other hand, 12 % of students insured by SMEREP and 10 % of all the French female students we questioned did not trust the birth control pill.

At the end of the day, the issue of contraception for youngsters is more open than ever. A massive information campaign is needed to encourage students to use contraception and to see a gynaecologist. It should empower young women to address the complicated and personal matter of their own contraception.

→ HRA/SMEREP : an innovative partnership that creates value

To improve information about, and the reimbursement of, emergency contraception, HRA and SMEREP formed an innovative partnership that is very beneficial for female students and secondary school pupils. The insurance company and the laboratory pooled their expertise and tools to help move forward on what is a major public health topic. One party brings privileged access to a specific population to the table. The other brings expertise and information vectors on the subject of emergency contraception.

Let us wager that this type of partnership will be replicated, developing further synergies between the pharmaceutical and insurance industries. As a result, the patient/policy holder will be better reimbursed and informed. •

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10
Delphine Caroff

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Businesses also have a role to play

The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that between 2030 and 2050 there will be 250,000 extra deaths per year caused by climate change – notably because of malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat-related stress.

It is an undeniable fact that climate change significantly increases health risks and complicates access to healthcare all over the world.

Climate change is already spreading vector-borne diseases and will continue to do so. Let's take the example of dengue, for example. This disease is transmitted by mosquitos. It provokes fever plus pain in bones and joints. 400 million infections are recorded each year around the world. Over the past fifty years, the geographical zone impacted by this disease has grown 30 times bigger, taking the number of infected countries from 10 to 128 and reaching a total population of 4 billion people. Fortunately, after years of R & D, the first vaccine against the disease is now available.

Allergies are also on the rise due to air pollution. According to the WHO, air pollution is responsible for almost 3.2 million premature deaths per year, which is more than AIDS and malaria combined. The WHO also estimates that there are 235 million asthmatics in the world.

Healthcare players must therefore rally and find new drugs or healthcare solutions to combat the consequences of climate change on health. Research & Development is their vocation, their mission. They also have to be exemplary in this fight, notably by reducing their environmental footprint. Many health companies have already put ambitious policies in place to reduce their carbon emissions ; some have reached carbon neutrality.

I, for one, have always advocated that everyone has a role to play in combatting climate change, and that businesses must also rally, be they small, medium-sized or multinational ! Through their corporate social responsibility policies, businesses are major players in sustainable development.

In June 2015, the famous scientific journal *The Lancet* wrote : *"Tackling climate change is a medical emergency and one of the greatest opportunities to benefit human health for generations to come."* 1 It is time for all players to step up to the mark and seize this opportunity ! •

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1. The Lancet, *Health and climate change : policy responses to protect public health*, http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article, Juin 2015.

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11
Sabah Chraibi

Climate, health, women: banking on the future

Moroccan women who have entered into the third millennium have experienced significant changes in their daily life. Rights enshrined in decrees up to national law advocate equality, better control over maternity, and more open access to knowledge.

The battle for equality was neither easy nor simple. It remains a work in progress. Laws do not always converge with reality; the quest for greater democracy and equal access to positions of power remains to be played out In the future.

The promise of a future also depends on the fight against poverty. Poverty, like climate change, mainly impacts women.

The Moroccan landscape is rugged, its climate fickle. Years of drought have dragged on since the '80s. Global warming has accelerated the rural exodus and the polarization of society. Women rally together so that their fellow female citizens in the country, and those without any security, can remain on their land and subsist – health permitting.

Working the land implies being physically able. Health is therefore a precious commodity. A lack of water, and pollution, trigger disabling conditions that harm the women's eyesight.

Thanks to the health caravans we organise with doctors, we have managed to get hundreds of female artisans back on their feet so that they can start producing again.

South Morocco is the region that suffers most from climate change.

In 2001, another of our association's caravans ventured out to meet populations in Taroudant and the Atlas Mountains, where it set up an alternative to drought. The system relied on solidarity and the pooling of best practices, whilst taking a fresh look at the region's historical sources of wealth.

It was an encounter with a renowned humanist that made it possible to work with argan trees again: Pierre Rabhi defends the values of ecology and the nourishing earth.

The legendary argan tree, used in cosmetics, is blossoming again thanks to women in the East and women in the West. It provides co-operatives of women with new resources and is the best promise today not only of beauty, but also of health.

The urgent need to reflect and take action on new green businesses became obvious. The launch since then of agro-ecology has provided further avenues for life-saving crops. Female agricultural workers are hostages to a capricious climate, but thanks to training and specific assistance they are back on track towards equal access to the market – and thus to dignity.

The conclusion that we draw from our experience is that global warming caused by humans can only be solved by solidarity – without frontiers and without gender-based discrimination. Women are the guardians of the earth. They have a key contribution to make to alleviation strategies and so cannot be edged out of decision-making processes.

The first victims of climate change provide the matrix for reconciliation between nature and mankind. •

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Sabah Chraibi is the National Chair of ESPOD *(Espace Point de Départ)*, a Moroccan association that promotes women in business.

12
Frédérique Cintrat

www.axielles.com

Meet Anne Pélagie Yotchou from Cameroun

Because I like to tell myself that mutual aid, care, ambition (as a "burning desire to create") and energy are things we share whatever our standard of living, culture or country; because I like to think that women, if they unite in action, can foster greater solidarity and equity; because formal, informal and virtual networks can help us to have an impact beyond our own back yard: I commend the action of networks. I proudly participate in this White Paper as a business supporter in the name of axielles.com, an app. that fosters business links.

Operating in a network leads to marvellous encounters. I would like to tell you about someone I met in June 2015. I was in the Eure-et-Loir, in France, and Anne Pélagie Yotchou was in Cameroun. We met on Twitter. Our respective publications on the role of women in business life were on the same wavelength. She suggested we meet on her next trip to Paris, magically moving from the virtual to real life. We chatted and exchanged small gifts, and she described the fabulous initiatives she had launched in Yaoundé to develop female entrepreneurship in Cameroun.

Here is an excerpt about her, translated from her association's website [1]: *"Anne Pélagie Yotchou T. is a fervent defender of social and economic development for women and girls in Cameroun. She is a social entrepreneur and an expert in Gender & Development/Transitional Justice. She is a founding member of the association Genre en Action. 'To my mind, empowering women and girls is one of the keys to taking justice and gender equality forward, and to eradicating sexist violence and discrimination. I can't wait for a world culture of human rights, with a gender-equal approach'."*

Donning her other "computer scientist" hat, Anne Pélagie runs a host of training programmes in ICT, with a view to familiarising female leaders in rural environments with computing. This boosts their participation in sustainable governance, as key actors in their communities. Anne Pélagie Yotchou currently coordinates the CEFAP-Ladies

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Circle, a synergetic group of women (and men, too) who decided in 2005 to join forces and help construct a "fairer, impartial and inclusive" Cameroun. Their priority fields are: advancing the social, economic and cultural rights of women and girls; justice; taking gender into account in community management; plus various forms of support for women and girls encountering social difficulties.

In this message, I quite simply wanted to turn the spotlight on Anne Pélagie Yotchou, and through her to pay tribute to all of the women and men all over the world, who are helping to make the world a better place. •

1. http://cefapladiescircle.free.fr/

Frédérique Cintrat founded the start-up axielles.com, an app. that facilitates business networking. She is a speaker and expert on ambition and networks.
Author of *"Comment l'ambition vient aux filles?"* published by Eyrolles.

13
Béatrice Cornic

www.stabiplage.com

Protecting the coastline

Global warming poses a real threat to populations living along the shore. Rising sea levels, fresh outbreaks of freak climate events, and the destruction of natural barriers such as coral reefs, are all ushering the sea towards the land more quickly.

Defence structures are no longer enough to counter this. Sometimes they are simply destroyed; sometimes they speed up the destruction of the coastline. Yet it is the coast that protects us, via its beaches, dunes, marshlands and lagoons.

My mission is to rebuild or reinforce these coastal spaces so that they can protect property and people. Houses, work facilities, and also drinking water pipes, telecommunications cables and roads etc. are under threat. Populations are scared. It becomes difficult to work. For example, how can aquaculture continue when the lagoon is exposed to swells because the ridge of dunes has been destroyed?

Women are often at the heart of these activities and are directly impacted. When emergency evacuation is unavoidable, they have to cope with even harsher living conditions, including settling their family in a new place.

It is useless to fight nature. We have to work with it by reinforcing the coast as a form of protection. Waves work their way inland more slowly if the beach is wide, sloping, and with a sufficient bed of sedimentary rock.

Although withdrawal does sometimes have to be envisaged there are protective solutions. I have pledged to develop them, implement them, and inform populations about them.

The key today is to communicate about managing the coast. We need to stop bad practices (removing sand to use it for construction, artificializing the coastline, etc.). And we need to protect populations and infrastructures in a lasting and sustainable manner.

Our project will be a success if we protect women, improve educational resources, and heighten awareness among the general public and decision-makers. •

Béatrice Cornic runs a company called *Espace Pur*. She has won two awards: *Clean Tech Open France 2013*, and *Femmes et Entreprises en Bretagne* 2012.

14
Marianne de Battisti

Every shape and form of diversity

ICADE wished to include its testimonial because the property sector has a major impact on the environment, climate change and natural resource consumption. 25 % of greenhouse gas emissions in France stem from our sector.

Fully grasping all that is at stake can play to a company's advantage. ICADE has thus incorporated the environment into the core of its CSR strategy and set itself ambitious energy and ecological transition targets.

Climate change has a negative effect on human beings' quality of life and health. We must strive to eradicate global warming whilst also making changes to minimise its impact. We have therefore pledged to reduce our →

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→ emissions – linked to operations and to constructing our buildings – by 2020.

To achieve this, we have put in place a pro-active action plan centred on renovating our buildings, signing energy performance contracts with operators, using low-carbon construction materials such as wood, using more renewable energies, and partnerships with leading energy transition industrialists. Because we believe that women are a vehicle of change, our company policy is engineered to promote every aspect of diversity.

In 2015, in a sector that is traditionally perceived as being male-dominated, ICADE claimed first place among SBF 120 companies for feminising its management bodies. We are also actively committed to Réseau Alter Egales; it has become the Group's gender balance network.

We are totally convinced that, by uniting our efforts, we will succeed in efficiently combatting climate change and will adapt to limit impacts on our health and quality of life. •

Marianne de Battisti is the member of ICADE's Executive Committee in charge of innovation, institutional relations and communication. She is on the boards of Entreprises & Médias and SCET, and is ASC-certified (IFA 2012). She is a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. She is a member of the *Cercle des Femmes de l'Immobilier* and the *Association des Directeurs Immobiliers*, Vice-President of *Alter Egales* (the network of female managers within the Groupe Caisse des Dépôts), and Chair of the IEIF Policy Board.

15

Aicha Detsouli

The Gender Approach and Ethics for Climate Justice

Climate change is the main challenge of our day. Some populations and states unfairly suffer its negative consequences although they did not contribute to the problem. Women are more vulnerable; they are therefore impacted more strongly by the scale of the ecological disruptions that threaten even their most fundamental rights.

It is to be noted that, despite a host of international agreements in their favour, women's rights continue to be eroded. Health, civilian safety, food safety, education, gender equality, social justice and climate justice are all affected.

The fact of continuing the human activities that are responsible for climate change – and consequently for accentuating social disparities and poverty – raises far-reaching ethical questions.

The technical aspect of sustainable development does not paint the entire picture. Ethical behaviour counts too. The concept of ecological ethics is to be taken into consideration when assessing mankind's behaviour.

Despite their endurance and capacity to carry out several tasks simultaneously, and despite their ancestral know-how, women, unlike men, are encountering difficulties in finding solutions to climate change. Not because they don't know how or what to do, but because their momentum and their desire to act and contribute are slowed down by →

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→ stereotypes and by their social status, not to mention the very limited reserves at their disposal, the problems they have getting hold of land and resources, or the barriers they encounter in accessing information, education and protection. Their health and their lives are thus endangered as are, consequently, the lives of their families and their entire communities!

The vulnerability of women is also due to exhausting household tasks, the heavy labour of working the land and tending cattle, repeated pregnancies and breast-feeding. These all call for intense physical, moral and physiological capacities, not to mention a sufficient and balanced diet – which is not always available.

Women's right to a healthy life and healthy motherhood is also affected by the lack of appropriate infrastructures that cater for their specificities. In various rural regions, girls spend their time on uneven paths seeking water, or in forests gathering wood, instead of sitting in a classroom. Similarly, the absence of properly equipped health centres that are open to women is responsible for child mortality and the death of women during childbirth. They have difficulty accessing the emergency treatments that are necessary for their survival and the survival of their new-born babies. Women suffer too much pressure and too much injustice. That is why, during natural catastrophes, the risk of a woman dying is 14 times higher than the risk for a man.

In Morocco, some praiseworthy initiatives (National Human Development Initiative, a new constitution, the Education & Sustainable Development Charter) have been triggered by King Mohamed VI in the wake of constant and intense combat waged by women's associations to reduce inequalities between different sections of the population and between men and women. But the battle continues and the terrain is littered with landmines.

My duty as a militant citizen is to play my small part, alongside other women and men, in major open social projects. I do this through the various associations which I either chair or of which I am a member.

Various humanitarian initiatives strive to get girls into school, teach women to read and write, or organise medical caravans and gynaecological visits for women, including screening for breast and cervical cancer. Women are encouraged to engage in activities that generate revenue and to create cooperatives and micro-enterprises. We thus contribute as much as we can to improving the lives of a few families.

I have chaired the association *Travive* since 2010 and am a member of *La Dynamique Femmes* and the CMJC (Moroccan Coalition for Climate Justice). We carry out environment awareness and education campaigns, and advocate gender empowerment and climate justice.

Our en masse presence and participation in COP22 in Marrakesh was designed: to rally women and men and make them aware of environmental issues in Morocco, Africa and the world; to strengthen the capacity of women's associations by advocating respect for women's human and environmental rights; and to contribute to the adoption of gender empowerment in the negotiations of the Parties within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. •

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Aicha Detsouli is a Research Professor in zoology at the *Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II*. She chairs the following associations: *Travive Greening Madinaty, Réseau Maillage Maroc*. She is a member of *La Dynamique Femmes* and *the Coalition Marocaine pour la Justice Climatique*. She presides over *Tous pour Rabat Ville Verte* and is Vice-President of ESPOD Rabat.

16

Sarah Diouri

Towards a new generation of female farmers in South Africa

Welcome to the Western Cape, South Africa. The region is well-known for its glorious landscapes and rich crops. It also trails in its wake the burdensome heritage of a segregationist past. The Western Cape was, indeed, one of the provinces to be most sorely affected by Apartheid, a regime that systematically marginalised black and coloured populations. Today still, some communities remain steeped in a system of inequalities and poverty. Their access to land ownership remains difficult. The youngsters in these communities have a very conflictual relationship with the land; they do not aspire to work it, despite the lack of alternatives.

Given the above context, we decided to set up a programme that would make youngsters aware of different career opportunities in the farming sector. We targeted young girls from black and coloured communities in the valleys of Lynedoch and Stellenbosch who were making career choices (aged between 14 and 18). We chose women because it is harder for them than for men to access resources such as water, agricultural inputs, land, funding and training. These inequalities render them all the more vulnerable to the effects of climate change, which already impact the productivity and profitability of the farming sector in the Western Cape. By focusing on women, we also chose the future. In these communities, it is generally the women who educate and feed the children. Their role as head of the family is all the more important given the alcoholism rate among the men. It is high because of the "dop" system inherited from Apartheid, but now abolished, whereby part of a land worker's wage could be paid in wine. In women, this practice explains the abnormally high level of foetal alcoholism in the country (14/1 000 births).

During the four months of the programme, fifty young girls participated in: over ten fun, practical sessions linked to organic farming; two excursions in the Western Cape to meet professionals in the agro-food sector; and one career guidance session to get an idea of career opportunities in the sector. Throughout the course, the participants were exposed to the basic concepts of agro-ecology, to methods of working the land whilst respecting the environment, and to the importance of a healthy varied diet. They also met agro-entrepreneurs from the same coloured communities as themselves, who had succeeded in improving their standard of living thanks to farming.

The project was funded by the World Bank's *Youth Innovation Fund* and implemented jointly with the *Sustainability Institute* in Stellenbosch. It was a success as 75 % of the participants stated that they wanted to continue studying or a career in farming after the programme. Our final questionnaire also demonstrated that the participants felt they had increased their knowledge of organic farming by 50 %. By taking into account the primordial role women play in respecting the climate and health, the programme constitutes a first step towards taking the stigma out of working the land and breaking the cycle of poverty among black and coloured communities in the Western Cape. •

Sarah Diouri is a multi-lingual Agro-Business Consultant with the World Bank (Washington DC, USA). She analyses the agricultural policies of 13 countries in Africa and Latin America and constructs agricultural indicators that measure the efficacy of public policies regulating the market for agricultural inputs.

17
Marion Gaborit

Recipe for hope

In some countries, women account for 80 % of the agricultural workforce. Yet they are rarely land owners and have less access to education, grants and loans. If things were easier for them, if they had recognition, they would be an even more influential force in wealth production. Male agricultural workers account for 11 % of the world's working population while female agricultural workers account for only 8 %. Levelling the gap between men and women, and giving women better working conditions, would be a solution in its own right to feeding the population for decades to come, to reducing famine and to improving living conditions in developing countries. But who are these female labourers working in the shadows day in and day out, doing a job that is vital for life?

I travelled for one year, filming and photographing some of these anonymous heroines. Here are portraits of some of the female agricultural workers I met in a dozen countries on four continents (Africa, Asia, Oceania and Latin America).

Meeting some of these courageous women, who were both ordinary and yet moving, was, for me, a truly thrilling and moving experience – an adventure made up of daily life, laughter, emotion, sometimes concern, too, but above all, hope.

Food is a vital need that has always triggered strategies, migration, conflict and alliances, as well as inventions and tendencies flavoured by the day. But food is also the undeniable reflection of a country – its level of development, climate, geography, population and even beliefs and traditions. Food-related issues and questions are countless, as 21st-century debates go to show: organic farming or intensive agriculture, cultural melting pot or communitarianism, fair trade or menacing globalisation.

So who are these modern-day women who account for 43 % of the agricultural labour force in developing countries, tilling the land and working as hard as men to feed human beings?

By filming and photographing female agricultural workers around the world for *"Au Goût du Monde"* (roughly *"To the World's Taste"*), I wanted to highlight the key role played by millions of women. Their work bears real hope for the future of the planet.

If female agricultural workers had a plot of land or some cattle, if they had easier access to loans and training, if they benefited from the same agricultural inputs as men, the situation would be completely different. In developing countries, women could increase their yields by almost 30 %, boost national agricultural production by 2 to 4 %, and possibly reduce the number of people suffering from famine by approximately 15 %, in other words, extract 100 to 150 million people from poverty.

The project spotlights the transmission of agricultural work and the transmission of cooking – an essentially female activity. It sketches portraits of heroic workers and reveals their daily lives. Telling their story by listening to their testimonials, dreams, doubts and difficulties is a way of paying tribute to them. But it also fulfils a duty: spreading awareness about a subject whose impacts will affect us all in the near future. •

After working for French television as an assistant camerawoman for four years, I decided to embark on a personal project that I felt strongly about. I travelled for one year, making a photographic and video documentary about female agricultural workers in countries in Africa, Asia, Oceania and Latin America. I've been back in France for almost two years now, and continue to work on photographic and video documentaries.

18
Benoît Golitin

The School of Philanthropy

My name is Benoît Golitin and I am a junior school teacher in the 18th arrondissement of Paris. Last year, I ran a project called *"The School of Philanthropy" (L'école de la philanthropie)* aided by a teachers'association (the *Ligue de l'Enseignement de Paris*). I wanted my pupils to discover what socially responsible citizenship is, and to inspire them to want to "help others" without expecting anything in return.

The project was in two phases, each comprising several stages.

- The first phase was awareness. They discovered the notion of empathy : to help others, you have to be able to put yourself in their shoes.

  We watched a short film called *"The Little Girl Who Sold The Sun"* and then discussed it. A few days later, an actress came to help the pupils act out short plays featuring a character in difficulty. The pupils had to improvise the end of the story, finding a way to help the person in distress.

  Finally, we compiled a press review on six major philanthropic themes : health, poverty & exclusion, education, human rights, the environment, and art & culture.

- After the first phase, we could have called it a day. But the pupils were really motivated. So we started the second phase : action.

  First of all, we had to select one of the six themes we'd tackled in our press review. I asked the pupils to prepare presentations on the theme that had touched them the most. The class then voted and chose the environment. So we had to carry out a philanthropic action in favour of the environment.

The topic is vast. So we decided to focus on the issue of waste. We asked the association *Zero Waste* to come in to school and explain the importance of waste management, to make sure we understood, and to describe what they do.

It was a particularly rich and interesting experience for the pupils. So much so that we decided to launch not one but three actions !

- We informed the other pupils in our school about the issue. We taught them how to sort waste for recycling on the one hand, and also how to reduce the amount of waste they produce. The pupils were really proud of their slogan : *"Recycling is good, reducing is better !"* They spent a lot of time and effort passing on their knowledge, in a fun way, to their schoolmates.
- We wrote to the mayor of Paris and the mayor of the 18th arrondissement, asking them to provide schools with compost bins for recycling left-over canteen food.
- We also made posters with "anti-waste" advice that we put up around the school and in local shops. •

Benoît Golitin teaches at a junior school in the 18th arrondissement of Paris.

19
Claude du Granrut

Women are the guardians of the earth

Women are the guardians of daily family life, food and safety. They play a key role in the safekeeping of the earth, the environment, and everything that keeps our planet balanced. They procure well-being for society, in other words, for all humanity.

Have we forgotten that it was the women, a very long time ago, who forced the men to settle, to guarantee a safe source of food for their children, a stable family life, and peaceful social interaction ?

Economic and social evolution and climate change have had their say, but the fundamentals of a woman's role remain the same.

As the repercussions of climate change on the economy, health and society change how we consume, use natural resources and organise daily life, women must remember that they are the guardians of the earth. They must combat any attack on its integrity or production capacity, as well as the effects of global warming on the health of human beings – men, women and children.

Rising sea levels are shrinking coastal bands ; once fertile zones are now arid ; there's deforestation and the depletion of underground resources ; galloping urbanisation is leading to increased health risks… The challenge is global. The answers are mainly dependent on the actions of women, their common sense, and the fruit of their experience.

Whether women are industrial CEOs, domestic staff, at the supermarket check-out or agricultural workers (70 % of agricultural workers in Africa are women), they also have to guarantee the dietary, social and environmental well-being of their family.

Women will have to take initiatives both in daily life and with an eye on the longer term. This is new, but not insurmountable as both are linked. To be able to ensure everyday basics, they have to direct their thoughts and their actions towards preventing catastrophes to come : warding off and modifying what can still be controlled, organising a counter-attack to what appears as dangerous and unavoidable.

A few examples : greater respect for equilibrium in the marine milieu, regulating fishing, prohibiting waste being thrown into the sea, and protecting species in the Arctic and Antarctic.

For land that remains above sea level : warding off the collateral effects of global warming by managing rivers and adopting irrigation programmes, better use of energy resources, developing new energy sources such as the sun and the wind, regulating the prospecting and drilling that are disfiguring landscapes and generating pollution, halting deforestation projects in favour of enhanced management and consumption of wood, tying together both ends of the production-consumption chain, maintaining food-producing crops, mastering the elements of disorder (floods, tornados, forest fires, putting human life at risk).

To achieve all of this : harness advances in technology and communication, as well as our knowledge of the universe, to the benefit of our planet.

Reeves said : *"When the earth can't function any longer, we will die with it."* He is making a well-thought-out appeal to us, the guardians of daily life on earth and of the life that is renewed with every new generation. •

> When the earth can't function any longer, we will die with it. REEVES

Claude du Granrut is Judge and French politician, author of various works of whom *"Tous inachevés"*.

Pakistan, 2011. September 13th, a girl is in the camp of fortune of her community in the city of Hyderabad, in the province of Sindh. The community was moved because of the rise in the water level.

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CLIMATE

Young people worried about the future of the planet

Climate change is one of the major concerns of the younger generations. These generations are worried about the consequences of this phenomenon on the planet and on people. Many lead everyday actions but hope that governments also play their part.

In France, as in the rest of the world, young people are particularly concerned about climate change. Surveys conducted in early 2017 with the U-Report digital tool in twenty countries, highlight the importance of this topic for the younger generations. They have fully understood that the future of the planet and its natural resources is at stake, but they have also realized that continuing in the same direction will have dramatic repercussions for a large number of human and animal lives.

Children and women among the most vulnerable

In August 2017, a few months after the official launch of U-Report in France, UNICEF consulted with young French U-Reporters in a survey designed in partnership with SupplémentdElles. Nearly 90 % of the 400 or so young people interviewed in France with U-Report, said that they had heard of the Paris Agreement, a document written by the States that participated in COP21 in 2015.

This figure demonstrates how much 15-year-olds are mobilized on this subject. Unsurprisingly, they were shocked that the President of the United States, Donald Trump, would demonstrate such strong opposition to the agreement. For nearly 80 % of 15-25-year-olds, his stance will jeopardize efforts against climate change. A concern shared to a lesser extent (60 %) by the over 25-year-olds.

The results of the survey are less clear when young people in France are asked whether girls and women are more affected by the effects of climate change. While a majority of female respondents think they are more affected (42 %), almost one-third (34 %) answered "maybe" and one-quarter (24 %) responded "no". One respondent argued that "women are no more vulnerable than men".

Some of these women may not be aware that climate change is particularly disruptive to the poor. Unfortunately, women and girls are overrepresented in this group and are therefore at the forefront of potential victims of climate change.

Kenya, 2011. *"I do not know my age, I have never been to school".* Seyanae cares for a few surviving goats from her family in Lodwar, Kenya.
©UNICEF/UNI114799/Holt

Increasing hazards in the world

An international survey organized by the UN using U-Report in 17 countries in April 2017 found that educating young people about the consequences and responses to climate change is a priority for 71 % of respondents.

Many of the interviewees (80 %) are aware that climate change is a threat to the well-being and safety of human beings. This danger is however perceived differently depending on the country where the respondents live: almost 95 % of young people in Burundi and Uganda are worried about the effects of climate change in their country, but only 46 % of young people in the United Kingdom and 39 % of respondents in Ukraine believe that their country will be affected.

According to this international U-Report survey, what young people fear the most is the growth of poverty and famine, rising water levels, dwindling drinking water supplies and rising migration. With the expansion of deserts and declining economic incomes from agriculture or tourism, these dangers are likely to become more and more concrete, especially for women and girls. This is why it is essential for populations worldwide to grasp the issue; for younger generations to play a leading role in changing behaviors; and for the COP23 to foster innovative initiatives to fight global warming. •

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Young U-Reporters' solutions to preserve the climate

U Report FRANCE

In the summer of 2017, several hundred U-Reporters in France participated in a poll on climate change and put forward some suggestions to fight this phenomenon. These committed young people take action both in their daily and professional lives to encourage new (greener) habits.

© DR

"I eat more local and organic food. I plan to install solar panels in my future home. I try to reduce the amount of waste I produce and spread the word around me."

A 29-year-old woman, from the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region

"I carry out awareness-raising activities with schoolchildren and I set up projects to mobilize students."

A 19-year-old woman, from the Grand Est region

© Baliuk Oleg

"I choose public or soft transportation (bike or roller skates), I shop in bulk to limit my waste, I try to limit my electricity consumption, and I try to buy secondhand clothes and furniture."

Lucie, a 24-year-old, from the Ile-de-France region

"I sort my waste, I no longer eat palm oil-based goods. I try to buy organic beauty products. I take fewer showers. I switch off the lights when I leave a room."

A 22-year-old woman, from the Center-Val de Loire region

© DR

"I placed a compost bin in my neighborhood, I try to sort my waste, I use less water to wash things, I wash my hair less regularly."

Auregan, a 16-year-old, from the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region

"As a trainee facilitator for children from 6 to 12 years old, I make a habit of offering children fun activities on societal topics, such as global warming. I'm trying to teach them that if they do not respect the planet, polar bears will no longer have a "home". Children are very receptive to this type of message."

A 17-year-old woman, from the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region

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Trust us!

Celia Chenin took advantage of her gap year in Brazil to influence other young people to act against climate change, before coming back to France where she continues to be active in this campaign.

Between my second and my final year in high school I spent a gap year in 2015-2016 and I went to Brazil. I lived with a family in Santos, a city by the sea, close to Sao Paulo. One day, as I was watching the ocean, I realized that if we didn't do anything, this beautiful scenery would no longer exist because of rising water levels. I wondered whether the young people around me were aware of the consequences of climate change and the fact that it could potentially affect their lives permanently.

I wanted to act, so I contacted UNICEF in Brazil and reached out to the local town officials and heads of schools so that discussions could be held in the schools about this subject. And it worked, after six months I spoke in forty classes of students of all ages and all backgrounds. During these exchanges, many projects came about, and to my surprise most of these ideas came from the children themselves.

Why do adults say that young people are not interested and inactive? My goal today is to show that all they need is to be informed and be given resources to act. During these weeks spent talking with young people, I understood that we could accomplish many great things.

Many projects have emerged. Teachers and municipalities helped schools organize awareness raising weeks on climate change. Some have even put in place measures to ensure that their cafeteria is part of the "zero waste" dynamic, and young people have organized themselves to create, invent and innovate to change their lives.

I am aware that we did not change everything overnight, but talking and gaining the adults' trust was enough to translate our ideas into action. After I left, these initiatives carried on and young people on the ground will continue to implement them and ensure that other young people succeed them. I hope that this dialogue between adults and young people will develop, because trusting us also means making sure we have all the keys to prepare our future. •

© Célia Chenin

© Célia Chenin

During my gap year in 2015, I helped UNICEF Brazil set up the U-Report platform, which asks young people about the major issues of society. The results of these surveys are then used to challenge the public authorities. The goal is to give these young people the opportunity to address the problems they face. At least 400 young people participated to U-Report polls in the area where I lived. Many were then able to relay the results of these surveys to local authorities at Youth Council meetings.

Celia Chenin, 18, is a first-year student at Sciences Po. As young UNICEF ambassador, she participated to the COP21 in 2015 in Paris and met Nicolas Hulot on that occasion.

@CheninCelia

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In my high school, it only took six actions to change things

Laura Bellois, the Vice-president of the School-Life Committee of a high school located in the Paris region, is committed to sustainable development and participates in the implementation of innovative and collective actions in her high school.

It is necessary that young people rally to shape the future. That is why the Paul-Émile Victor High School located in Osny and its High School Committee undertake many projects in favor of sustainable development while putting young generations at the heart of this reflection. This approach is a real success. It has created a positive environment in the school thanks to involved students. This in turn has improved the atmosphere in school, and has created a sense of community and a common desire to bring these projects to fruition.

Among the actions undertaken, an educational garden was set up. It promotes organic, local and short food production chains. This project is a part of the school's global effort to promote sustainable agriculture in everyday life. This garden is also a tool for civic education because it allows to address issues related to the respect of the environment and ecosystems.

To promote intergenerational relations, we have developed an important collaboration with a senior residence and a kindergarten located in the city. Regular meetings held in the high school allow us to reflect together on sustainable development and, for the youngest, to learn from their elders.

We have also maintained the initiatives launched by Chef Cédric Guibert on the management of food waste by building a henhouse. For several years now, Mr. Guibert fights food waste and encourages selective waste disposal and recycling. We have also organized a collection of bottle lids for the Les bouchons de l'espoir association, which funds handi-bike wheelchairs to make the sport accessible to all. Thanks to this initiative, we are working on waste sorting and concepts of solidarity and sharing, which we consider very important.

Enfants au potager
© Laura Bellois

With this in mind, we have set up a book swap in the students' office to encourage cultural openness and sharing, while respecting the environment.

These six actions have brought a concrete change in the lives of hundreds of people and the commitment of dozens of young people proves that this subject touches us and pushes us to act. •

© Laura Bellois

Laura Bellois is 17-year-old and in her last year of high school. Very committed to the life of her high school, she is a U-Reporter since April 2017.

@laura_bellois

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Everyone can make an effort, starting with simple things

Lee Ann Michel, an eco-representative of her high school located in the Paris region, wants to offer solutions so that young people in her school change their habits and adopt greener behaviors.

I did not know anything about climate change until recently. But a teacher of mine showed us several videos on this issue and the data put forward particularly affected me. I realized that it is urgent to act quickly and that our actions have direct consequences for the environment.

I did some research and discovered a youtuber named Laetitia Birbes, who has launched her channel and blog called *Le corps, la maison, l'esprit.* She has adopted the 'zero waste'concept, which means she has totally changed her lifestyle, and no longer uses packaging and reduces her consumption as much as she can. She made me grow. I started take actions at home, sorting my waste, saving water and electricity. My father, who practices permaculture, was very happy to see me following his footsteps for the greater good of the planet.

I also wanted to promote green actions at my high school, which has received a label for sustainable development *(E3D/Etablissement en démarche de développement durable)*.

© Lee Ann Michel

© Lee Ann Michel

I was elected class representative and, with 9 other students from my high school, I became an eco-representative. I initiate projects linked to sustainable development. I favor projects which use recycled paper, and I promote the use of the ECOSIA search engine, which uses parts of its benefits to plant trees in several countries. In order to motivate the other students to use this tool, I explain that it's a search engine comparable to others, but with a positive impact. If many people use it, things can change.

I also would like the students in my high school to sort their waste : young people must change their habits regarding waste. in the long term, we could even adopt a zero-waste policy.

For the moment, the head of the high school lets us run these projects by ourselves, but they could certainly get more involved if more students participated in these initiatives.

For young people who do not know what to do to change things and who are looking for a starting point, I advise them to make small personal efforts : for instance, sorting their waste, and day after day reducing their water and electricity use. These small steps can really make a difference. •

Lee Ann Michel, 18, lives in the Paris area. She is active in promoting ecology and biodiversity and is the eco-representative in her high school. She is U-Reporter since April 2017.

@leeann_michel

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Climate change: we ought to act!

Emmanuela Shinta launched the Youth Act Campaign to fight the toxic fumes that plague the lives of her indigenous people, the Dayaks. Her community lives in Kalimantan, the island of Borneo in Indonesia, known for its dense tropical forests.

I witnessed what some people call the worst environmental disaster of the 21st century: toxic fumes in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia, in 2015.

The flames destroyed my homeland. Babies and children were screaming while trying to breathe. Mothers wiped their tears as they brought their children to the hospital. Fathers were overwhelmed and tried to extinguish the fire that burned their plantations and homes. I saw it with my own eyes. Sleep escapes me every time I remember how people thirsted for oxygen, died because of the poisoned air and had no place to go to shelter from this thick mist. That's why I wanted to change things.

This is how the Youth Act Campaign was launched on March 2nd, 2016. Our motto is: *"We are just ordinary people, but we refuse to be inactive"*. We are mobilizing young people from Central Kalimantan to become actively involved in the fight against forest fires and toxic fumes. These fires have broken out every year for the past 20 years.

It has not difficult to find volunteers in such difficult times. We all share the same experience, having been exposed to toxic smoke all our lives. But raising money was another matter.

As our movement grew, we focused on raising awareness in the Palangkaraya Region, the capital of Central Kalimantan, and the surrounding islands, to inform people of the climatic events affecting our communities. lives. We organized seminars, film screenings, debates in 27 communities, schools and universities. We emphasized the importance of youth engagement in this movement. We collected testimonies and interviews to educate and convince.

In addition to these awareness-raising actions, we trained 28 young volunteers to join the Young Fire Brigade. These young people are now able to intervene immediately regardless of where a fire occurs. We also set up a service to help victims of toxic fumes by distributing equipment (masks and oxygen bottles), offering medical assistance with doctors and nurses

Emmanuela, left on the photo, during a workout with young volunteer firefighters.
©Emmanuela Shinta

from the region, and we built a smoke shelter which can accommodate up to 40 adults and 60 children.

In one and a half year, we have reached approximately 50 villages, four regions and two provinces. When we launched the Youth Act Movement, we were 30 and we financed our actions on our own. I am proud to say that we now have more than 100 volunteers, and donors who believe in what we do.

I had the honor of representing the Youth Act Movement at national and international events. My documentary on fires, toxic fumes and the Youth Act Movement, titled *"When Women Fight"* was screened at the 2016 Freedom Film Festival in Kuala Lumpur, and at the ASEAN People Forum 2016 in Dili, East Timor.

I have always believed in the "power of people", especially that of the younger generation. U-Report Indonesia is such a powerful platform for young people to meet, learn, and speak out. I became aware of it in April 2017, when a U-Report campaign on climate change made young people aware of the problem of toxic fumes. All the data collected is an incredible tool to convince the government and stakeholders.

Our movement will not stop until Central Kalimantan is released from forest fires and toxic fumes. Climate change exists! Kalimantan was once one of the lungs of the world, but it has become one of the biggest contributors of carbon monoxide. This affects me directly because it is my homeland, a place where my people, the Dayaks, live. We natives have known this environment for a long time and we depend on the forest. To lose it is to lose our culture and our identity, and that is why we are fighting for its preservation. •

Emmanuela Shinta is 25 years old. Director and activist, she has put her skills towards the fight against climate change and helped found the Youth Act Campaign in Indonesia.

@EmmanuelaShin

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Isabelle Guitton & Alric Baral

The time has come to be bold

Women, the cradle of future generations, are aware that the insecurity of their situation exposes them to the vagaries of life and threatens their health. They broach the challenges of climate change with a more holistic and longer-term vision than men.

It is therefore no coincidence that an increasing number of women are now centre stage, lobbying for change in the fight against global warming: Corporate Social Responsibility Officers, chairs of NGOs, political players…

The vocation of our network for fifteen years has been to foster discussion and experience sharing in business. Identifying women to talk about sustainable development has never been a problem. Quite the contrary! They were the first to seize this subject, particularly in the worlds of business and politics.

But it was an uphill struggle. On the one hand, decision-makers were not at all sensitive to climate issues (and they are still lacking on this front), and on the other, a lot of men said that as no one was interested in the subject, it was a way for women to climb the ladder.

Yet anyone who has ever tried to convince a climate sceptic knows that it takes a phenomenal amount of energy not to throw in the towel – especially if that climate sceptic is your CEO, supported by an entire Executive Committee!

Let us commend those women who are bold, who fight. Let us also commend those men who support them (our association, open to women and men, can bear witness to that).

The question Is no longer whether or not we can avoid climate change, but how we are going to adapt to it.

Women have a major role to play because their situation in the world is more insecure, making them more vulnerable. We have to be bold and believe, be bold and advance, be bold and want to change practices and behaviour for a more sustainable world. •

Isabelle Guitton chairs *Femmes et Développement Durable* and is a lawyer for Avistem.
Alric Baral is Vice-President of *Femmes et Développement Durable* and Head of Communication and Corporate Social Responsibility with Generali.

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Cyrielle Hariel

@CyrielleHariel

Militancy, survival, anger and images

My life changed the day I went to Bangladesh, one of the most threatened parts of the world. I will never forget the look on that little girl's face, a Rohingya refugee, in the spring of 2014. Her coal-like eyes shone bright, brimming with enthusiasm at the sight of humanitarian workers, but also with deep despair. A despair that was doubtlessly even deeper than the despair I was to feel when I almost died a few weeks after meeting that ethnic group.

My life was in the hands of surgeons, who operated in good time on a heart malformation, fitting me with an artificial valve. Her life was in the hands of political decision-makers. Within a few months, my health problem had →

21 Cyrielle Hariel

→ been stabilised. Hers is still in the balance and will be, without doubt, for far too long to come. Her family has no future and the country where she manages to survive is one of the most poverty-stricken in the world, due notably to the consequences of climate change. Her ethnic group is one of the most persecuted in the world. Born a Rohingya, her future, if it can be called a future, seems already traced out due to political inertia. Almost one third of Bangladeshis are jeopardised by rising sea levels impacting the capital, Dhaka, which is becoming more eroded with every passing year.

The population is suffering inland and on the coast, here, there and everywhere. My heart feels rebellious, beats faster than ever. I want people to hear the voices of the most vulnerable, such as that little Rohingya girl. Politicians, take action! Do something for this community, for our fellow brothers and sisters in other countries who are also victims of the climate machine. Every year it impacts more human beings and our biodiversity.

I was gradually drawn to humanitarian work and ecology as I saw the humanitarian commitment in a person who had inspired me since childhood, Michael Jackson. Who doesn't remember those moving post-Ethiopian images in *Man in the Mirror*; and the international ode to solidarity *We are the World?* I wanted to understand what was going on far from my day-to-day comfort zone, so decided to go out into the field and get to grips with complex humanitarian Issues.

The most recent HCR report estimates that there are over 65 million refugees in the world, equivalent to the population of the United Kingdom. This planetary tragedy is stimulated by conflicts and wars and by climate disruption. Asia is the region in the world to suffer most. Environmental refugees top the charts among displaced people. Some years there are two or three times more environmental refugees than other categories.

The climate is therefore an obvious and vital problem. Every head of state, and every citizen, needs to take it into account. There is no Plan B because there is no Planet B, as Ban Ki-moon so rightly pointed out in the run up to COP21. Humanity has to adopt a long-term view right now, in order to preserve the environment and quality of life for future generations. With the cognitive revolution, *Homo sapiens* managed to free himself and rise above the other species thanks to his capacity to cooperate in large numbers to reach common goals. Today, modern man is connected, efficient and ultra-informed thanks to new technologies. He, too, must join with others to face the major challenge of the 21st century and make our planet more sustainable and fairer than ever. It's a matter of life and death.

Alongside indigenous peoples, women workers round the world are the first victims of environmental catastrophes. Women workers are vulnerable although paradoxically they often live in countries that pollute the least. International mutual aid must do more to protect them, in the name of food safety and the world economy. Sustainable solutions do exist.

Let us act together, united and sustainably, to protect Mother Nature and our women! *"When you attack nature, you attack women."* Vandana Shiva.

Poverty is being feminised. Climate change is synonymous with a threat on the world's agriculture, notably family crops often managed by mothers, i.e. women. Over time, distances are growing; water and wood are further away…

Developed countries emit greenhouse gases either directly or indirectly. They endanger those who pollute the least, making them the first victims of this climate disruption. Although greenhouse gases affect us all, those on the front line, who pollute the least, are the most vulnerable.

It is time to act and to reach out to our brothers – and more so our sisters – and to live more sustainably and more fairly. We have to construct a more humane economy without delay, and involve women. •

Cyrielle Hariel is a Green & Positive free-lance journalist who has a spot on the TV programme *Ushuaia Le Mag* on Ushuaia TV and radio programm *circuitscourts* at *Europ 1*.
Founder of the blog www.cyrielleheriel.com
#PourUnMondeMeilleur/ # MakeABetterWorld

22
Alain Houpert

Alain-houpert.fr

The climate catastrophe and violence against women

Separating out the victims of climate change according to gender may seem strange at first glance. But the facts are there, and they were reiterated during the COP21 discussions in Paris. In many countries still firmly anchored in their traditional economic models, women and young girls are on the front line when it comes to providing the groups of human beings to which they belong with the means to subsist. They draw drinking water from the well and carry it ; they tend the land and the cattle, etc. Therefore, they are best placed to measure the devastation wreaked by climate change on their food-growing environment. They are also the first victims. Many testimonials gathered in this White Paper will explain this better than I can, by relating experiences out in the field. As a French MP, I would like to give you my feelings on the specific question of violence against women.

When a hurricane devastates an island or an earthquake destroys a mountainous region, rescue teams have to prioritise emergencies. There are health emergencies : preventing the spread of contagious diseases, caring for the injured and people in shock after losing loved ones and their possessions. Food emergencies : providing water and food to survivors. The urgent need to get utilities back up and running, to clear ruins and rebuild accommodation for refugees. When the emergency is for vital needs, it is natural for humanitarian actions to focus on them, putting educational programmes to one side for an instant. But in developing countries, who are ordinarily left out of such programmes ? Women, whose traditional responsibility is the subsistence of the group.

Yet in many countries, education constitutes a gateway towards emancipating women from age-old laws that maintain them in positions of submission — to the authority of a father, husband or chief, and to practices of mutilation such as excision. The relationship between violence and climate change is sadly basic. One of its consequences is that women and young girls become increasingly occupied with subsistence tasks in an environment that has become unstable, poorer and dangerous ; they are thus not able (or authorised) to follow educational programmes.

"Never forget that a single political, economic or religious crisis could question women's rights. None of these rights are acquired forever. You will have to remain vigilant for the rest of your life"

Simone de Beauvoir

Another consequence observed out in the field and reported by many NGOs is that, in countries devastated by climate catastrophes, women and young girls (and young boys, too, for that matter) become particularly exposed to physical violence. Flood, drought and famine will disrupt systems of protection and very often isolate women, young girls and children, rendering them extremely vulnerable to all sorts of abuse including rape and prostitution.

Consciousness of the violence that is perpetrated against our environment brings the realisation that, behind statistics about floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, drought, epidemics and famine, looms the spectre of human rights being eroded around the world, particularly women's rights. We can no longer ignore this. To counter this threat as dignified human beings, we must henceforth build respect for every individual into our common future. •

Alain Houpert was born in 1957 in Dijon, France. He is a radiologist, senator for the Côte-d'Or (since 2008), and a member of the French Senate's Finance Committee.

23

Nathalie Hutter-Lardeau

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A call to players in the food sector to combat climate change

When I started my career as a nutritional therapist, the international fight against poverty and malnutrition was in full swing. It was even producing results! Figures presented by the UN year after year showed a downturn in hunger around the world.

Unfortunately, since 2006 the trend has reversed due to climate change and increasing conflicts. Malnutrition is jeopardising the health of millions of children and women around the globe.

Yet the situation is paradoxical. 15 % of the world population is suffering from hunger while 20 % of humanity is overweight! The World Health Organisation is even talking about an obesity epidemic. Given these demographic, climatic and dietary challenges, all actors in the sector must shoulder their responsibility. We have to put meaning back into resources and food choices.

Eating is a day-to-day social activity. It evokes notions of pleasure and sharing in a community and between communities. It concerns every single individual in the world. The availability of resources and the quality of foodstuffs must be central to our plans for the future. We have to educate populations and make people realise how essential diet is to our health and to that of our families.

I am convinced that the success of the food sector of the future resides in an approach combining human health and the health of the environment: helping people to understand what they need, what a balanced diet is, where ingredients come from and what they bring us; and promoting professionals who produce and process quality foods with conviction and transparency.

Throughout my career and in my many projects at *Atlantic Santé*, the agency I run, I have met players from the sector who do realise what is at stake. In particular, I can see wonderful energy emanating from agro-food start-ups. They are committed to: respecting the planet, no waste, animal welfare, promoting the locally-made and authentic, providing healthy food that is free of controversial substances, carefully listening to expectations, customisation, etc.

Other companies have had their eyes opened by this kick-start by start-ups. The sector is beginning to shoulder its responsibility and I hope it will continue to do so.

Food sector players, let us not forget that better food for all is the key to well-being for all human beings and our planet! •

©Marion Gaborit

Nathalie Hutter-Lardeau is a nutritionist. She cretaed the *"Atlantic Santé"* agency, specialised in communication nutrition and health (development of a call center nutrition and crisis management, advice health marketing, employees training and the health influencers). She wrote seral books on food and nutrition.

24
Alban Jarry

@Alban_Jarry

Equal opportunities?

Since the end of the Second World War, western countries have thrived so well that it is difficult for their citizens to imagine being constantly confronted with war, famine, disease or more generally deprivation. Our ecosystem is only rarely subjected to the things that happen in underprivileged countries, and even modern means of communication cannot bring home to us the reality of the world that surrounds us.

Some events in our 21st-century world have, however, upended our daily lives – although without fundamentally revolutionising our habits. Terrorist attacks have created a climate of insecurity and climate change is challenging us to curb our excesses. But at the end of the day, on a day-to-day basis, we can say that we are still relatively protected in the short term.

There have been sudden floods around the River Seine recently. It sends shivers down my spine to imagine what the consequences would have been in an ill-equipped underprivileged country. What we experienced so briefly constitutes a recurrent event for some, with devastating consequences every time. The possibility of our drinking water supply being impacted right in the centre of Paris simply sent people out to the shops to buy bottles of water and build up a stock, never imagining that it could be worth its weight in gold or indeed be vital to survival.

But if our water had become scarce, if our water had been polluted, we would quickly have tipped into that other world that is not really so very distant from us. We would have had to go and fetch it. We would have been confronted with diseases whose names we have almost forgotten. We would have had to endure a day-to-day life that other women and men endure, a daily life that should be catching our eye.

Women are *"14 times more likely than men to die in a natural catastrophe"*. Our duty is to take action so that there really are equal opportunities, so that our past, present and future actions do not further accentuate the imbalances we see today. We are all responsible for what is happening on our planet, and every one of us must strive for equal opportunities all over the world. •

Alban Jarry is Vice-Chair of the *École Polytechnique d'Assurances* and a member of its Digital & Big Data Scientific Committee. He is co-founder of #i4emploi, and a lecturer at HEC on digital strategies, communication, influence and social networks.

25
Chantal Jouanno

@Chantal_jouanno

A woman's right to decide her own future

For COP21 in Paris, we at the French Senate, with our National Assembly and our Higher Council on Equality, decided to write a manifesto on the very specific link between women and climate. I have already been involved in the more common question of women and water. But even more is at stake with the lower-profile issue of women and climate.

Climate change deeply affects the quality of the ground, damages crop yields, reduces water resources, and accelerates extreme climate events and the massive displacement of populations.

70 % of agricultural workers in Africa are women. The vast majority of the victims of natural catastrophes are women. 80 % of refugees around the world fleeing from conflict →

25 Chantal Jouanno

→ are women and children. They are the first victims of climate change yet they are not invited to the climate negotiation table. 70 % of negotiators are men and the lion's share of international public funding benefits male powers.

Women are victims, but women are also the future. The answer to climate change is women. They know more about their everyday environment and are therefore able to develop adaptation strategies. They are more concerned with sustaining their environment. They are also confronted with the challenge of survival.

Several studies carried out by the FAO (the United Nations organisation for food and agriculture) and the OECD have calculated the gains to be expected after integrating women into climate policy and recognising their right to decide their own future.

Above and beyond specific climate policies, all initiatives that contribute to equal rights for women and men will have a positive effect on the climate. Women are not begging for their rights; they are claiming them.

But before the legitimate place of women can be recognised, political decision-makers will first have to recognise women's universal right to decide their own future – an unthinkable hypothesis that would call into question male control over the female body and women's reproductive rights.

Our current development model is environmentally and socially untenable. But it can be changed. It is simply the expression of a society that is dominated by its social – and to a greater degree its gender-based – inequalities. Refusing to recognise a woman's right to decide the fate of her own body is simply the consequence of a patriarchal society. •

Chantal Jouanno is a former Secretary of State in charge of ecology (2009) and environment think-tank negotiations *(Grenelle de l'Environnement).*

26 Honorine Koenig

Climate change in Wallis and Futuna

I remember a TV report on the Tuvalu Islands. An inhabitant's eyes were filled with tears as his garden disappeared beneath the sea. No words, just tears. We will have to abandon our islands and seek refuge abroad.

I was born in Wallis and Futuna. We women took things in hand, planting mangroves, sorting waste, creating associations to raise awareness and speak out on our behalf. The women of the Pacific construct and protect our cultural and family heritage. Rulers of industrial countries! Never forget that each time you take a decision for our planet, men and women on the other side of the world are having to leave their land, their traditions, their culture and their heritage!

Our coral reefs are in jeopardy. Boats are pillaging our seas, catching species that are either protected or feed native populations. Cyclones are increasingly frequent and occurring during periods when we didn't see them before, causing severe destruction. In Wallis and Futuna we have made some very major changes, such as growing new varieties of roots so that we can continue to cook our traditional dishes whilst adapting to climate change.

Global warming can't be solved in a room full of speakers who think they can revolutionise everything! Take a look at our difficulties, our riches, our heritage! Involve us! Consult us! Take an interest in us! →

26 Honorine Koenig

→ I am a politically active woman and I have to speak out for all women in my region and in the Pacific. We have to be heard. Women of Wallis and Futuna, women of the Pacific! Let's weave a South Sea Island fabric so that one day our children can thank their ancestors for having protected them. •

Native of Wallis, **Honorine Koenig** is elected as local councillor in the city hall of Mureaux in 2014 and aspire to become one day the first woman member of Wallis and Futuna.

27 Naima Korchi

africawomensforum.org

Women, climate and peace

Women are often the first victims of phenomena impacting the very survival of humanity. Yet women are never, or only rarely, responsible for those catastrophes. This is true of the climate.

Recent natural catastrophes have shown that the majority of victims, of the displaced and of climate refugees are women and children.

Yet women play a crucial role in protecting the environment. In many countries that are often mainly rural, women are responsible for going to fetch vital resources such as water, wood and food. Research in the field reveals that women manage these resources responsibly and in a spirit of solidarity.

Yet because women are so poorly represented in the upper echelons of national, international, economic and political power, they have no purchase on decisions that seriously impact the environment.

This is all the more worrying given that climate change no longer ends with the problem of pollution; it also jeopardises peace and security around the world. The next cause of conflict will surely be directly linked to a lack of natural resources. We are already hearing about a 'water war'. Tomorrow it will be a war for land.

In Africa, a continent I know well, women play a more fundamental role than anywhere else, including in environment protection.

In 2014, to strengthen the role that these extraordinary women play, I founded the Africa *Women's Forum*. The leaders of over thirty African countries have already participated in the forum. It advocates reinforcing female leadership as well as cooperation between states and women to ensure that they fully participate in policy decisions that affect their future. •

Naima Korchi is an International Jurist, Chair of The Africa Institute (based in Morocco), and Founder/Chair of the Africa Women's Forum. She is a former member of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

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Véronique Lacam-Denoël

Health status of the women in France in 2017

In its successive reports on *The Health of the Population in France* [1], France's Department for Research, Surveys, Assessment and Statistics (DREES) sketches out the health landscape in France. The report published in May 2017 draws a positive, but unequal, picture of the health of the French, placing the accent on more vulnerable sections of the population, including women.

In 2015, the record for life expectancy at birth for women in Europe was held by France, with a life expectancy of 85 years. This was higher than for men (78.9 years) but down on 2014 (85.4 years). Situational factors explain this fall, such as variations in the climate, notably heat waves in 2015 during which 65.4 % of those who died were over 75 [2], and the 2014-2015 winter'flu epidemic (90 % of those who died were over 65 [3]). The impact of these episodes was accentuated by structural factors, such as greater fragility among the elderly population, especially women, who accounted for 2/3 of over-85-year-olds in 2016. More globally, among determinants linked to the environment and climate change, air pollution – pollution above levels recommended by the WHO – constitutes a major public health concern. Staying below WHO levels throughout continental France would save 17,700 lives every year. In communes with over 100,000 inhabitants the gain would be an average 7 months' life expectancy at the age of 30, not to mention the probable impact on pathology statistics (cardio-vascular, respiratory and neurological diseases, and cancers) [4].

The fertility rate remains one of the highest among industrialised countries at 1.96 in 2014 compared to 2.03 in 2013. The average age for giving birth was seen to increase, however, stabilising at just over 30 since 2013. The number of mothers over 40 remains low, accounting for 5.1 % of births, but the figure has increased fivefold since 1980. These facts may well lead to new challenges for female reproductive healthcare. Concerning the impact that pollution has on fertility, no study has yet been published in France. Research carried out in the United States, however, suggests that women living within 200 metres of a main road have 1.1 times more risk of having fertility issues [5].

Although men continue to have a higher death rate, the reduction in the death rate is more marked for men than for women with respective reductions of 20.2 % and 18.3 % between 2002 and 2013. The main causes of death among women are cardio-vascular diseases followed by malign tumours, particularly of the breast and respiratory tract. Between 2002 and 2013, premature death linked to respiratory tract cancers in women increased by 49.2 % whereas it decreased by 18.9 % for men. These different evolutions for men and women are due to changes in female behaviour: their daily intake of tobacco increased from 23 % to 24.6 % between 2005 and 2014; repeated drunkenness among 18- to 25-year-olds increased from 14 % to 21 % between 2010 and 2014; cases of excess weight increased from 32.2 % to 36 % between 2008 and 2014, and obesity from 9.8 % to 11.7 % in the same period.

67.6 % of women aged between 15 and 64 were in work in 2015 compared to 74.7 % of men. In that same year, 67.5 % of women between 35 and 44 had a baccalaureate certificate compared to 58 % of men. In 2014, a man's average annual revenue was 23.8 % higher than that of a woman, accentuating the latter's financial vulnerability [6].

In 2017, women still enjoy better health than men in France. But recent evolutions in exposure to risk and behaviour changes are tending to reduce the gap between the sexes. Women's financial and social vulnerability must be taken into account to enhance their access to treatment and their health. •

1. Report *"Health of the population in France"* published by Public health France and the Direction of the search, the studies, the evaluation and the statistics, may 2017.
2. *"Bilan au 15 septembre 2015 des épisodes de canicule survenus à l'été 2015"*, Epidemiological bulletin from *l'Institut de Veille National* (InVS), 10/09/2015.
3. *"Grippe – Bulletin de la saison 2014-2015"*, Epidemiological bulletin from *l'Institut de Veille National* (InVS), 05/22/2015.
4. "*Impacts of the chronic exposure in the fine particles on the mortality in continental France and analysis of the earnings in health of several scenarios of reduction of the atmospheric pollution". Public health France in June, 2016.*
5. S. Mahalingaiah, J.E Hart et al, *« Adult air pollution exposure and risk of infertility in the Nurs es' Health Study II »*, Human Reproduction, Vol. 31, No. 3, 2016.
6. Gender equality study. Insee 2017.

Véronique Lacam-Denoël, founder of the cabinet Proxicare in 2014, Health expert, She was Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Viamedis, E-Health Director of Malakoff Médéric group and Chief Executive Officer of Vigisanté.

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Catherine Ladousse

@InterElles @CatLadousse

Cercle InterElles helps women cope with climate change

Combatting global warming is a responsibility that we all share, men and women of all generations. It's a question of our future, and that of our children.

Nowadays, particular attention is being paid to how climate change impacts women's lives by accentuating inequalities, particularly in developing countries. Hence the reaction of female networks. *Cercle InterElles* is proud to be participating in that reaction.

Admittedly, the vagaries of climate change do not usually have a particularly dramatic impact as we go about our comfortable private and business lives. But many of our businesses operate in countries where women experience harsh living conditions. We want to be there for them, and help them with their fate and their future.

Cercle InterElles brings together networks of women and men from fourteen companies in the science & technology sector, companies that are committed to combatting inequalities of all types and are in favour of gender equality. For over fifteen years, these networks have been striving to help women up the career ladder in a predominantly male environment. Over the years, the Cercle has studied a host of different subjects : work-life balance, management models, parenthood, combatting stereotypes, mentoring, technical industries, etc. The results of its works are presented at the annual conference.

The women and men in *Cercle InterElles* are rallying today to support those who are addressing questions of health and the climate from a female perspective. We were therefore glad to sign the Call to Action launched for COP21 by *SupplémentdElles* and *Femmes & Développement Durable*. We commend their actions and commitment. We now stand united, determined to work together so that women are no longer the first victims of climate disasters.

It is up to us to construct a fairer future together in a more balanced world, in harmony with the earth that is our home and that we must protect for future generations. •

©Cyrielle Hariel

Catherine Ladousse is co-founder and Chair of *Cercle InterElles*, created in 2001 and now totalling 14 industrial and technological members : Air Liquide, Areva, Assystem, CEA, ENGIE, GE, Gemalto, IBM, Intel, Lenovo, Nexter, Orange, Sanofi, Schlumberger. She is Executive Director of Communications for Lenovo Europe, Middle East, Africa.

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Sarah Manta

Gender, climate disruption and urbanisation – the forgotten triangle

The slow integration of gender from Rio to Cancun via Doha, Lima, Paris, Marrakesh and Bonn.

Women carry out 66 % of the work performed around the world and produce 50 % of our food. But they only collect 10 % of revenue and own only 1 % of property.

2/3 of hours worked in the world are worked by women! No matter the country, women spend an average of 2.5 hours per day more than men doing unpaid work, with an average of 3.4 hours of unpaid work per day. **Women's work in the home totals 60 billion hours that are not included in GDP.**

The "Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress" established in 2009 by Joseph Stiglitz advocated the need for broader indicators for domestic economic activity (unlike the methods currently used to calculate GDP, which do not take unpaid female work into account).

Climate disruption is already accentuating and accelerating the rural exodus and massive urbanisation. UN agencies estimate that by 2030, 67 % of inhabitants will be in cities, with 2 billion living in shanty towns – mostly women. Furthermore, coastal cities are facing specific challenges: brutal rises in temperature, rising sea level, more tornados. 65 % of cities with over 1 million inhabitants are located on the coast in areas that will eventually be below sea level or become salt marshes (UNEP & UN-Habitat, 2005). In most regions of the world, 90 % of domestic energy needs are still currently dependent on women (fetching firewood, water, etc.).

So here's the equation as it stands: by 2030, the **poor city-dwellers who will not have any alternative energy sources will mainly be women, yet they are the main producers of informal revenue and natural energy resources AND they don't get paid!**

Whether it's a question of improving education in the developing world, or combatting climate change on a planetary scale, or addressing practically any other problem, empowering women has to be a key component of the equation.

When it comes to climate change, failing to address gender issues within public urban policies induces a very real risk of accentuating what might be called "differentiated development", or "differentiated resilience", or even "two-speed (or three- or four-speed) development".

For decades, two factors have been neglected. Firstly, although gender issues are being built (albeit insufficiently) into policies and programmes to develop rural areas in southern countries, they are still not being taken into account when planning and managing cities. And secondly, policies to combat climate change focus on rural areas, without yet taking full stock of the implications of climate disruption on urban zones and zones that are being heavily urbanised.

At *Genre en Action,* we feel that a gender-sensitive approach renders climate policies fairer and more equitable, as it recognises that the most impoverished individuals are also often those who emit the least carbon but suffer most from climate change. Women are in that category.

In cities, health is an area in which the negative effects of climate change on women are easy to see. Water-borne diseases and epidemics are on the rise because of recurrent floods. Malaria is also making a come-back in zones where it had been eradicated. Health infrastructures are endangered – at the mercy of rising water levels – and access to them becomes harder. When a household's health deteriorates, it is the women who have to find a health solution and spare up time to take care of the ailing. When climate change creates extreme climate events, women's physical resources are worn down: their stalls, shops and stocks of goods are damaged and their revenue goes down, reducing their financial capacity to heal themselves. The rural exodus and the lack of economic opportunities for women tend to accentuate their vulnerability to male chauvinist violence and increase recourse to charging for sex. This exposes them to disease and violence.

Urbanisation policies must cater for the needs and capacities of ALL male and female citizens to fight climate change. Women – and men, too – must be involved in climate policy decisions at city level and beyond. This is not only a right (linked to egalitarian city governance); it also ensures the pertinence of strategies developed for and within the urban fabric. Full integration of the social and gender dimension in climatic politicies maximizes their effect and increases the full access of the resources for everyone.

Another point to be stressed is that climate policies are not only a question of TECHNOLOGY. There are →

30 Sarah Manta

→ social issues, too. **Policies to reduce climate change all too often focus on scientific, economic or technical solutions** – such as using technology to manage utilities via digital grids in smart or eco cities. Yet these solutions are (often) insensitive to the unequal balance of power between women and men that perpetuates huge disparities in access to resources, information and decisions, and in domestic decisions taken in light of these new strategies.

Developing and deploying gender-based measures to reinforce the resilience of cities is a concrete solution.

This is why our association decided to highlight the importance of building gender issues into policies to combat climate change in cities. We can therefore readily identify with the position of the UN-Habitat programme to integrate gender for a better urban future[1].

What action has our association and the Genre en Action network taken?

We advocate responses to climate change in an urban environment that take gender equality and gender issues into account. Two concrete initiatives illustrate our position:

1. ***Genre en Action* initiated a project** on the invisible triangle of "Gender, Climate and Urbanisation" in partnership with the Development Planning Unit of UCL in London and with the support of the *Institut Français* in London.

   We helped make a film that addresses several questions:

   - How can cross-referencing gender, climate and urbanisation enhance our understanding of urbanisation, policies to combat climate change and gender equality?
   - Can working within this triangle help to fine tune – or even stimulate – current militant demands and/or reorient approaches in order to get beyond the notion of resilience and move towards real climate justice?
   - Can this triangle help us to hone strategic interventions and strategic action planning in our increasingly urbanised world?

Claudy Vouhe, co-founder and active member of *Genre en Action*, took part in several meetings during COP21. She also worked with the DPU on the film on gender, climate and urbanisation [2].

2. ***Genre en Action* also participated** in the "Feminists for Climate Justice" [3] initiative during COP21. Here are the main recommendations:

   - Develop and disseminate the principle of **shared – but differentiated – responsibility!**
   - Calculate the financial impact of climate change (i.e.: how can the slow/rapid erosion of women's capital be calculated?)
   - Combat conflicts and war, factors that aggravate the rural exodus and often result from conflicts linked to the increasing scarcity of resources.
   - Identify, put a figure on, and combat unpaid domestic work/care by women.
   - Reinforce laws affording women access to property, capital, heritage and land.
   - Adopt a double (specific and integrated) **gender** approach to public policies at institutional level.
   - Place respect for all human rights at the centre of the Paris Climate Agreement, including the rights to a healthy environment, food, food sovereignty, and sexual and reproductive rights.
   - Guarantee gender equality in decision-making in all climate negotiations and processes.
   - Enshrine the principles of women's rights and equality in all climate laws and mechanisms: reduction (reducing greenhouse gases), adapting to the effects of climate change, loss and damage, technologies, etc. →

1. Integration of a gender sensitive approach into local climate policy- the urban perspective (UN HABITAT program):
   - Men as women have the right to be involved in the decision-making relative to the climatic policies, at the level of the city as at the level of the environments of cities.
   - The climatic policies are not only a matter of the technology but also social questions.
   - Policies have to meet the needs and capacities of all citizens, including women as men, whenever they are precarious or marginalized.
   - An approach sensitive to gender makes the climatic policies right and fair, by taking into account the fact that those who emit less carbon are the ones who suffer from it most (more vulnerable).
   - The total integration of the social and the gender dimension in the climatic policies maximizes their effect and increases the full access of the resources for everyone.
2. Link to the film made by *Genre en Action* and the DPU: http://www.genreenaction.net/ville-genre-climat.html
3. Link to the "Feminists for Climate Justice" call to action: http://www.genreenaction.net/COP22-Feministes-pour-la-justice-climatique.html

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- Include a gender perspective and gender-sensitive budgeting in climate mechanisms and all climate, energy and sustainable development strategies and 21 agendas.
- Set up documented assessments of the impact of public and private initiatives on women's rights (i.e. smart agriculture, reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, REDD +).
- Support modes of production and consumption that integrate gender!
- Finance gender equality and the gender approach:
  - Green funds and funds for adapting to the climate: allocate a percentage of aid to militant women's organisations involved in protecting the environment and sustainable business activities; also assist the displaced and climate refugees.
  - Allocate resources to collecting and promoting women's knowledge, expertise and local practices to foster a transfer of skills. •

N.B. ☛ In 2016, only 37 % of contributions mentioned women or gender. In 2013, according to the OECD, 29 % of bilateral funding had a gender dimension → target 50 % by 2018 → experts must be trained to set up these projects!

Sarah Manta is Specialist on gender issues in France, and internationally with the United Nations. Works at France's Ministry of Women's Rights. Active member of BPW (Business and Professional Women), GENRE en ACTION, WEF (Women Economic Forum), and the Coalition of African and Mediterranean Women against Climate Change.

31 Françoise Morvan

@Françoisemorvan

Women's Sexual & Reproductive Health & Rights: a key aspect of sustainable development

Empowering women means reinforcing their capacity to decide and act in the personal, economic and civic spheres of their lives. Access to their sexual and reproductive rights and related health services — such as contraception, abortion and ante- and post-natal care — is essential to women's emancipation. It strengthens their capacity to make their own decisions, to take charge of their own body and, to a certain extent, to ward off violence. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) constitute the first step in the process of empowering women. SRHR are undeniably conducive to sustainable development in all countries that embrace them.

Because sustainable development implies a) social equity, b) economic efficiency and c) environmental quality, and because it demands respect for fundamental principles such as solidarity and the participation of all individuals in →

31 Françoise Morvan

→ a collective effort, sustainable development is impossible without women.

But it is clear that women can only become fully-fledged players in the economy if they are in a position to choose how many children they have, and when.

Access to family planning services is therefore one of the fundamental rights of women and children. It is a deciding factor in their personal development and, indirectly, in the development of their country. Today, there is no doubt about the link between demographics and the level of education among women. In Europe, demographic growth was curbed thanks to access to contraception and abortion, reflecting the level of education among girls. Meanwhile, women who fall pregnant at an early age and/or repeatedly are usually obliged to abandon their studies and face a higher risk of being trapped in poverty. Their lack of autonomy in the field of sexuality and procreation, and the little influence they have on decisions, are harmful to their health.

Every individual must have the right and the opportunity to live a healthy, productive and fulfilling life, according to Anand Grover, Special Rapporteur for the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights for women play a key role in attaining the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by UN member countries in September 2015. SDGs map out the sustainable development Agenda up to 2030. The focus is on human beings. Goal number 3 pertaining to good health and well-being, and Goal number 5 on gender equality and empowering women and girls, aim to provide women all over the world with access to sexual and reproductive healthcare.

The SDG programme is the fruit of a lengthy process of intergovernmental consultations and negotiations to determine funding priorities. Millions of women, girls and boys have very high hopes of their SRHR being recognised on an individual and worldwide scale, leading to equality between the sexes and the empowerment of women and girls.

One aspect, for example, is enabling 120 million more women and girls to use contraception by 2020. Today, 225 million women around the world need contraception but are not getting it, including teenagers, the most vulnerable.

Every year, 80 million women have an unwanted pregnancy (often in the wake of sexual violence). 22 million of these women have a back-street abortion. 50,000 women die every year after such abortions, accounting for 13 % of maternal deaths around the world. Women and young girls urgently need to be able to exercise their right to terminate an unwanted pregnancy without either their life or their freedom being at stake.

States clearly have a responsibility to satisfy sexual and reproductive health and rights demands. This improvement to the lives of women and girls depends on each state's capacity to pass laws that guarantee the fundamental human rights of their male and female citizens, above and beyond cultural and religious stereotypes and traditions. Proper sexual healthcare and controlled fertility for women are enshrined in international agreements; they are capital for every single country on our planet if we are to cope with the challenges of sustainable development and to rise to the tasks of eradicating poverty, slowing down climate change, and guaranteeing equality between women and men. •

Françoise Morvan chairs the French Coordination for the European Women's Lobby and is a member of France's High Council for Gender Equality and its National Advisory Commission on Human Rights.

32
Yveline Nicolas

Linking gender, climate and health policies

2016 was the hottest year since records began in 1880, with temperatures 1°C higher than in the pre-industrial era. Climate disruption has an impact on health ; it is urgent that we heighten awareness of the stakes and adapt public policy. New risks have to be taken into account : extreme events (storms, cyclones, etc.), drought, flood, thermal stress on populations, vector-borne diseases, increased air and water pollution. The World Health Organisation, which held its second international conference on health and climate in 2016, reports that 12.6 million deaths per year are due to environmental pollution. Half of these are linked to atmospheric pollution.

Focusing on the direct effects of climate catastrophes must not blind us to the indirect effects of unsustainable methods of production and consumption which generate greenhouse gases and damage environmental health : pesticides and endocrine disrupters disseminated by industrial farming and the food industry, fine particle pollution from transport, noise and visual pollution linked to urbanisation which, to boot, over consumes energy and materials, etc.

Women and men may be affected differently by all of the above factors, due to their specific social roles and unequal access to resources and decision-making processes. All over the world, women predominate in the most precarious layers of society and among the victims of discrimination. They are therefore vulnerable to environmental disruption. All over the world, it is women who perform the lion's share of unpaid domestic chores, including caring for children and relations. Their work load grows heavier in the event of chronic illness (allergies and asthma are affecting more and more children in the north, malaria in the south), epidemic, heat wave or conflict. Other aggravating factors include ill-designed urbanisation and a lack of public services (property inequalities, precarious constructions on the coastline, and inadequate public transport, waste management, water and sanitation, etc.).

Women and girls in the south pay a heavy tribute to the increasing scarcity of fresh water, wood and agricultural land, and to the violence and trafficking that worsen with climate catastrophes and armed conflict linked to competition for resources and minerals. The poorest regions, whose inhabitants (particularly female) emit very low quantities of greenhouse gasses, are the most impacted. In the Sahel, for example, the frequency of extreme storms has tripled during the past thirty-five years, causing floods that increase erosion. "Natural" catastrophes linked to the climate cause an average 60,000 deaths per year, mainly in poor countries where the death rate for women is five times higher than for men.

In rich countries, it is mainly women – particularly single mothers, migrants, refugees and single, elderly women – who suffer energy insecurity, insalubrious housing, isolation in a rural setting due to the lack of suitable transport, and insecurity linked to urbanisation. Young girls are specifically impacted by endocrine disrupters (early on-set of puberty), and women by breast cancer linked to environmental factors. Pregnant women, meanwhile, become vectors of chemical contaminants due to pollution in their apartments, cosmetics and food. A lot remains to be done to train carers in a new eco-systemic approach to health.

National schemes to reduce, and adapt to, climate change – structured around biodiversity, combatting desertification, agro-ecology and sustainable cities, etc. – should therefore transversally integrate both a gender approach and an environmental health approach in its broadest sense. Ecological and energy transitions can open up numerous opportunities : green jobs, new training integrating climate into traditional trades, participation in local governance and defining budgets, developing a solidarity economy and organic agriculture. Women all over the world, and their associations, are launching initiatives in all of these areas. •

For twenty-five years, **Yveline Nicolas** has been an activist in NGOs and networks focusing on international solidarity, sustainable development, human rights and gender equality. She currently coordinates *Adéquations*, an association specialising in information, training, guidance and advocacy on these issues, particularly on the intersection between a gender approach and ecological transition.

33
Laurence Rossignol

Promoting gender equality for viable, sustainable inclusion

Gender equality was given priority status in France during negotiations for the Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030) and the Paris Climate Conference (COP21). France's civil society played an active role during the negotiations and contributed to this progress.

It is essential to ramp up efforts with a view to COP22 in Marrakesh by including and rallying women. In concrete terms, there are three levers to be activated : participation, integration and access to funds.

First of all, we must promote women's participation in sustainable development negotiations and decision-making bodies. States that are party to the Agreement must set an example by establishing equal numbers of men and women, or quotas of women, in their delegations.

Then, we have to develop adaptation strategies that are gender-equality sensitive. Two thirds of the world population living below the poverty line are women. Climate change does not have the same impact on men as on women, mainly for reasons of unequal social norms. Strategies must improve access to property, loans and entrepreneurship for women.

Finally, we have to guarantee funding for projects that directly foster the empowerment of women. In 2013, 29 % of bilateral aid for the climate addressed gender equality, i.e. 6.9 billion dollars (OECD). Greater efforts must be made fully to associate women with ecological transition and the green economy. Funding mechanisms must set targets for, and monitor, the number of financed projects that are deployed by women's associations, or for women, or promote gender equality.

To ensure the lasting nature of this Agenda within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, France wishes to re-launch the Lima Work Programme on Gender with a view to COP22.

Promoting gender equality cannot be reduced to standing up for an ethical and political principle ; we must also champion a viable, sustainable and inclusive project for society. •

Laurence Rossignol is Senator and the former Secretary of Families, Childhood and women rights.

34
Michèle Sabban

@Michele_SABBAN

R20 for women, health & climate

With the twenty-second Conference Of Parties in Marrakesh looming, and in the wake of the historical signing of the Paris Agreement last December, climate disruption is at the heart of international concerns.

The urgency and the uniqueness of the situation inspire us to underline the important role that every individual has to play in the fight against climate change.
Climate disruption is a problem for human development. It increases the vulnerability of certain categories of →

34 Michèle Sabban

→ the population, and often reinforces social, economic and gender inequalities.

It is important to remember that 70 % of the poor in the world are women. They are and will remain the first to be impacted.

Yet their key role and their skills are valuable assets for getting out of the climate crisis. Women are aware of the danger and are now taking up key positions, assuming senior political, economic and financial responsibilities, and doing what it takes to bring about change. Women are the first victims of climate change, but they are also the first to combat it!

When I co-organised the *Women's Tribune: Women and Climate* in Skhirat (Morocco) in May 2015, I realised that for many women, notably in developing countries often heavily impacted by global warming, the environmental challenge is also a matter of self-reconstruction.

These women spend their time dealing with everyday emergencies. They innovate in how families are organised and with new production practices. It is essential that the transformation of society – which involves urgently taking climate change into account – opens new spaces and new opportunities for them.

Many initiatives are launched by women and they are to be encouraged. We have to design and implement climate policies that are conducive to gender equality. Indeed, the introduction to the Paris Agreement mentions the need to take gender equality and the empowerment of women into account.

I have been chairing R20 for several years now, and we have decided to play our part by creating a *Fund for Women in the Green Economy*. It will finance projects by or for women.

We feel that broaching the fight against climate change from a gender perspective provides an opportunity to spotlight solidarity between rich women and poor women. •

Michèle Sabban is Chair of R20 – Regions of Climate Action – a non-governmental organisation founded in 2010 with the support of the UN. It acts on a regional basis, striving to create a green economy.

35 Muriel de Saint Sauveur

@MdeSaintSauveur

Women have a lot to say. So let's listen!

COP21 highlighted the undeniable links between climate change and health, and surveys confirm that women are more vulnerable and more harshly impacted by climate disruption than men. However, we only started to listen to women very recently. Accepting them as players in sustainable development is an even more recent development!

Yet it is women who find simple and effective solutions for watering the fields. Because it is usually the women who are responsible for (among other things) fetching water and cooking meals, it is they who have the ancestral knowledge that our environment so needs today. It is women who create a small stall to be able to feed their family and, if they are educated, they limit the number of children they have to be able to educate them.

So why not listen to them? What if we stopped seeing women as victims and started considering them as players instead, inviting them to discussions, going to see them →

35 Muriel de Saint Sauveur

→ – and more importantly to listen to them – in their villages?

Big businesses have recently discovered that it is a good idea to listen to their employees'suggestions. Why can't towns and villages do the same and listen to the population, including the women? That would be a bigger revolution than climate change. That would be democratic progress. It would change the rules of the game. We can give women confidence by listening to them. Some women started with COP21 in Paris. Let's move forward with them.

During the course of my many travels, I have encountered women who hesitate to share their ideas although they are often very useful for improving the world. That is why I decided to create a company that trains in leadership. The word "leadership" is bandied about nowadays, but for me it simply means helping women to get their voices heard without hesitating.

Giving women the confidence to be able to share their ideas, and getting important players to listen to them – that is a revolution!

Climate change is forcing the world to think afresh about how it is organised, to review the responsibilities of big and small countries, to redress the balance of rights between men and women, to educate women and well as men. It is a problem that can generate "secondary gain" as psychoanalysts would say. Let us redesign our new world together, with men and women at the same level. •

Muriel de Saint Sauveur chairs Women Masterclass, a leadership consultancy for women. She has written about, and is a specialist on, questions of gender equality at work. As a former Director of Communications and Diversity, she now places her expertise at the service of businesswomen in a host of countries.

36 Florence Sandis

www.brisezleplafonddeverre.com

Can personal fulfilment drive ecology?

The desire for *personal fulfilment* is growing stronger in women. Does it have an impact on ecology? Looking back throughout history, we note that the quest for personal growth has shuttled back and forth between two main paths: on the one hand contemplation (the quest for wisdom and rest was considered a source of plenitude from Antiquity until the 18th century), and on the other action.

When the term *personal fulfilment* first appeared at the beginning of the 19th century, it was very strongly linked to action motivated by a powerful desire to rise up through the ranks of society. It was incarnated by the ambitious Julien Sorel in the French novel *Le Rouge et le Noir ("The Red and The Black")*. Over the past two centuries, action has indeed become a preponderant value, embodied by great heroes such as Napoleon, Livingstone, Mermoz and, closer to us and in no particular order, Steve Jobs, Bernard Tapie and Beyoncé. We are familiar with the pitfalls: hyperactivity, pursuing success at any cost, obsession with grandeur. Such are the traps awaiting us on our journey towards personal fulfilment.

As Michel Lacroix suggests in his book *Philosophie de la Réalisation Personnelle,* the time has now surely come to find the right balance between action and contemplation. The philosopher ensures us that we will achieve positive results – not only on an individual level, but also collectively – by reinstating the abandoned values of slowness and tranquillity, by drawing inspiration, for example, from Buddhism and meditation, or simply by taking the time to enjoy simple moments with nature or the family, and by favouring calm and natural emotions rather than a frenzied quest for artificially produced powerful emotions. →

36 Florence Sandis

→ Individually we will be less stressed, happier and in better health. Collectively it will create greater harmony between industrial activity and the environment, and between business life and nature. As a result, we will be better able to rise to the major challenges of this century – nature conservation, sustainable development, health and the climate.

So let's inject these notions of tranquillity, empathy and interiority into our lives and give ourselves the chance to invert the existing relationship between being and having. We will gradually free ourselves from the frenzy of excessive consumerism. We will waste less, and destroy the resources of our planet less.

Psychologically, the less happy we are, the more we consume – as if frustration could be cured by acquiring material goods. At the opposite end of the scale, the happier and more relaxed we are, the less we need to own things, to take possession of nature. "*Far from being antagonistic, the personal fulfilment of man and environmental protection are complementary. Self-fulfilment is ecology's strongest ally,*" argues Michel Lacroix.

Women are often more given to introspection and personal development than men. They are also more receptive. They therefore have a driving role to play in this adjustment. •

Florence Sandis is a journalist, lecturer, the founder of her consultancy firm, and author of *Brisez le Plafond de Verre : 12 Clés pour Réussir au Féminin* (published by Michel Lafon).
www.brisezleplafonddeverre.com

37 Patricia Savin

Advocating a common future

"Your task is not to foresee the future, but to enable it."
ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPÉRY

Humanity finds itself at a crossroads where everyone, both individually and collectively, has to enable the future.

We know that global warming seriously raises the question of a sixth extinction of species (25 % of mammals, one in eight birds, one third of amphibians, countless species of plants and entire ecosystems are already on the danger list of species under threat of extinction). We know that the link between health and climate has been proven : proliferation of bacteria and viruses, appearance of new diseases, etc. We know that our current growth model has reached its limits : resources exhausted, minerals looted, air and water polluted, abundance of waste, disruption of natural cycles…

Humanity is responsible and sometimes guilty, but also a victim of its erring ways. Those displaced for climatic reasons bear painful witness to this ; entire families are scattered far from their homes in unfamiliar surroundings.

COP21 and then COP22 showcased the efforts of civil society and invited all nations to address the links between modes of economic development and the various crises running through various spheres of society – ecology, environment, politics, identity, health, etc.

On the one hand there are objective and alarming observations. On the other, there are solutions. They are based first and foremost on making individuals aware and responsible. Although the problems are global, the solutions can be local, founded on collective intelligence that nurtures efficient, sustainable and moderate local ecosystems.

New concepts and terms are springing up : circular economy, functional economy, society – and solidarity-based eco- →

37 Patricia Savin

→ nomy, locally rooted, etc. All of these notions share the same vision and call the business models of the past, the present and the future into question. New modes of production, new modes of consumption, greater corporate social responsibility, respecting and protecting biodiversity more… So much work can and must be carried out on all fronts simultaneously. We can develop our territories differently, favouring local cooperatives and synergy between stakeholders. On this score, the circular economy – a global, systemic, territorial approach involving many players – implies working on all flows, business sectors and types of territory.

It is time to act. Action is necessary and vital. We all have a duty both individually and collectively to convey a positive and constructive message about society. Together – united, strong and convinced that a different economic, human and environmental vision is possible – we can shepherd our society through its indispensable mutation in the fields of ecology, energy and humanity.

Let's reach inside ourselves, each on our own scale, and "do our bit" to contribute to initiatives that are underway to assume individual and collective responsibility, with a view to shared universal responsibility.

Never before, possibly in the history of the world, have the notions of interdependency and common destiny been so plain to see. Because humanity is very largely the cause of the problems, it must and can be the solution – in consciousness, humanity and universal responsibility. No one will ever be able to change the world if they don't set out on the biggest adventure of all: their inner adventure. So let us reach out with Faith, Strength, Courage and Determination and "be the change we want to see in the world," for those we love and for our planet.

"What unites us must be stronger than what divides us." What unites us first and foremost are our planet and our humanity. •

Patricia Savin chairs the association *Orée*, is a partner in the law firm Cabinet DS Avocats, a Knight of the Legion of Honour and the National Order of Merit, and heads the Sustainable Development Commission for the Parisian Order of Lawyers and AFILOG.

38 Vicky Sommet

www.midetplus.fr

Trusting women to boost the economy and development of their country

Women account for half of the planet's population, but they do not have things as easy as men do. And what can be said about developing countries, where they struggle to have a profession, to join decision-making bodies, or quite simply to access the education that would enable them to play a role in shaping the future?

The same goes for Asia and, even more strikingly, the African continent, where women are victims of pauperization, a lack of places at school, and a domestic role that prevents them from pursuing higher studies. They are also confronted with health problems due to enforced marriage, rape as a weapon of war, traditional practices such as excision and infibulation, and giving birth in unhygienic conditions.

But there are solutions. Girls and women who have access to schooling, vaccination and family planning can find their place in the modern world. Governments are often lax →

38 Vicky Sommet

→ on issues of education and health, but international NGOs and female NGOs dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women are gently changing mindsets.

If there is no Bill Gates for education, then funds must be collected from northern countries to support school for all, even girls. Same for climate change. Difficult access to food and drinking water has to modify crop-growing habits to combat arid land, over-grazing and the destruction of forests for firewood.

As well as needing money, we also need to place our trust in women. They have the answers to their sufferings. And we have to convince governments that women can boost a country's economy and development if they are permitted to express themselves. •

Vicky Sommet is a journalist and associated with "Mid and More".

39
Myriam Ullens de Schooten

www.mimi-foundation.org

Supporting the fight against climate change

Decreasingly hot summers induced by climate change will increasingly affect our health. The 2003 heat wave caused 70,000 deaths in Europe [1]. Between 1990 and 2010, there was a 45 % increase in melanomas in men and 19 % in women [2]. The vagaries of the climate also impact agriculture, leading to the massive use of pesticides that then find their way onto our plates and impact our health. Exposure to DDT (which is banned but still very present in the environment) has quadrupled the risk of breast cancer [3].

The increase in the number of cancers plus the lengthening of life expectancy raises the question of how our societies will be able to care for and support the ill – not only from a strictly medical point of view, but also psychologically.

Health is particularly undermined in the case of cancer. The physical, psychological and social effects of the disease and related treatment can be devastating for men, and even more frequently for women.

Therefore, over ten years ago, the Mimi Ullens Foundation launched a programme to accompany patients, particularly women, throughout their treatment on different levels: medical aesthetics, therapeutic massage, psychological support. The goal is to offer quality listening time – hearing about the patient's relationship with their body and the effects of the disease and the treatment (weight loss or gain, hair loss, rashes, etc.). Psychological support is indispensable when the diagnosis is confirmed and as physical changes occur, or when a possible feeling →

1. www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2007/03/23/la-canicule-de-l-ete-2003-a-fait-plus-de-70-000-morts-en-europe-selon-l-inserm_886917_3244.html
2. www.francetvinfo.fr/sante/cancer/rechauffement-climatique-vers-une-hausse-des-cancers-de-la-peau_1202285.html
3. http://sante.lefigaro.fr/actualite/2015/06/19/23867-risque-cancer-sein-quadruple-par-lexposition-ddt

39 Myriam Ullens de Schooten

of guilt seeps in, notably when a patient's social role is diminished (difficulty in maintaining the role of parent or grandparent). The care we provide helps these women to remain connected to life, to feel beautiful again, and more simply to continue living.

The Mimi Ullens Foundation is aware of the additional risks linked to climate disruption that weigh particularly on the future of women's health. By helping so many cancer patients, it strives to contribute to the fight against climate change. •

Myriam Ullens de Schooten chairs the Mimi Ullens Foundation, which assists and comforts cancer patients, particularly those without the financial means to fight the illness serenely.

40
Catherine Vidal

Transdisciplinary research into women's health and climate

Broadening ethical reflection on women's health and climate

Health inequalities between women and men have been well established in epidemiological surveys. It is to be noted, however, that too little of the research studies these discrepancies from a global perspective that integrates social, cultural, economic and climatic factors. Health discrepancies between men and women are only partly biological. Social representations linked to gender influence the attitude of doctors and patients in the provision of and access to healthcare. Furthermore, precarious economic and social conditions also have repercussions on women's health. It is now accepted that climate and environmental disruptions play a substantial role (see COP21 and COP22 reports).

It is vital that medical and biological research institutions address these issues and promote the **transdisciplinary research** programmes that are indispensable for improving healthcare for women and men in France and around the world.

Another priority is to launch an **ethical think tank** focusing on the health inequalities and discriminations suffered in particular by women. With this in mind, the Gender and Health Research working group within the Ethics Committee at INSERM (the French Institute for Health and Medical Research) has started an awareness campaign among doctors, researchers, patients and players in civil society involved in public health [1]. The committee also deploys popula- →

1. Reports available on http://www.inserm.fr/qu-est-ce-que-l-inserm/l-ethique-a-l-inserm/les-groupes-de-reflexion-thematique-du-comite-d-ethique.

Catherine Vidal is a neurobiologist, an Honorary Research Director at the Institut Pasteur, and a member of INSERM's Ethics Committee, where she co-heads the Gender and Health Research group. She co-wrote *"Femmes et santé, encore une affaire d'hommes?"* with Muriel Salle, published by Belin in 2017.

40 Catherine Vidal

→ rization and information campaigns for the general public, using video clips, and is organising an international seminar entitled *"Sex and Gender in Health Research : an Innovative Approach"* on 23 November 2017 in Paris.

Research into women's health and the climate is essential if we are to rise to the challenge of egalitarian medicine around the planet. •

41
Sylvianne Villaudière

In response to the Women's Call on Health & Climate during COP21, let's get all networks on board

Climate change has both direct and indirect repercussions that aggravate health risks and unequal access to healthcare all over the planet : emerging new diseases, epidemics, disruption of healthcare systems, large-scale humanitarian crises, etc.

Health is one of humanity's major challenges, as well as one of its most fragile assets. Protecting health is even more of a key issue for women, as they play a leading role in the family when it comes to caring. They are also most exposed to precariousness in most parts of the world, and to the impact on health, and the economic and social consequences, of climate change.

I have been involved with these issues for a long time as Chair – and founder in 2000 – of the association Femmes, Débat et Société. My work within C3D, a college of sustainable development directors, and the French Economic, Social and Environmental Council has made me keenly aware of the urgency and scale of these challenges. At the beginning of 2015, therefore, I invited several networks to unite with a view to COP21 and getting women's networks on board. A conference at the Grand Palais during Solutions COP21 in December 2015 marked the launch of Appel des Femmes (Women's Call).

Collegiate action is crucial to efficiency and the digital revolution makes anything possible ! It would be wonderful if networks around the world got together to keep things moving, each one committed to acting in their specialist area for better prevention and a better grasp of health risks linked to climate change.

Between COP21 and COP22 in North Africa, many women continued to act and ministers to alert. Gender equality plus health as an aspect of climate justice are increasingly entering into the debate. The Women's Call on Health & Climate addresses all humanity ; it calls upon each and every one of us, women and men, to make a difference every day. •

Sylvianne Villaudière is an activist. She founded and runs Alliantis, is Delegate General of C3D (a college of sustainable development directors), a member of *Club France Développement Durable's* Steering Committee and is on the Board of Directors of *Femmes, Débat et Société.*
She is the France-Morocco coordinator of Entreprises COP22.

MORE COMMUNICATION

We aim to raise the public's awareness of environmental risks, to pool experiences thanks to modern means of communication, to devise solutions, and to make sure that catastrophes are kept at bay… We know we can do it!

Since 2015, we have participated in the many conferences and events inspired by COP and the status of women. We will continue to take action, COP by COP and commission after commission, for we are convinced that this message must resound over time.

Though we may all be restricted by our daily commitments, we can always find a few moments in the day or week to uphold the movement. This can be done by reading a chapter of our White Paper, or with a simple click on social media: sign an environmental petition, support an innovative project or an organisation or network deploying positive actions, etc.

This is also a way of discovering fascinating and committed people with whom changing today's difficult world finally becomes possible…

The testimonials written by our UNICEF ambassadors offer a fantastic eye-opener onto an intergenerational collective struggle.

It was an immense privilege to share and exchange with the Paper's many contributors. They were inspired and inspiring, positive and determined to act. They devoted a great deal of time and energy to writing their reports, knowing that we wished to showcase them. Our contributors include children and school teachers, journalists, and supporters from civil society and politics. They are all sources of inspiration for society and we wish to thank them once again.

Our White Paper is a reflection of the solidarity that reigns among women's networks and NGOs. It illustrates the bonds that have been forged over the last 2 years in order to rally the world to our cause.

We are proud to have initiated this fantastic journey and to be steering it into the future…

We dream of leaving a better society to our children. Each individual action is a further building block in an edifice that will protect our rights and environment. Now that UNICEF has come on board, we can dream of future generations of U-Reporters helping to carry the cause into the future. •

THEY ALSO SUPPORT US

Companies, associations, schools, media

nous donnons vie à la ville ICADE	**Icade**	Icade.fr
Axielles.com	**Axielles** Web application and soon mobile which facilitates the professional networking for active women individually through the space "Women in Business" either between club members or collaborators of a company within the Corporate Space.	axielles.com
STABIPLAGE®	**Stabiplage**	Stabiplage.fr
FONDATION MIMI ULLENS	**Mimi Ullens Foundation**	mimi-foundation.org
	DEFHISS, association of the jurists and the entrepreneurs	defhiss@gmail.com
Femmes de Bretagne	**Breton feminine network**	
PARITE ASSURANCE Des clés pour l'avenir des femmes	**Women's association leaders Parité Assurance**	
EP ECOLE POLYTECHNIQUE D'ASSURANCES	**Ecole polytechnique of Insurances**	epassurances.fr
REVUE POLITIQUE ET PARLEMENTAIRE	**Political and parliamentary magazine (review)**	revuepolitique.fr
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UNICEF AND U-REPORT

Developed by UNICEF on a global scale, U-Report is a digital expression and social mobilization tool for young people.

U-Report is designed for young people from France and the rest of the world to question, debate and be heard on issues that concern their daily lives.

Available for free on Facebook or Twitter, U-Report was created by UNICEF to give a voice to young people. This platform already exists in nearly 40 countries, bringing together more than 4 million young people around the world.

For more information please visit:
http://france.ureport.in/

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pour chaque enfant

U Report
FRANCE

Fiji, 2016. On 29 February, children play in the library of a school damaged by Cyclone Winston at Nabau.
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The White paper is available on line: **www.climat-sante.org**