

EDITORIAL

EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

WELCOME to the inaugural issue of the World Association for Sustainable Development's (WASD) flagship journal fully dedicated to women, the *World Journal of Women and Sustainable Development (WJWSD)*.

WJWSD is one of the first international, multidisciplinary, refereed journals aiming to promote top quality international research, ideas and information about the role of women in achieving Sustainable Development (SD) across the world. WJWSD will focus on all what you need to know about women's leadership and empowerment, particularly in regard to issues relating to women in Developing Countries (DCs). In doing so, **WJWSD** will consider new perspectives about women's research and puts together, for the first time, original and cutting-edge contributions aimed at illuminating and charting new directions for researching, teaching and understanding this extremely important subject.

WJWSD recognises the contribution of women and girls around the world to build a more sustainable future for all. Clearly, women have an untapped potential as a primary mover of greater development across the world and their role is very crucial for increased development, but challenges remain. And so, reforms in economic, social, and political institutions must be made to create an enabling environment for women's participation and empowerment.

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WJWSD is intended to benefit ordinary people, students, academics, professionals, researchers, policy-makers, businesses, etc., from across the world with the best available scientific evidence, to enable better understanding of the different challenges facing women across the world.

THEME

“Whether running a country, a business or a popular movement, women are making contributions that are delivering for all and driving progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.”

António Guterres, UN Secretary-General

The general theme of **WJWS**D is executive leadership and empowerment for future women leaders by introducing a variety of perspectives on women’s leadership and empowerment in the public and private sectors. We hope the journal will help enable future women leaders and decision-makers to introduce fit-for-purpose leadership styles and approaches to their organisations. In doing so, the journal aims to help women acquire a comprehensive knowledge and practical experience about advanced leadership styles and approaches in alignment with local needs and capabilities.

In addition, future women leaders and decision-makers will learn effective techniques and approaches to make better choices within the context of their organisations, gather information and assess alternatives; they will also be able to make decisions and develop ways to implement those decisions to their organisation’s effective transformation.

SUBJECT COVERAGE

Women from across the world have an untapped potential as a primary mover of greater development across the world. Their role is very crucial for increased development, but challenges remain. And so, significant reforms in economic, social, and political institutions must be made to create an enabling environment for women participation and empowerment. However, it appears that investments in human development are not readily translated to better economic and political outcomes for women.

Women’s participation is also very important in advancing peace, unity and combating terrorism, which is a most serious threat to SD across the world. According to various UN reports, it has also been recognised that women have been largely excluded from the processes of conflict management and prevention and that their role is important in the achievement of lasting peace and security. In general, women’s participation helps in accelerating resolution and countering terrorism while ensuring that women’s rights are protected.

Although the general theme and target will be women and SD, there is no limitation to the articles that will be considered by **WJWS**D. Articles can address these topics theoretically or

empirically through either a descriptive or critical approach. *WJWSD* particularly encourages articles that significantly bring new knowledge to the area both for academics and practitioners. The following issues are for guidance only and are not restrictive:

- Empowering girls and women
- Advancing women in leadership
- Strategies for gender equality
- Managing change
- Education
- Human resource management
- Women's perspectives in sustainable development
- Women and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Women's leadership in environmental conservation and sustainability
- Women's empowerment and urban development
- Work-life balance
- Setting and achieving goals
- Health and wellbeing
- Career development and advancement
- Confidence and self-esteem
- Team building and group dynamics
- Creativity and innovation
- Diversity and inclusion
- Fashion and beauty
- Emotional intelligence
- Conflict resolution
- Positive thinking
- Negotiation skills
- Men and women supporting women
- Unequal pay
- Human trafficking
- Women in the Digital Age
- Promoting women's Entrepreneurship
- Women in STEM: encouraging girls' interest and participation
- Empowering rural women
- Advancing women in politics
- Empowering indigenous women
- Empowering women with disabilities
- Empowering women in conflict and post-conflict settings
- Women's voices in peace and security

- Advancing women's rights in the Global South
- Women and climate change
- Empowering refugee and displaced women

CONTENTS

The journal publishes original papers, review papers, conceptual papers, technical reports, case studies, conference reports, management reports, book reviews, notes, commentaries, and news.

WJWSD particularly encourages papers that significantly bring new knowledge to the area both for academics and practitioners.

Special Issues devoted to important topics about women will occasionally be published. In celebration of the *United Nations International Women's Day*, **WJWSD** will publish a dedicated special issue every year focusing on the main topic selected by the UN for the International Women's Day. International Women's Day is celebrated across the world to show the remarkable achievements of women to society and world SD.

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD (EAB)

All members of **WJWSD** editorial committee are truly international in terms of their interests and range of specialisation. The validated academic background that they bring to bear on the quality of the review as well as their geographic areas of interest fosters a uniquely different editorial experience.

We are continuously looking for nominations for distinguished academic and professional colleagues who would be interested in joining the EAB to support WJWSD. Please contact us via the journal website if you would like to consider joining our EAB and/or nominate any suitable person to join.

INAUGURAL ISSUE

The response to our inaugural issue has been so high with many high quality papers received covering a wide range of focus and scope of **WJWSD**.

The papers we selected have an interesting profile for the inaugural issue covering a wide spectrum of topics and focus including selection of the best papers presented during WASD's UN International Women's Day 2025 "*For ALL women and girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment*", and UN International Women's Day 2024 "*Count Her In: Accelerating Gender Equality Through Economic Empowerment*".

It is hoped that the ensemble of papers presented in this first issue will help to stimulate debate amongst scholars, researchers and policy-makers that will ultimately lead to a more integrated and multidisciplinary approach to the role of women in achieving SD.

Finally we hope you find our inaugural edition to be interesting and thought provoking and look forward to receiving your valuable submission so we can continue to serve your needs to the very best of our ability. Any feedback you can provide will be greatly appreciated as we are always looking at ways in which we can improve your experience.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are very grateful to all the distinguished members of our EAB and expert reviewers for graciously offering their invaluable comments that have enriched the quality of the papers in **WJWSD** and for their continuous support, valuable time and efforts.

Our most sincere thanks go to all of the authors who shared their expertise and knowledge with the readers of **WJWSD** and we hope they continue to support the journal and encourage all their colleagues and friends to also consider the journal for their research outcome.

Finally, we would like also to thank all the members of WASD Publishing and Editorial committee, particularly Mrs Janet Snow (International Co-ordinator and Editor), Kumar Gaurav (Webmaster), Nada Yousry (Graphic Designer), Dr Samar Ahmed (WASD Executive), and all the volunteers from across the world for their continuous and endless assistance and support to **WJWSD**.

BIOGRAPHY



Allam Ahmed is a Professor of Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development; Founding President World Association for Sustainable Development; Founding Director SDGs Universities Initiatives; and Honorary Professor Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and Senior Policy Fellow Global Policy Institute, Queen Mary University of London. He is a Fellow (FCIM) and Chartered Marketer of the *Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM)*, UK; *Fellow (FFPH) Faculty of Public Health*, UK; PhD in Economics in two years at *Edinburgh Napier University*, UK; awarded the *Royal Agricultural University (RAU)* Scholarship and Prestigious Book Prize for Best MSc/MBA Dissertation; Listed in the *Who's Who in the World 2009-2021* and *2021 Who's Who* in the World Lifetime Achievement Award, *Who's Who in Finance and Business 2009/2010* and *Who's Who in America 2012-2014* published by Marquis Who's Who, USA.