



WOMEN'S FEDERATION
FOR WORLD PEACE EUROPE
& MIDDLE EAST

Presentation Summaries

Sunday, October 26th

Session IVa

Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability

Promoting grassroots initiatives for sustainable living and environmental resilience.

Ms. Barbora Mejzlikova, Climate and Human Rights Amb. Allatra IPM, Czechia

The presentation **“The Ocean’s Charged Secret: Nanoplastics and the Sabotage of the Climate Watch”** by **Mgr. Barbora Mejzlíková** explores the hidden role of nanoplastics in disrupting the Earth’s climate systems. Presented at the **Global Women’s Peace Network – Pathways to Peace and Development through Women’s Initiatives** (Tirana, Albania, October 24–26, 2025), it highlights how microscopic plastic particles infiltrate ecosystems – from oceans to the atmosphere – forming “plastic rain” that contaminates soil, crops, and even honeybees. The talk connects plastic pollution not just to waste management but to **climate change, biodiversity loss, and resource depletion**, urging an integrated, global response. It emphasizes the **limited window of opportunity** to act and the importance of understanding the science behind these interactions – particularly how nanoplastics interfere with **hydrogen bonds in water molecules**, potentially destabilizing weather and climate patterns. The core message calls for **urgent collective action** and awareness to protect the planet’s interconnected systems.

Ms. Katerina Minolari, WFWP President, Albania

The **WFWP Albania Environmental Awareness Activities** presentation highlights a series of youth-focused initiatives promoting sustainability under the slogan *“Protect the Environment, Protect the Future.”* Sponsored by WFWPI and GFGEI, the *Reduce – Reuse – Recycle* campaign included social media outreach and events at the European University of Tirana. The *Youth for the Environment* project, funded by the Municipality of Tirana as part of the *Tirana European Youth Capital 2022* program, educated young people on the harmful effects of plastic through training sessions and school presentations across Tirana, Durrës, Elbasan, and Vlorë, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. The initiative culminated in a final rally attended by government representatives. Students proposed creative environmental solutions, including mobile apps for locating recycling bins and earning virtual rewards for recycling, as well as community-based projects like turning recycled plastic into

fabric bags. The campaign emphasized innovation, youth engagement, and environmental responsibility.

Prof. Mihallaq Qirjo, Director of Resource Environmental Center, Albania

Albania is increasingly vulnerable to climate change, with temperatures projected to rise up to 2°C and rainfall to drop by 2–6% by 2050, heightening drought and sea-level risks. Key sectors affected include agriculture—facing reduced yields and water scarcity; tourism—threatened by coastal erosion and biodiversity loss; and energy—where reliance on hydropower exposes the country to drought-related shortages. Transport and urban infrastructure also face rising damage from floods, heatwaves, and landslides, impacting mobility and public health. Vulnerable groups such as women, the elderly, and rural and low-income populations are disproportionately affected. The Resource Environmental Center (REC) Albania contributes to climate adaptation through initiatives like the **“Solutions Connecting Farmers”** project, supported by UNDP’s Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA). This project helps farming communities in Shkodër, Vorë, Korçë, Lushnjë, and Berat adapt to climate impacts and improve agricultural efficiency and resilience.

Ms. Merly Barlaan, UN Office WFP, Founder of Permaculture Project, USA

Permaculture for Peace presents a character-centered, nature-based framework for climate action, integrating ethics, spirituality, and sustainability. Led by Merly Barlaan (Vice President, WFP International), it envisions communities where women and youth lead regenerative, peace-centered development rooted in heart, character, and care for Earth. The program aligns with SDGs 1–5, 16, and 17, emphasizing Earth Care, People Care, and Fair Share. Its theory of change connects daily practice with virtue, behavior, systems, and policy transformation. Four pillars – Character Formation, Regenerative Food & Water, Governance for Peace, and Learning & Measurement – guide implementation through education, community service, and ecological projects. The Asia Pacific Peace Education Center (APPEC) in Bohol, Philippines, serves as a model learning hub for experiential permaculture training, regenerative agriculture, and eco-tourism. The initiative promotes moral leadership, local sustainability, and holistic well-being, aiming to institutionalize permaculture education and inspire peace through ecological stewardship and heart-based living.