

## **Remarks of Sarosh Nagar to the 9<sup>th</sup> United Nations Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology, and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals**

Before I begin, I would like to thank the Chair, Her Excellency the Ambassador of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, for this opportunity to address the United Nations.

My name is Sarosh Nagar. I am a Marshall Scholar and student at Harvard, here representing the Millennium Campus Network, which collaborates with United Nations Academic Impact on the Millennium Fellowship, a leadership development program helping undergraduate innovators worldwide advance the SDGs. I am an alumnus of the Fellowship. Today, during this session on improving global research capacity and funding, I want to highlight the importance of supporting youth innovators worldwide.

We often say that “youth are the future.” Yet, today, youth are also building our future. The achievements of individuals like Millennium Fellowship alumnus Jeremiah Thoronka from Sierra Leone, whose piezoelectric invention helped provide electricity to over 150 households, highlight the power of youth researchers and technologists in pioneering a better tomorrow.

Yet, as a researcher with published work on science funding, I personally see a need to improve funding and capacity to better support these youth innovators. To build capacity to support youth technologists, especially those from under-resourced backgrounds, we need more leadership development initiatives modeled off case studies like the Millennium Fellowship to provide youth with skills and support as they innovate to further the Sustainable Development Goals. Following the lead of MCN’s Global Generation Supporters, we need greater receptiveness from more international funders to support high-quality young talent as they turn their dreams into reality. Above all, we need international organizations and public bodies to spotlight transformative youth researchers from all disciplines to help their ideas gain traction and inspire other youth to follow in their footsteps. Together, let us empower youth not only to dream but to build a better world for all of us. Thank you.

**Word Count:** 304