

# Advocacy report template

## GWI advocacy goals

1. 100% of UN Member States commit to policy, legislation, budget and infrastructure to facilitate transition of girls from primary to secondary school and ensure gender parity and gender equality throughout secondary education by 2030.
2. By 2030 100% of UN low income Member States have increased access to tertiary education for girls and women by 50%.
3. 100% of UN Member States commit to and implement policies for continuing education to empower women throughout the life course, within the formal and informal economies.

**Please bear in mind these three overarching, long-term goals in any UN intervention that you make on behalf of GWI. Any intervention should push these three goals further.**

**NB:** *Although these goals represent GWI's mission, UN Reps are also invited to promote GWI key messages on areas where especially relevant e.g. women in STEM, securing investment in women teachers, addressing barriers to girls' education such as child marriage.*

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### **Meeting attended: (place, date, time, name of meeting)**

5th Meeting; HLPF; 7- 11-18; NY UN Headquarters

### **Subject of meeting:**

***Thematic Review: Advancing Science, Technology, and Innovations (STI) for Achieving the 2030 SDGs.(STI Task Force; Co-Chairs - Mexico & Japan)***

There has been rapid technology change. Artificial intelligence, robotics, nanotechnology and others are having, and will have, a profound impact on global society, creating opportunities as well as challenges for the economy and the environment. In order to benefit from these advances, systemic educational changes are needed in training, skills, and creative capacities. Local capacity-building for a renewable environment is essential, especially in the rural areas. In addition, steps must be taken to address the gaps that technology has brought about and can exacerbate in the future. Likewise, as the world continues to urbanize, smart city technology becomes more essential to deal with issues such as air pollution, urban sprawl, and infrastructure.

In 2019, the STI Task Force will provide a roadmap describing what needs to be done and when. The roadmap should be a tracking tool to monitor progress and provide countries with information on how to best use science, technology, and innovation to achieve the SDGs.

### **Additional Points Emphasized:**

1. Science information is needed for a balanced implementation of 2030 SDGs.
2. Reduce the gaps between science and public policy. Translate research into policy.
3. Mobilize technology for those left behind.
4. Increase connectivity, especially in rural areas.

## **Comments made by members of the STI Task Force:**

### Vienna University of Technology

We must identify the governance and policy issues needed to achieve the SDGs. The world can't stop at 2030; rather, we need a vision for a sustainable, long-term future. STI is a powerful transformative mechanism; it can transform but also disrupt. The gender and digital divide remain the two greatest dangers to development. Both require education, especially of girls.

### Forestry Research Institute of Ghana

Africa's transformation will come from within - *Nothing about us without us*. Africa needs to grow its investment in health, education, and infrastructure by committing a specific percentage of each nation's budget to them. Job creation must match population growth, an ongoing challenge. Likewise, the risk of pandemics and rapid spread of diseases remain a major concern.

### World Intellectual Properties Organization (WIPO)

This organization's mission is to promote an effective and balanced intellectual properties framework that stimulates innovation and creativity, especially as it relates to SDG9. Women don't contribute as much as they could or should to innovation. Only 30% of patents are submitted by women, due in large part to the disincentives they face in terms of participation. Of additional concern, many countries' innovation is not crossing over from the labs to the field.

## **Comments from the floor:**

*International Telecommunications Union* - we have all types of digital technology - smart phones, ehealth, smart water and agriculture, smart cities - how best to apply these tools? How do we get the 50% unconnected online - "*Leave No One Offline*".

*Group of Women* - Concern raised that data is increasingly in the hands of huge corporations.

*Children & Young People* - The future is not evenly distributed. Opportunities are not shared. To truly leave no one behind we need to see technology as an integral part of development. Quality education and training in STI, including engineering, is essential for jobs. Further, STI application must be people-centered and planet-sensitive.

*Ambassador of Kenya* - Our country pledges 2% of GDP for research and development.

*European Union* - Calls for open access to research results.

*Russia* - Announced an upcoming International Forum on Converging Technology.

*Islamic Development Bank* - Leap-frogging is the only way for developing countries to improve conditions. Announced the bank is setting up a \$500 million fundraising effort to address six SDGs - 2,3,4,6,7,9. The bank is pledging \$100 million.

*Benin* - A paradigm shift is needed in behavior and consumption in order to address climate change.

*Turkey* - Announced a technology bank with a donation of \$10 million to share STI with the world's poorest countries to meet the goal of creating a global knowledge-based economy.

*International Atomic Energy Commission* - It is important to recognize the peaceful uses of nuclear power, including generating electricity, fighting cancer, and increasing food production.

*Belgium* - Many technologies are already available. What is needed are strategies for development at scale. We need to focus on bottom-up technology solutions.

*Finland* - Invest in basic and higher education in the service of social, economic, and gender equality. What is needed is a commitment to good government, democracy, rule of law, and recognition of human rights.

**Refers to SDG no #: (please reference)**

SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, 15, 17

**Relevant treaties/conventions/resolutions:**

**Intervention by GWI rep: (what you did)**

Disseminate information.

**How this serves GWI members:**

- a. Explain trends in development in this particular subject.
- b. Explain why these trends and developments are relevant to GWI and NFAs.
- c. Outline what needs to be done at international and national levels.

**Next steps: (what needs to be done)**

Continue to advocate for STEM for girls and for all students from developing countries.

Question - How can we engage educators in including the SDGs in school curriculum?

Submitted by:

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7-18-18