Melissa Sassi is the Global Head of IBM Hyper Protect Accelerator focused on empowering early-stage fintech and healthtech entrepreneurs through technology and business acceleration. Melissa is also division-level lead and Judge for Call for Code, an initiative aimed at preparing for and responding to disaster scenarios with technical innovation.

Prior to joining IBM, Melissa spent several years in Microsoft’s Airband Initiative where she was an impact investor focused on internet and energy access. Melissa is the Founder & CEO of MentorNations, a youth-led digital skills movement based out of Tunis, Tunisia that has taught tens of thousands of young people to code across twelve countries. She is also a Founding Member of broadbandpolicy.org.

Melissa has served as a speaker, panelist, and/or moderator in more than twenty talks at UN-funded conferences, education summits, tech events, and is an active keynote speaker and judge in topics and initiatives involving digital skills, internet access, women in tech, community building, youth empowerment, imposter syndrome, mentorship, and personal branding.

Melissa holds two master’s degrees in supply chain and finance and is working toward her PhD. Her research focuses on the digital inclusion of unserved communities.

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