MGCY

Founder of Aunty Eugenia

Distinguished Delegates, colleagues, and changemakers,

Imagine a rural village where young people, especially girls, are taught how to harness solar power to light their homes. These girls aren't just learning to use technology; they're becoming problem-solvers and leaders in their communities.

This is what inclusive innovation looks like. When we ensure everyone—regardless of gender or geography, has a seat at the table, we unlock powerful, community-driven solutions that create lasting change.

My name is Eugenia Boateng, and I'm honored to speak on behalf of youth worldwide who aren't just using science and technology, we're building the future with it. Especially girls, who are too often shut out, not because they lack talent, but because systems were never built for them.

But to truly move forward, we must ask: who is being left behind?

Nearly 3 billion people are still offline. In low-income countries, only 43% of young people have internet access. Girls, young women, and marginalized youth are most affected by this divide. And even when they are connected, they're often excluded from decision-making.On this International Day of Women and Girls in Science, we are reminded that gender equality in STEM isn't just a goal, it's a global necessity.

I saw this firsthand in Tanzania, where girls missed school monthly due to a lack of menstrual products. It reminded me: science and technology must serve those whose stories are often ignored.

That's why we're calling for gender-transformative, youth-led innovation:

- Integrate AI, media, and digital literacy into early education.

- Fund women-led innovation hubs in underserved areas.

- Ensure youth voices shape science ministries and AI boards.

- Make digital health tools safe, inclusive, and accessible.

As the African proverb says, "When you educate a woman, you educate a nation." Let's ensure every girl has the tools, access, and opportunity to lead us forward.