

South-South Series:

Empowering and Growing Women-led Business



Session n°8:

Artificial intelligence for women entrepreneurs

Wednesday 15 April 2026 - 14:00-15:45 UTC

BIODATA OF PANELISTS

Inês Bastos – Head of Networks and Alliances, COLEAD



Inês Bastos has over two decades of expertise in technical assistance, monitoring, network management, and policy development, with a strong focus on agri-food sector development. At COLEAD, she has spent the past seven years coordinating and overseeing technical activities in Eastern and Southern Africa, managing programs/projects in agri-food production and processing, business management, access to finance and network development. Since 2024, Inês has also served as COLEAD's Gender Focal Point, championing women's empowerment within the organization's programs. Additionally, she currently serves as COLEAD Team Leader under contract agreements, providing technical assistance to companies supported by social and impact investors, including the EDFI-AgriFI blending facility. Prior being at COLEAD Inês worked for the Bank "Caixa Geral de Depositos" and "Hay Group - Korn Ferry".

Alonso Bobes – Programme assistant, UN Women Caribbean




Alonso Bobes is an international professional specialized in International Relations and Humanitarian Aid, with a strong commitment to global cooperation and sustainable development. He holds a Bachelor's degree in International Relations and a Master's in International Humanitarian Action from University of Groningen, focusing on social inclusion and crisis response. Throughout his career, he has contributed to programmes advancing gender equality, resilience, and inclusive growth across Latin America and the Caribbean. His professional experience spans collaboration with multilateral organizations, civil society, and development partners, promoting equitable and sustainable policies.

Alonso combines expertise in programme coordination, communication, and partnership management within complex international frameworks. He currently serves as Programme Assistant with UN Women Multi-Country Office (MCO) Caribbean, supporting initiatives that empower women and advance gender equality across the region.

Angela Davis – Programme Specialist, UN Women Caribbean



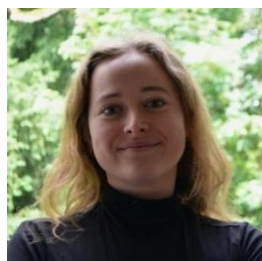
Angela Davis is a regionally respected, highly motivated development professional with 20+ years of experience across public health, sexual and reproductive health, international health, and development. She has a strong record of program management for national and donor-funded initiatives within dynamic political, development, and fiscal contexts. Angela brings expert technical and programmatic knowledge of maternal and child health, sexual and reproductive health, and HIV/AIDS, and works at the intersection of these areas with social, cultural, and behavioral determinants of health, gender, and sexual and gender-based violence. For the past eleven years, she has provided programmatic oversight and strategic



direction for a leading international development partner, stewarding a regional development assistance portfolio of ~US\$6 million annually. Her work requires close collaboration with intergovernmental agencies, national governments, civil society, multilateral organizations, and donors. Results-driven and analytically sharp, Angela pairs clear strategic thinking with excellent oral and written communication skills. She is grounded in both the theory and practice of public health, program management, and international development, consistently translating evidence into impactful, equity-focused programming.

Nina Desanlis-Perrin – Project Officer, COLEAD

Nina Desanlis-Perrin is a Project Officer in the Networks and Alliance Department at COLEAD, where she develops and coordinates global partnerships to support entrepreneurship development and sustainability in the agrifood sector across the Global South countries. She co-organises agrifood webinars aimed at showcasing innovations of farmer-led businesses and SMEs with key international partners such as UN Women. Nina holds an MSc in Environmental Science for Sustainability from King's College London, and a BSc in Public Administration from Erasmus University Rotterdam. She is an advocate for sustainable development, international cooperation, and climate justice, working to promote resilient and inclusive solutions for communities and food systems worldwide.



Akoua Awoudja – Strategic Digital Transformation Advisor in Data Exploitation for Artificial Intelligence, GIZ, Togo

Akoua Awoudja is a Togolese expert in digital transformation and artificial intelligence. Specializing in machine learning and the strategic use of big data, she analyzes the state of the art in AI to identify concrete, high-value-added applications. Through her publication MaestrIA, designed as a true think tank, she analyzes technological advancements to transform them into drivers of growth and competitiveness. She has held strategic roles as a technical advisor in digital ecosystem development and as a co-founder of technology ventures, contributing to high-impact, transformative projects. A recipient of international awards such as WIA Young Leaders, TEF, and MWF YALI, she embodies committed leadership. Convinced that digital technology is a driver of socio-economic transformation, she actively works to promote the inclusion of women and youth and the democratization of innovation in Africa.



Kai Clarke - Founder & AI Governance Consultant, EthicAI Caribbean, Jamaica

Kai Clarke is an AI Governance and Digital Transformation Specialist based in Jamaica, with a focus on building responsible, inclusive, and operationally effective AI systems. Her work sits at the intersection of governance, delivery, and real-world implementation, ensuring that AI is not only ethical in principle but functional in practice. She has led and supported AI enablement initiatives across financial services, contributing to enterprise-wide adoption strategies, governance frameworks, and process optimization efforts. Kai is known for translating complex AI concepts into actionable systems, helping organizations reduce operational friction, improve decision-making, and align innovation with regulatory expectations. As a disabled woman, Kai brings a critical and often underrepresented perspective to the global AI conversation. Her work emphasizes the importance of designing AI systems that account for bias, accessibility, and systemic inequality from the outset, rather than as an afterthought. She is also the author of research on Inclusive AI and Data Equity in Jamaica, where she proposes policy-driven frameworks to ensure AI contributes to sustainable and equitable economic growth. Through her work, Kai advocates for a future where AI systems are built not just for efficiency, but for fairness, accountability, and human dignity.



Priscilla Wakarera – Co-Founder, Rhea, Kenya



Priscilla Wakarera is a soil scientist and the CEO of Rhea, a Kenyan AgriTech company pioneering locally made soil analysis technology. Through sensors and AI-powered tools, Rhea provides smallholder farmers with real-time, affordable soil health insights tailored to Africa's unique conditions. Under Priscilla's leadership, the company is transforming agricultural productivity and creating new opportunities for freelance agronomists to launch soil testing businesses in their communities, bridging grassroots farming with cutting-edge innovation across East Africa.

Lisa-Marie LaVeau – Ambassador, Women in AI, Trinidad and Tobago



Lisa-Marie LaVeau brings extensive experience in energy, international business development, and strategic partnerships, with a strong background in deal structuring, cross-border transactions, and governance in emerging and developed markets. With over a decade of leadership experience across energy, technology, investment facilitation, and international trade, Lisa-Marie has played a key role in advancing corporate growth initiatives, stakeholder engagement, and market entry strategies. She currently serves as Vice President of Business Development for the Caribbean region at HeftiQ and Lifelong Learning Labs, where she leads regional expansion, strategic alliances, and complex commercial negotiations. She simultaneously serves as Lead Consultant at Cenergy - Collective Energy Limited.

Lisa-Marie is also the Trinidad and Tobago Ambassador for Women in AI (WAI), a global nonprofit dedicated to advancing women's leadership and participation in artificial intelligence and emerging technologies. In this role, she has been instrumental in amplifying Caribbean voices in global technology discourse, fostering public-private collaboration, and supporting capacity-building initiatives that bridge innovation, policy, and economic development. She is committed to promoting sound corporate governance, disciplined capital deployment, innovation-driven growth, and long-term stakeholder value, particularly in sectors undergoing transformation such as energy, commodities, and technology-enabled industries.



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