

Dr. Ilham Kadri

Dr. Ilham Kadri is a highly experienced CEO of Bel-20 & CAC companies which she has acquired over her 25+ years of international senior leadership. This has allowed her to attain a multi-industry knowledge in chemicals, water treatment, oil and gas, service industry, home and personal care, M&A, equity and debt financing, and private equity making her experience invaluable.

Dr. Ilham Kadri is CEO of Solvay; and a Board Member of L'Oréal and A.O. Smith Corporation. She is also the Chair of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) since 2022, and Vice President of the European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC).

Under Ilham Kadri's leadership, Solvay launched its new purpose, its G.R.O.W. strategy, Solvay One Planet committing to carbon neutrality, and Solvay One Dignity targeting an inclusive and equitable culture to promote diversity. She consistently reformed, transformed, unleashed the company's potential, delivering records financials and non-financials results in her 4 years tenure.

Ilham Kadri was the first female general manager at Dow in the Middle East and Africa region and launched the first non-fossil fuel water treatment plant in the region's history.

True to her humanist values, she founded two non-profits: the Hygieia Network, in the USA and authored "Invisible Heroes", dedicated to women who clean our world, and in 2020, she founded the Solvay Solidarity Fund who supported 7000 people around the world impacted by the pandemic and other hardships. Kadri currently hosts a podcast called "AND is the future" with thought leaders in business, science and art.

Prior to joining Solvay, she was CEO and President of Diversey in the USA. She led the company's turnaround, transformed it into a leader in hygiene and cleaning, executed its spin off and successful sale to private equity. She has also held various positions at top multinationals Shell, Dow and Sealed Air.

Ilham Kadri was decorated with the Légion d'honneur, and was ranked 21st in Fortune's Most Powerful Women International in 2019. In 2016 and 2017, she took home eight Stevie® awards and won the Golden Award for Woman of the Year, in the industry (2017). She is a Doctor Honoris Causa of the University of Namur (BE) and Ewha University (KR). Ilham Kadri is a member of the Belgium Royal Academy of Sciences, of the European Round table, and the IBC's World Economic Forum. Ilham Kadri is a chemical engineer and holds a Doctorate in Macromolecular Physics and Chemistry.



Major Career Roles:
CEO of Solvay
Independent Director of L'Oréal and A.O. Smith Corporation
Chair of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development

Other Career Highlights:
President and CEO of Diversey Inc
Senior VP/Division President of Sealed Air Corp
General Manager at Dow Chemical Company
Founder of the Hygieia Network and the Solvay Solidarity Fund