

A New Social Contract In Natural Resources: Focus On Women Advancing Net Zero

Panel Introduction



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT WEEK 2021

ENABLING SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES IN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



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PANEL DISCUSSION

Focus On Women Advancing Net Zero



Marcela Vaca,
General Director, GeoPark, Latin America

Advancing Net Zero in Latin America: Insights from an Independent Oil and Gas Explorer and Producer

Chike Nwosu,
CEO, WalterSmith Petroman, Nigeria

A new Social Contract on Natural Resources: A Nigerian Independent Energy Company's Perspective

Ashild Larsen,
CIO and SVP Equinor, Norway

How technology and diversity enable a low carbon future

Elisabetta Purlalli,
SVP, Head of LNG Equity Valorisation, ENI, Italy

Roadmap to zero emissions, relevance of the local sustainable energy, people and women contribution to the energy transition

Kankana Dubey,
UNECE Consultant

Results of the study on women entrepreneurship in MSMEs

Marcela Vaca

General Director, GeoPark



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- Marcela Vaca is GeoPark's General Director, responsible for all GeoPark assets in Latin America. She leads a team that has developed over 10 oilfields in Colombia and increased company production by more than 1000% and its 2P reserves by almost 500%, making GeoPark the second-largest oil producer in Colombia.
- Ms. Vaca graduated in law from Universidad Javeriana in Bogota, before specializing in commercial law and earning a Master's in Environmental and Energy Law from Georgetown University in the USA. She has more than 25 years' experience in extractive industries, 20 of them in oil and gas. Before joining GeoPark in 2012, Ms. Vaca worked in various companies in the financial and mining and energy sectors in Colombia, and was CEO of Grupo Hupecol.
- Ms. Vaca is one of just five women to lead one of the 100 largest companies in Colombia and is the 2021-2022 Chairperson of the Colombian Petroleum Association (ACP). The international Oil & Gas Council called her one of the 275 most influential women in the mining and energy sector worldwide in 2020, and Forbes ranks her one of the 50 most influential women in Colombia.
- Ms. Vaca supports inclusion and gender equality and is a member of Women in Connection leadership network that brings together female decision-makers to promote women's empowerment in Colombia.

Chike Nwosu

MD and CEO, Waltersmith Petroman Oil Limited



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- Mr. Chikezie Nwosu is an experienced senior executive with 30 years local and international experience in the oil & gas industry with demonstrated expertise in the management of upstream oil & gas projects, new business development, divestments and acquisitions, midstream gas and downstream refining; delivering Nigeria's first modular refinery amidst the COVID-19 pandemic in October 2020. Chikezie is a strong energy professional with a proven track record of excellence in managing technical and non-technical business and project risks and opportunities, having worked with leading international oil and gas companies including Shell International E&P B.V. the Netherlands as a Global Principal Technical Expert and Asset/ Subsurface Development Manager (New Business Development), Qatar CO2/EOR, Member, Technical expert and Value Assurance consultant in the Shell International Group's Top 70 and Emerging Top 70 Projects, SIEP B.V., as Regional Manager for Sub-Saharan Africa in Petroleum Engineering and Senior Front-End Project Manager in Shell Companies in Nigeria, retiring in 2012.
- Mr. Nwosu then joined SINOPEC-Addax Petroleum as General Manager Development & Asset Management, in 2012, delivering 5 major upstream oil projects, and then was appointed Acting Deputy Managing Director (Technical). Mr. Nwosu has held Senior Executive positions in SINOPEC-Addax Petroleum Nigeria Limited, as Deputy Managing Director (Technical) and a member of the Board of Directors of both Addax Petroleum Development Nigeria Limited (APDNL) and Addax Petroleum Exploration Nigeria Limited (APENL) and for Tolea Energy B.V. the Netherlands, a small independent Energy Investment firm, as Executive Vice- President for Business Development and Africa.
- He is a graduate of the University of Ife (Nuclear Engineering Science), holds an M.Sc with distinction in Physics from the Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, (majoring in Theoretical Nuclear Physics), and is a member of several professional organizations including the Society of Petroleum Engineers (2017/2018 SPE Nigeria Council Chairman and member Board of Trustees), Nigerian Association of Petroleum Explorationists (NAPE) and currently serves on the Advisory Council of the Nelson Mandela Institute's African University of Science and Technology (AUST), Abuja.
- In October 2019, Mr. Nwosu was appointed the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Waltersmith and effective November 21, 2019 was appointed as a Director on the Board of Waltersmith Petroman Oil Limited and Waltersmith Refining & Petrochemical Company. Mr. Nwosu is also driving the transition to renewable energy sources in all Waltersmith operations and projects through a planned 1000 MW renewable energy project to power an Eco-Industrial and Innovation Park, in partnership with UNIDO and UNECA, and strongly believes that industry, not government, will lead the Energy transition in Africa to achieve carbon neutrality

Ashild Hanne Larsen

CIO & SVP IT, Equinor



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- Equinor’s CIO and SVP of its IT function.
- Her current focus is on creating business value from IT and supporting Equinor’s journey towards a broad energy company– using IT as a key enabler in improving operational efficiency and transforming the industry.
- Ms Larsen started her career with Equinor in 1993 and has broad experience both from professional and executive roles primarily within HR and IT, including leadership of corporate projects and large-scale organisational change efforts. She holds a specialist MBA from Heriot Watt University in the UK, as well as a Master of Arts degree from Universität Bielefeld in Germany. She serves as Chair of the Board of Trustees at the International School of Stavanger.
- Ms. Larsen was named Petro Lady of the year 2017, is a Nordic CIO of the year 2018 nominee and a CIO of the Year Europe 2019 award winner. She won the Leader of the Year award 2019 at Norway’s SHE conference, Europe’s largest gender equality conference, was named one of Norway’s 50 leading Women in Technology 2019 and also won the 2020 GRIT awards in the executive category.

Elisabetta Purlalli

SVP, Head of LNG Equity Valorisation, ENI



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- Elisabetta after some years as a consultant, grew up and spent her career in Energy since 1999 covering different challenging positions mainly on gas, as Head of Negotiation for Long Term Gas Supply.
- Head of LNG Sales and SVP for Global LNG Business Development & LNG Origination worldwide. In 2018 she became SVP Digital, setting up the Digital Competence Center and Heading Eni Change Management for Digital Transformation and recently returning to LNG Business as Head of LNG Equity Valorization.
- Elisabetta is strongly convinced that the Energy sector is a “never normal sector” so dynamic and challenging that a flexible, changing attitude and a people-centric approach are a must.

Kankana Dubey

UNECE Consultant



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- Kankana Dubey is a UNECE consultant and author of the 2020 report entitled: “Women Entrepreneurship in Natural Resource Management: Challenges and Opportunities for the MSME Sector in the post-COVID-19 Socio-economic Recovery”.
- Kankana holds an MSc in Energy Management from the University of Stirling and is currently pursuing her doctoral studies in Politics within the School of Government & Public Policy at the University of Strathclyde.
- Kankana is an active member of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings and Technical Committee for the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency. She also authored the 2019 report for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) entitled “Mapping of Existing Technologies to Enhance Energy Efficiency in Buildings in the UNECE Region”.
- Kankana is an experienced researcher, and has authored several journal publications, policy briefs, book chapters, and presented her work at several international forums regarding energy, economic diversification, energy productivity, and socioeconomic well-being. She has extensive professional energy-sector experience in business development, renewable energy consulting, energy efficiency, and sustainability.