



## 2022 **End of Year** Letter

### **Background**

Connected Women Leaders (CWL) is a cohort curated across geographies, generations, expertise, and experience to convene forums on some of the world's most urgent and intersectional threats: climate justice, food security, global health, economic inequities, and through the lens of gender and racial equity, working together to shape just, equitable and sustainable solutions.

**Our theory of change** is that the power of connection to create uncommon collaborations; optimize the learning that comes from sharing stories and experiences; to elevate the ideas, innovations, and insights from collective problem-solving can be a global force for transformative changes.

**Connected Women Leaders organizes our forums and frames our work on three basic concepts: Connect. Convene. Collaborate.**

We **CONNECT** through in-person and virtual forums for an exchange of ideas and experiences across generations and geographies.

Our forums have now included more than 130 women leaders from every region of the world.

We **CONVENE** curated cohorts to include expert leaders in climate justice, food insecurity, and global health, as well as emerging leaders in these areas, to ensure a broad base of knowledge about the current work women are leading and to encourage new alliances and collaborations.

We also **CONVENE** CWL forums in partnership with many other global forums and conferences to further amplify the work and provide new networks of support for emerging leaders.

We **COLLABORATE**, working with other women's organizations and forums to amplify our work and further strengthen a community of global women leaders working together as a force for change.



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### 2022 Goals

With the sustained support of The Rockefeller Foundation, we established key goals for Connected Women Leaders.

CWL at Bellagio 2022. Along with continuing our program-specific problem solving, we added a skills development curriculum to support vision, value, and voice for emerging leaders as well as the more experienced leaders, also eager for the opportunity.

- We committed to convene program-specific (climate, food systems, global health access) briefing sessions to be led by CWL leaders at key conferences and forums to foster stronger information exchange and to make more visible the solutions-based work by CWL.
- We also collaborated with the partners to accelerate the skills development begun at Bellagio.
- Climate Lounge @ UNGA.
- Fresh Speakers Academy: Communication Training
- We also improved our communication and narratives about individual leaders' work with more regular communications and tracking of CWL work outside of our convenings.



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### CWL at Bellagio 2022

Connected Women Leaders convened 22 faculty at the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Center in April of this year. The curation focused on the right mix of program expertise, geographies, and generations, resulting in 12 leaders from our original CWL cohort with climate, food, and health leaders present and 10 emerging leaders from the same areas of work.

The goals of this convening were to:

- Create and strengthen personal and professional relationships among participating women leaders.
- Define what we mean by 'Connected Leadership' and collective problem solving and share examples of outcomes of the Bellagio forum: the Declaration on Climate Justice that was produced after the 2017 Bellagio convening and signed by 700 plus leaders. A goal was established early at this Bellagio forum to take this Declaration to the next phase of our climate work, detailed later in this document.)
- Offer breakout sessions on the global issues of climate, food security, and global health and develop plans for mobilizing the full power of all the CWL networks and communities.
- Engage in storytelling that captures the learnings, insights, and experiences that can be further disseminated and shared through various forms of media and amplify the stories, ideas, and insights shared on the Connected Women Leaders [content hub](#).

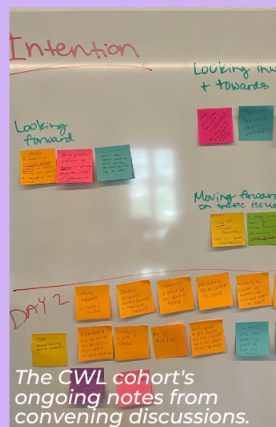
Through this convening, the following was accomplished.

- The CWL WhatsApp group was created, fostering relationships throughout the year.
- An Uncommon Collaboration was developed through CARE, MyAgro, and the Rockefeller Foundation, detailed later in this document.
- Project Dandelion took root, finding its beginnings at Bellagio through the leadership of Mary Robinson, Jade Begay, Mona Sinha, and the founders of CWL, Pat Mitchell and Ronda Carnegie.
- Commitments were made by all the leaders present to participate actively in online conversations, to send new work monthly for dissemination, and to alert the CWL community of any forums,

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convenings, or news that would be potentially beneficial to the work of those within the network.

- **Community was developed and fostered.** Through the exercises, conversations, and meals held together at Bellagio, partnerships, and collaborations took form, and each leader had a chance to respond to an interactive exercise: "I need. I can."





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### Uncommon Collaboration

One of the outcomes of Bellagio 2022 was participation in Rockefeller Foundation's Uncommon Collaboration Initiative. We are delighted both CARE and myAgro are working together in Tanzania, leveraging their respective existing programming to address two key challenges:

- access to inputs
- access to agronomic training to improve the productivity of smallholder farmers.

Specifically, CARE is linking its 26,000+ members to myAGRO with the end goal of ensuring they access quality inputs and agronomic information tailored to specific regions and crops. myAGRO's 6,000+ farmers will also have access to CARE's training pieces of technical/training support to organize myAGRO farmers, empowering them economically. CARE and myAGRO plan to work with at least 1,000 farmers between July 2022 and February 2023.

Connected Women Leaders has stayed close to this collaboration and is eager to watch this partnership grow and flourish.

### Project Dandelion

Perhaps the largest and most audacious initiative that came out of the CWL 2022 Bellagio is that of Project Dandelion, an ambitious campaign commitment from the CWL cohort to elevate the climate emergency and to mobilize a global movement for the actions necessary for responses from individuals, communities, private enterprise, and governments.

Project Dandelion (codename) is a women-led, global Climate Justice campaign that will:

- 1) **Make visible and gather support** for the existing solutions being implemented by Climate Justice organizations everywhere and create new connections and collaborations for a broader and more effective mobilization of the private sector, public sector, and innovators around the world.



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- 2) **Hold accountable governments** which are not reducing emissions fast enough and continuing to spend \$1.8 trillion a year on harmful subsidies - mainly on fossil fuel. To name the perpetrators in global media campaigns and demand actions.
- 3) **Join the call for reform of the International financial system**, notably the World Bank and IMF, to enable access to the trillions needed in climate funding for emerging markets, developing countries, and communities in need, and to fund the loss and damage, suffered, disproportionately, the women and vulnerable communities in the Global South.

Our initial focus:

**Recruiting women leaders.** With the valued leadership and commitment of Connected Women Leaders, The Elders, SEWA, Daughters of the Earth, One Earth, and many other climate and non-climate, women-led organizations that have indicated their support, we will create a global force for action. Project Dandelion will call on women leaders around the world to use their power and access to pressure (and call out) world leaders to deliver on their commitments in full and on time - with a specific focus on elevating current efforts to reduce carbon emissions to a sustainable, habitable level, to raise awareness and support for nature-led initiatives to restore ecosystems; to reform of the international financial system to allow the flow of funds needed for financing the transition to clean energy sources and for fulfilling the commitments to repair loss and damage.

**Motivating the public to act.** We will launch a global media campaign being developed in association with WRTHY, the agency that shaped the RED and ONE media campaigns for Bono's organizations. The intention will be to bring women leaders, currently not prioritizing climate in their work, along with individuals and communities to understand the urgency and support Climate Justice innovations and organizations. We plan to create a platform for anyone, anywhere, to find, connect with, and amplify the powerful work being done in communities, states, and countries around the world. This will include organizations and coalitions focused on educating and increasing



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participation in the circular economy, energy efficiency, food security, clean energy, restoring biodiversity, individual behavior changes, and so much more. Like the Dandelion seeds, our campaign will 'seed' and strengthen the existing work with new support and shift the narrative from fear and scarcity to the hope and faith that we will address these most urgent global threats.

When we succeed, we will have shown again that when women lead, action follows.

### **WhatsApp**

The Connected Women Leaders WhatsApp group was initiated in 2022. We have seen remarkable engagement in this channel amongst the vast majority of our faculty. This group is a place for encouragement, event amplification, outsourcing for recruitment, and information sharing.

#### **Ronda Carnegie**

I am inspired by the way we uplift each other, create spaces and stages to share stories, bring opportunities to change agents, and spotlight how we can focus on measurable and visible change.

#### **Jade Begay**



Hi from Mary and I from TED dilemma ☐☐

#### **Wanjiru Kamau Rutenberg**



This dream had its first heartbeat with y'all at Bellagio when you held space for me to speak it out loud for the first time. It has not died. It is gathering up aunties. THANK YOU for being it's first aunties.

#### **Karin Ryan**

Gratitude shifts the frame. Sending love to each and all of my sisters working for peace and justice in our world ☐☐



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### **Building Networks of Networks - Briefings/Connections**

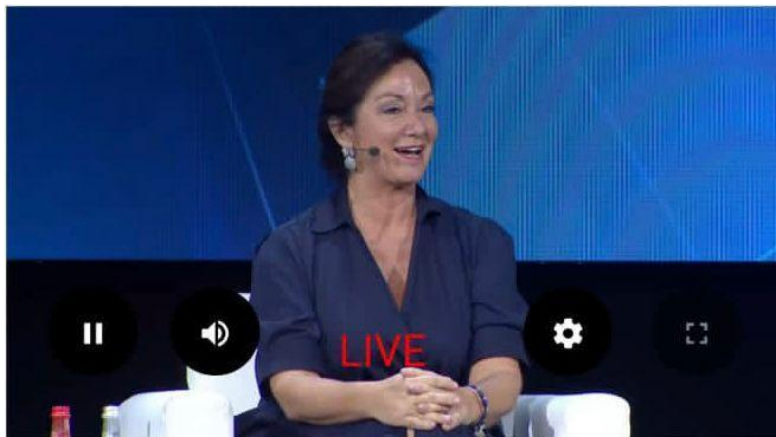
#### **Supporting Mentorship, Leadership, and Skill Development**

Throughout the year, we have engaged with those within CWL using WhatsApp for community/communication along with the CWL website, newsletter, and at conferences.

CWL worked with its women leaders to connect at critical conferences and come together to leverage media interviews. And to explore how we can collectively build out skills in mindset, systems, and finance, amplify, and support emerging leaders.

#### **Dubai Expo**

Alaa Murabit and Meagan Fallon came together at the Global Best Practice Program, sharing the importance of the SDGs with other notable thought leaders.



#### **ROAR Africa - Kigali, Rwanda**

ROAR Africa hosted a women's leadership event. Pat Mitchell and Dr. Agnes Binagwaho hosted a Global Health with attendees.

#### **Chime for Change,**

A global campaign founded by Gucci in 2013 to convene, unite and strengthen the voices speaking out for gender equality. CHIME FOR CHANGE aims to inspire participation in a collective community, bringing people together across borders and generations in the fight for equality. Muna AbuSulayman, Hafsat Abiola, and Phumzile Mlambo Ngucka gathered for a briefing session at an annual Chime for Change advisory meeting.



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### **International Women's Day**

Ronda Carnegie and Phumzile Mlambo Ngucka supported women by collaborating on a Female Quotient program called “ A Seat At The Table,” created for women to lead essential conversations around gender equality. Part of the program included Phumzile as part of an IWD campaign's Times Square billboard,

### **Jean Oelwang's 'Partnering'**

Driving the importance of partnerships, Pat Mitchell and Jacqueline Novogratz shared a conversation with author Jean Oelwang inspiring CWLs and listeners to forge deep connections that make great things happen through discussion around Jean's new book, 'Partnering.'

### **Morning Joe/Media Appearance**

Michelle Nunn and Lauren Leader spoke together on the Morning Joe show to discuss the uniquely female humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, pulling from their robust political experience and poverty knowledge to create a unique intersection in addressing how the world and Americans should respond.



### **Women Moving Millions Summit**

Mona Sinha, Carla Goldstein, and Lucina di Mecco connected for a briefing during the Women Moving Millions Summit in Washington, DC.



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### **Planned Parenthood SE Gala**

Katherine Wilkinson and Alexis McGill Johnson came together to explore the intersection of health equity and climate justice at this in-person event.



### **Washington DC.**

CWL's briefing session with WRTHY, the social impact agency helping CWL build out Project Dandelion, to begin devising the "how" of the CWL climate justice campaign. Briefings. CWL has continued to create regular virtual briefing sessions on the evolution of Project Dandelion.

### **Nairobi**

Wanjiru Kamau Rutenberg, Pat Mitchell, Meagan Fallone, Angela Gichaga, and Wanjira Mathai convened in Nairobi, Kenya, to explore opportunities at the intersections of different industries and discover collaboration opportunities.

### **Global Philanthropy and Feminist Movements**

Cheryl Dorsey, Latanya Mapp Frett, and Mona Sinha worked with Bridgespan and Shake the Table to create a groundbreaking report on how to connect global philanthropy with feminist movements better. This important tool aids in shaping and catalyzing conversations and reallocating resources.

### **Davos**

Moving climate debate from ambition to delivery represented nearly a third of panel discussions at Davos in May. Michelle Milford Morse, Ndidi Nwuneli, Cheryl Dorsey, Sakena Yacoobi, and Ronda Carnegie attended Davos to support women leaders investing in collaborations for climate justice, SDGs, and the work of Generation Equality.



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### **Carter Center Roundtable**

Karin Ryan and Laura Flanders joined for a Carter Center discussion on how climate change impacts violence against women. They explored the intersection of climate and gender, emphasizing the need for a global treaty to address the increasing violence against women.



### **The Power of Storytelling/Films**

Mona Sinha and Wanjiru Kamau Rutenberg joined for a screening of Sam Feder's film Disclosure at Tribeca, a trans liberation piece, as CWL collectively explored the role of film at the Tribeca Film Festival to further tell the vital story around climate justice. It is an inspiring reminder that stories, well told, are one way to effect positive change. On our radar is how to leverage Pat Mitchell's film project "Love Songs For The Planet," which will be comprised of 100 short films with women lead solutions on every continent.

### **Aspen Ideas Festival**

The Festival, held in July 2022, focused on six important themes. Two of the themes included HEAT and POWER. . What will it take to deploy solutions at the speed and scale we need to reverse the consequences of a changing climate? CWL Kathleen Finlay supporting Women & Agriculture/Food Security, and Lauren Leader Chivee, supporting Women & Democracy, leveraged the opportunity to join at the Aspen Ideas Festival for networking and impact with other women leading change.

### **UNESCO**

Edit Schlaffer and Dr. Agnes Binagwaho joined at the Women in Science ceremony, where Dr. Agnes won an award for her continued work in Rwanda.



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### **Women and Democracy Summit**

Taking the stage, Pat Mitchell and Ronda Carnegie spoke at Lauren Leader Chivee's All in Together conference about the state of women in American democracy to promote the importance of Climate Justice as a key issue.

### **Greenland**

Mona Sinha and Shevaun Haviland joined on a trip to Greenland, seeing glaciers, and whales, as part of an expedition on climate impact.

### **TED Dilemma**

Halla Tomasdottir Mary Robinson and Jade Begay joined at TED Climate events in London, where they individually took the stage and delivered inspirational talks on climate justice.



### **TEDWomen 2022**

TEDWomen 2022 convened as a global week-long virtual forum. There were many memorable ideas and stories shared, and the interviews will be distributed on TED's digital platform. The cross-generational conversation between Mary Robinson and Ugandan climate activist Vanessa Nakate representing both Europe and Africa was powerful and inspiring.

### **Echoing Green Gala**

A celebration of the collective impact of social innovators working to create a more just and sustainable world. Each year the program features next-generation change-makers whose visionary leadership at the intersection of racial justice and social innovation represents the transformational change the world needs. Cheryl Dorsey and Mona Sinha joined together to support and identify next-generation change-makers and grassroots climate justice solutions.



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### **Schmidt Futures**

Wanjiru Kamau Rutenberg and Lindiwe Mazibuko convened with other black women leaders to design and develop a Global Black Women Executive Leadership program. As Wanjiru says, “This dream had its first heartbeat with y’all at Bellagio when you held space for me to speak it out loud for the first time. It has not died. It is gathering up aunties. THANK YOU for being its first aunties.”

### **Africa Europe Foundation**

Dr. Agnes Binagwaho and Mary Robinson united to build more trust in the Africa Europe Foundation community by showcasing the power of partnership and collaboration.

### **COP27**

The power of the CWL network with Halla Tomasdottir focused on betting business leaders to stand up and sign up for justice. Wanjira Mathai held a powerful dinner on restoration. Jacqueline Novogratz gave a status report on Acumen’s “Hardest to Reach Energy Fund”.

Additionally, Climate Justice leader of the NDN Collective of Indigenous Nations of North America, Jade Begay, was invited to lead the Pavillon for Indigenous Communities at COP 27 and to curate the programs, which provided a keynote opportunity for Mary Robinson to present Project Dandelion to the community of Indigenous climate leaders.

### **Women Political Leaders**

The Forum has been held in Reykjavík for the last four years in partnership with Icelandic and international partners, convened by Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, President of Iceland (1980-1996). Invitations to the Reykjavík Global Forum are extended to international women leaders from politics, business, culture, science, and technology. CWL’s Hafsat Abiola and UNF’s Women and Girls Initiative leader and CWL member, Michelle Milford Morse, joined to support conversations around climate justice and to raise further awareness and support for the Project Dandelion proposal for a women and youth leaders climate justice campaign.



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### Climate Leadership Intensive - Climate Lounge @ UNGA

#### CWL at UNGA

Held at Convene at Saks, a new and flexible workspace, CWL hosted roundtable discussions on climate justice and brief presentations on the state of climate work by women leaders of many diverse climate-focused organizations as well as other non-climate-focused global women's organizations. The purpose was to connect climate leaders and initiatives with each other, breaking down existing silos in this work, and enlist the women leaders with broad networks to join a new coalition led by the CWL and other global women leaders to further develop CWL's Project Dandelion campaign in ways that elevate the urgency of the climate crisis and strengthen all efforts to identify and implement solutions.

In addition to these primary objectives, we also used this convening to:

- Provide a free and flexible space for women and leaders in climate to meet, network, and work throughout the first day of UNClimate week.
- Brainstorm with women leaders around climate justice and Project Dandelion in an open forum for listening and learning. . .
- Raise awareness about CWL's work and specifically to build a global coalition of support for Project Dandelion, creating a network of networks impact that will continue to grow in the New Year.
- Explore partnership opportunities by mapping out a plan to participate and present at all upcoming convenings of women leaders to continue to create connections between stakeholders and to identify potential partnerships to a global campaign to elevate and mobilize climate justice solutions.

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*Mary Robinson delivering the opening speech.*



*Carla Goldstein, Ronda Carnegie, and Michelle Milford Morse.*



*A full house for the morning session.*



*Breakout brainstorm tables.*



*Emily Bancroft, Dr. Agnes Binagwaho, Lauren Leader Chivee, and Ndidi Nwuneli.*



*Halla Tomasdottir, Lisa Witter, and Lindive Mazibuko.*



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### Fresh Speakers Academy

What we know about leadership is that the most impactful leaders are highly effective communicators. The academy's curriculum is designed to provide CWL participants with the tools and knowledge they need to make them effective in all communication formats and with all kinds of audiences.

CWL partnered with the Fresh Speakers Academy (FSA) in 2022 for a six-month-long program that provides classes, resources, and one on one coaching to leaders looking to improve their public speaking abilities.

With the program concluding in January, those who participated will have continued access to the resources and community that FSA provides, along with speaking opportunities uniquely available to FSA graduates.

**“It has been great to spend more time with my CWL sisters. We are learning together while pursuing individual professional goals. It is inspiring and ambitious all at once.”**

- Latanya Mapp Frett, Global Fund for Women

**“Reaffirming our purpose and focus by reframing our thoughts is a game changer. Fresh Speakers Academy curriculum guides you on that journey. I found myself rethinking many things about the work I do and the ways I could connect others to it.”**

- Meagan Fallone, Soli



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### **Press**

[Connected Women Leaders at Bellagio](#)

[Mary Robinson and Connected Women Leaders](#)

[Mary Robinson: There is no climate justice without Gender Equality](#)

[International Women's Voices](#)

[Connected Women Leaders Insights](#)

### **Looking toward 2023**

As we focus on opportunities for the year ahead, the following is a showcase of early discussions.

#### **Davos**

Climate will continue to be an important topic and mainstage agenda. The Female Quotient Lounge at Davos will create an opportunity for CWL leaders to connect on panel discussions and within the lounge.

#### **WOW Festival**

Hosted by CWL Faculty Jude Kelly, CWL is actively working to finalize an impactful presence at the 2023 WOW Festival in London, UK.

#### **Bellagio**

Occurring in May of 2023, CWL's annual convening at Bellagio will be a time to bring together impactful women leaders in climate justice to create meaningful and actionable next steps with the Project Dandelion campaign.

#### **Women Deliver**

CWL is in conversation with Women Deliver to hold a mainstage plenary on the intersection between climate and gender equality, planned to take place in Kigali, Rwanda.

#### **Omega Institute**

We are excited to have secured a weekend just before UNGA to bring together 25 of our CWL faculty to join us at The Omega Institute with a focus on climate intersections to include those in global health, food, and human security.

#### **UNGA Climate Lounge**

With the success of the climate lounge, our early plans include setting up a CWL lounge in New York City.



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### Closing Thoughts

As the headline in Mary Robinson's recent article in the Irish Times states, **"There is no climate justice without gender equality"**.

CWL's work and emphasis in 2022 have focused on women leaders connecting and leveraging their unique platforms and power, or privilege, to strengthen a global community of women leaders to lead with a Moonshot Mentality toward climate justice solutions.

The opportunity for female leaders to speak up, speak out and create collaborations around climate justice solutions—is urgently needed to protect humanity's rights to clean water, breathable air, and sustainable and healthy ecosystems.

Our work, with the sustained support of The Rockefeller Foundation, has deepened and strengthened opportunities to create the necessary partnerships and collaborations to launch and sustain a global campaign for climate justice—to support and strengthen current climate justice work, to enlist and mobilize all women leaders and their allies to take up the challenge of a 7-year campaign to preserve and protect Mother Earth as our shared home.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Pat Hafsat Ronda". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pat Mitchell, Hafsat Abiola, Ronda Carnegie