On 23 October 2018 the IEEE WIE Affinity Group Morocco section celebrated in Marrakech the IEEE WIE International Leadership Summit, which provided regional networking opportunities to foster communication and collaboration. IEEE women in engineering international leadership summit was held alongside the 5th IEEE International Congress on Information Science and Technology (IEEE CiSt’18). The event in its first edition registered 86 participants.

the IEEE Women in Engineering Leadership Summit was an opportunity to provide a platform for women researchers, professionals, innovators and entrepreneurs in ICT to learn from each other, share their knowledge and experience and create an inclusive community that commonly innovates to the benefit of the society; as well as promote the sense of collaboration, leadership, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit among attendees. The summit enabled the presentation of more than 8 research papers where first authors are women, featured two keynote speakers Prof Hajar Moussanif from Cadi Ayad University, Marrakech Morocco and Prof Esma Aimeur from Montreal University, Quebec Canada.

In the program of the summit featured a panel session under the topic "Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship: "What opportunities & challenges for women in Technology? And What perspectives for tomorrow" that took place at the end of the event with speakers from academia/Research and IT entrepreneurs. The panel discussed the main challenges and benefits related to transforming the innovation and research conducted at university level into entrepreneurial project to the benefit of the society.

The panel was moderated by: Mrs Samia El Hanchi Senior manager at Orange and speakers: Mrs Maha Echafaa president of Enctus Morocco, Houda Chakiri CEO
Enhanced Technologies Moroccan IT company, Dr Laila Benhlima Associate Professor at Ecole Mohammedia of Engineers, Dr Salma El Aimani Associate professor at Ibnou Zohr University Ouerzazate and Dr Violetta Cavalli Associate professor at Al Akhawayn University Ifrane.

IEEE women in Engineering International Leadership summit benefited from sponsorship from Al Akhawayn University www.aui.ma for the Gala dinner.