

**The Fyera Foundation UN STI Forum Intervention During Thematic Session 4:
*Breaking down barriers- closing the gender gap in science and technology***

Thank you for the floor.

Distinguished honours, excellencies, peacebuilders, and changemakers, my name is Sarah and I am youth delegate from The Fyera Foundation and HeartAmbassadors. I am one of the many girls globally that could benefit from the changes in policy to bridge the gender gap in STI.

I would like to invite all of you in the audience right now to participate in a simple coherence breathing technique and to consider a girl that you care about and focus your attention for a moment in her honour in the area around the heart. Imagine the breath flowing in through the heart and out through the heart and radiate your care for that girl to live her highest potential in this world. The HeartMath Institute has demonstrated that these simple coherence breathing techniques give us access to both our own cognitive capacity for innovation, enhanced solving/solution seeking, and also reduces implicit bias, and discrimination. This intervention has been adopted at the C20 Gender Equity Working Group in consultation to the G20.

The founder of The Fyera Foundation has a powerful quote that resonates with today's session: we need to leverage the power of our missions, not our ambitions, to change the world. If we focus on only bringing innovative tech products like AI to market as quickly and competitively as possible, without diverse technology representation, our technology won't solve global issues in coherence with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Institutions need to set up advisory boards composed of marginalized communities and youth to raise their voices to help develop inclusive policies, increase funding, and bring both policy and community together. We also need to heavily invest in STEM and learner readiness programs for young girls, around the world, especially in Least Developed Countries.

Let us all use the power and intelligence of our hearts because by choosing love for our communities, our Mother Earth, and our diverse human family in all its forms- we can contribute to recovery from COVID 19 and close the gender gap in science and technology. Please contact us for more information at support@heartambassadors.com

Thank you.

