



WOMEN'S FEDERATION
FOR WORLD PEACE EUROPE
& MIDDLE EAST

Presentation Summaries

Saturday, October 25th

Session Ib

Technology and Women's Empowerment

Highlighting women's roles as innovators and leaders in the digital age, addressing challenges and achievements in tech fields.

Ms. María Jesús Cañellas, Journalist, Spanish TV Producer and Director, Spain

Her presentation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pYTxCHI2k5c>

Mr. Gabor Vasmatics, IT Professional, Software Developer, Albania

Ms. Elsa Rustaj, Software Developer, Graduate Program Associate at Vodafone, Albania

Elsa Rustaj's presentation, *The Power of Curiosity and Connection*, explores her inspiring journey as a woman in technology and youth advocacy. Her path began with curiosity and a passion for problem-solving, leading her to question how technology can improve lives. Through early experiences in the Junior Achievement Startup Competition, she discovered that innovation starts with empathy and identifying real human needs. Her project, *iCan*, evolved from a student idea into a platform connecting young people to Albanian audiobooks, expanding to include accessibility for blind and visually impaired users. Elsa's education at Holberton School Albania and work at Vodafone Albania strengthened her technical and creative skills, emphasizing technology's human impact. She advocates for inclusion, collaboration, and persistence in overcoming gender stereotypes. Her message to women in tech is clear: innovation grows through curiosity, empathy, and resilience – we are the architects of the digital future.

Ms. Mandeep Kaur Sanghera OBE, Award winning Philanthropist, UK

Ms. Mandeep Kaur Sanghera emphasized using AI and technology for social good while addressing bias and promoting inclusion, especially for neurodiverse individuals. Through hackathons in 144 countries and game jams, she empowers refugees and youth to create innovative solutions aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. She shared an inspiring story of helping a refugee in Afghanistan sell an NFT, enabling ongoing support through blockchain technology.

As a global advocate against violence toward women, Ms. Sanghera warned about the dangers of AI misuse, such as deepfakes and online abuse. She highlighted the digital inequalities exposed by the pandemic, urging efforts to improve digital literacy and access. As a government AI adviser, she called for stronger laws to combat non-consensual intimate image abuse and deepfakes. Committed to global collaboration with the UN and major tech firms, she continues to champion inclusive, ethical, and safe technological advancement.