



WHEC STATEMENT

**7th Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and
Innovation for Sustainable Development (STI) Forum
Virtual Side Event on 04 May 2022, 10.30 am to 11.45 am EST**

Strategies to Strengthen National and International Policies *in* Education and Health

By Rita Luthra

Welcome!

We are in the midst of a digital proliferation around the globe, which is allowing us to be more connected, and with greater access to data than ever before. As a result e-Health, e-Learning and mobile health, are providing healthcare services and achieving better health outcomes. Access to reliable and *Broadband Internet*, is becoming essential to Education & Health Sectors, in every country – rich and poor alike.

Imagine, students in developing and developed countries, simultaneously reviewing the same medical education, and learning from each other. That is, e-Learning at its BEST, in an *Internet Classrooms*. With this goal, Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) in collaboration with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations (UN) has launched an e-Health Platform, <http://www.WomensHealthSection.com>, in six official languages of the United Nations. Its work began on 24 October 2002. Two decades of serving and advancing global health with our partners and associates, has strengthened and reaffirmed our faith, that – e-Health and e-Government – is the way forward. We are serving in 227 countries and territories. Our special focus is on Sustainable Development Goals # 3, 4, 5, 10, 16 and 17.

Initiatives of Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) have a unique role to play in strengthening the health and educational systems, worldwide. Technology & Innovation in learning are creating exciting new opportunities for

accelerating progress towards *Education-for-all* and *Health-for-all*, in every Member State (Country), of the United Nations.

Cultural diversity is now the norm in each and every country. Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) respects the rights of patients, colleagues and the communities. WE PLAN DEVELOPMENT TOGETHER.

The objective of today's Side Event, is to share, the experiences of various technological solutions, in improving the affordability and accessibility of quality healthcare services, and **STEMM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medical) programs. The need, for good *mental health programs* in our schools and universities, to help our children and teens – to acquire the basic skills are needed to create health, and improve learning potential. And this should be a part of their curriculum. Each new generation of children and teenagers face many health challenges. But those being dealt with, by today's children and youth – seem to be particularly daunting. Children at an early age are confronted by situations that require: decision-making, self-esteem, problem-solving and coping strategies. People with such skills are more likely to adopt a healthy lifestyle, and become good global citizens.

Our friends, colleagues, and experts today, in this Side Event, will highlight, how to best apply technology in the learning process. It is the poor and marginalized in our society and in our world, who have the most to gain, from the advances in e-Health and Online-Learning – sadly – at this point, they are often the groups, who benefit the least.

Maternal Health or Women's Health, is a multifaceted problem with social, psychological and cultural roots. There is no simple or single solution for this segment of the population. Women's healthcare must be addressed at multiple levels, and in multiple sectors of society, to develop effective projects and programs.

For several decades, we have had the knowledge and means to remove much of the risk and uncertainty associated with childbirth. With growing motivation and political will, the need for better information network has become more urgent.

Girls, women and minorities have right to quality healthcare and education, everywhere. We should aim to ensure Universal Health Care, and affordable / quality education for all. Let us not leave anyone behind.

Our suggestions and recommendations for **Areas for Future Development** are:

1. ***Health Promoting Schools*** – both physical and mental health.
2. A long-term plan that is binding on all parties at all times;
3. Sustainable finance;
4. Support for pilot projects/programs and their conversion to regular programs as soon as they prove successful;
5. Involvement of health authorities at national, state and district levels;
6. Government-Commitment is necessary;
7. A Global Fund for Continuing Medical Education (CME);
8. Improving the accessibility for girls, women and minorities to STEMM programs.

WHEC supports capacity building for e-Health and e-Government applications worldwide, and look forward to developing the use of norms and standards, with the World Health Organization (WHO). We aim to reach, Least Developed Countries (LDCs) identified by United Nations Development Fund (UNDP), to disseminate *Reproductive Health Research* and evidence-based information. WHEC provides, free-access to online e-Learning / e-Health, to LDCs. Our **LINK** (Learning, Innovating, Network for Knowledge) **Access Project**, encourages national health and educational systems to contribute, towards continued education at all levels, to improve maternal and child health, culturally appropriate contraception counseling information and availability; Prevention of Teen Pregnancies, End Child Marriages, and Violence against Women and Children.

By interacting with different cultures, we will learn to respect diversity. Building the capacity to care, is a global responsibility. And it is our generation's responsibility and our opportunity.

We believe, on this path effort never goes to waste, and there is no failure.

Thank You.
