



## WHEC Update

### Briefing of worldwide activity of the Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC)

April 2025; Vol. 20. No. 04

### *Anniversary Edition*

On **12 April 2025**, the Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) celebrates its **24<sup>th</sup> Birthday**. Established in 2001, WHEC was created to undertake projects / programs in collaboration with the United Nations (UN), the World Health Organization (WHO), and UNESCO. **The International Health and Development Portal** is to disseminate reliable, evidence-based and trusted information on international health and development challenges, to the healthcare providers and the public. Securing equitable access to quality and relevant education and lifelong learning for all is central to achieving progress across the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Today, however, progress towards the education-related targets of the 2030 Agenda is significantly off track; with the world going through profound and existential changes, education, as we know it, is not fit for purpose.

The twin crises in education – one of quality and access and one of quality and relevance – compounded by a lack of adequate financing, have dramatic consequences for learners worldwide, especially the most vulnerable. Some 244 million children are out of school today (Source: UNESCO). One in four young people are excluded from education, employment, or training. Over 770 million youth and adults are non-literate – the majority of whom are female. In 2024, some 222 million school-aged children were affected by crises globally. Worryingly, many of those in school are not learning foundational literacy and numeracy, let alone creative, critical and scientific thinking, and digital and socio-emotional skills.

The high impact initiatives will drive progress not only on SDG4, but across all the SDGs. Education is a crucial instrument for responding to the 2030 Agenda's defining principle of leaving no one behind. Education is critical for empowering individuals and societies to be active in the pursuit of social, economic, and environmental justice.

Women's Health and Education Center's (WHEC's) high impact initiatives on transforming education, is designed to sustain and strengthen momentum towards effective implementation, demonstrating that education transformation is feasible at scale. Several initiatives and calls to action were launched, addressing areas like foundational learning, education in crisis situations, greening education, digital learning, gender equality in and through education, disability-inclusive education, education financing, the teaching profession, and movement building with youth and civil society.

WHEC's high impact initiatives are and will continue to advance across these 3 pillars:

1. Political Leadership – highlight those countries that are taking positive steps towards the realization of their education commitments and stimulate other countries to follow suit.
2. Accelerate ongoing work on education financing and strengthen global support for developing countries.
3. Strengthen the global support for movement or youth groups, teachers, civil society, and others to advocate for transforming education at the national, regional, and global levels.

Education & Health are the best building blocks – let us create *Internet Classrooms in Education & Health* Bulletin of the World Health Organization; July 2005; 83(7): Page 557.

#### **Internet health learning to improve women's health**

[http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/Bull\\_WHO\\_July\\_2005\\_J\\_83\\_7\\_Page\\_557.pdf](http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/Bull_WHO_July_2005_J_83_7_Page_557.pdf)

Let us get the conversation started.

Publishing for a purpose

**Rita Luthra, MD**



## Your Questions, Our Reply

What are your suggestions on learning to build a better future for all? Are Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) essential?

**SDGs are essential, but we are Off-Track:** Now only 5 years left for 2030 deadline, we not there – in fact we are lagging behind. The fundamental pivot we need at the core of 2030 Agenda demands that countries reorient economies, ways of working and mind-sets to ensure the rights and aspirations of all can be achieved while preserving our climate and natural environment.

World leaders make a historic global promise to secure the rights and well-being of all peoples when they adopted the 2030 Agenda and SDGs in 2015. This agenda recognizes that collectively, we can deliver a better future for all. However, the Agenda is a promise, not a guarantee.

This change will take everyone. In many ways the foundations for transformation are right of us – the technical know-how, institutional infrastructure, global financial resources and proven programs – but we need to channel these resources more effectively. This is the critical moment for political leadership and bold action from the national governments; for the international community to come together in common purpose; and for all parties on the SDGs journey to take their contribution to the next level. We start tomorrow, by accelerating what works today.

As we look to the future, our goal is simple to generate momentum, strengthen political leadership and channel tangible, integrated and coordinated support behind national plans and priorities. As part of global effort to meet this challenge, WHEC is rallying behind these 12 high impact initiatives which provide a platform to help take SDG progress to scale. The platform cuts across three major areas: Economic and social transitions, Means of implementation, and a Core aspect of the cross-cutting issue of gender equality.

1. **Energy** Compacts – scaling up ambition to deliver SDG7.
2. **Biodiversity and Nature** – Nature driving economic transformation; leveraging the power of biodiversity and nature to drive equitable economic progress.
3. **Food Systems** Transformation – for a sustainable world without hunger.
4. **Transforming Education** – Learning to build a better future for all.
5. **Jobs and Social Protection** – decent work and social protection are global accelerators for just transitions.
6. **Digital** Public Infrastructure – scaling inclusive and open digital ecosystems for the SDGs.
7. **Financing** SDG Stimulus – scaling up long-term affordable financing for the SDGs.
8. **Transforming Trade:** paradigm shift to boost economic development.
9. **Local Coalition for 2030** – pushing key transitions and achieving the SDGs by 2030.
10. **Public Sector Capability** - building governance structures for future.
11. **Power of Data** – unlocking sector capabilities for the future.
12. **Eliminating Violence against Women and girls** - a spotlight initiative to eliminate it.

In many ways, the foundations for transformation are right in front of us – the technical know-how, institutional infrastructure, global financial resources and proven programs – but we need to channel these resources more effectively. This is the critical moment for political leadership and bold action from national governments; for the international community to come together in common purpose; and for all partners on the SDG journey to take their contribution to the next level.

We start tomorrow, by accelerating what works today.

## WHEC @ CPD58 – 58<sup>th</sup> Session of Commission on Population and Development

58<sup>th</sup>  
Session



### COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages

7-11 APRIL 2025 | NEW YORK | [unpopulation.org](http://unpopulation.org)



United  
Nations

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/events/CPD58>

### Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages

7 – 11 April 2025

A population commission was established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 3 (III) of 3 October 1946. In its resolution 49/128 of 19 December 1994, the General Assembly decided that the Commission should be renamed the Commission on Population and Development. In the same resolution, the Assembly decided that the Council and the Commission should constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that would play the primary role in the follow-up to the implementation of Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and that the Commission, as a implementation of Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels and advise the Council thereon.

#### Written Statement by Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC)

UN Document: E/CN.9/2025/NGO/5

#### Improving the health of our children and future generations through Education

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/n2441533.pdf>

#### Virtual Side Event

Steps Towards Leaving No One Behind

*Achieving Quality Education and Universal Health Coverage*

8 April 2025; 1 pm to 2:30pm (EDT, New York Time)

#### Announcement / Invitation / Flyer

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/CPD58-Flyer-2025.pdf>

#### Concept Note

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/58th-Session-of-CPD-Concept-Note.pdf>

#### Link for Global Dissemination and Details

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/whec/cpd.php3>

Join the Side Event; All are welcome!



## United Nations at a Glance

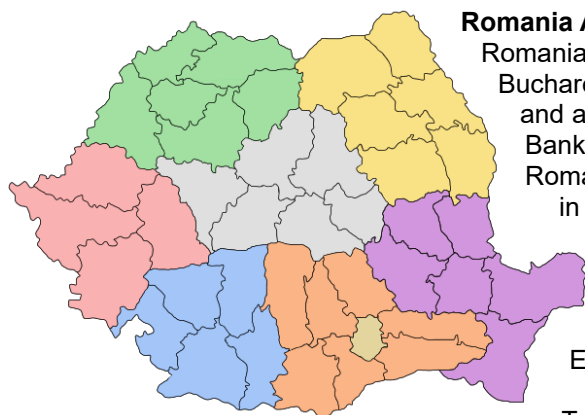
**Romania became UN Member State on 14 December 1955**



**Romania**, is a country at the crossroads of Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe. It borders Ukraine to the north and east, Hungary to the west, Serbia to the southwest, Bulgaria to the south, Moldova to the east, and the Black sea to the southeast. Population: 19 million (2024); Capital: Bucharest; Official language: Romanian; Religion: Christianity – 89%; Government – Unitary semi-presidential republic; Legislature – Parliament.

Following World War II, Romania was occupied by the Red Army and Romania became a socialist republic and a member of the Warsaw Pact. After the 1989 Revolution, Romania began a transition towards democracy and a market economy. Currency: Romanian leu.

Romania is a developed country, and is emerging to be a middle power in international affairs. Its economy ranks among the fastest growing in the European Union (EU). Being the world's 44<sup>th</sup> largest by nominal GDP, and the 36<sup>th</sup> largest by PPP. Romanian citizens enjoy one of the fastest and cheapest internet speeds in the world, while also ranking relatively high in happiness rankings. Its economy is now largely based on services. Romania is a member of the UN, EU, NATO, the Council of Europe, BSEC and WTO.



### Romania Administrative Divisions

Romania is divided into 41 counties and the municipalities of Bucharest. In 2022 Romania had a GDP (PPP) of around \$737 billion and a GDP per capita (PPP) of \$38,721. According to the World Bank, Romania is a high-income economy. According to Eurostat, Romania's GDP per capita (PPS) was 77% of EU average (100%) in 2022, an increase from 44% in 2007, making Romania one of the fastest-growing economies in the EU.

Since 1867 the official currency has been the Romanian leu ("lion") and following a denomination in 2005. After joining the EU in 2007, Romania plans to adopt the euro in 2029.

Tourism is a significant contributor to the Romanian economy, generating around 5% of GDP.. during the 1990s and 2000s, the development of research was hampered by several factors, including: corruption, low funding, and a considerable brain drain. In recent years, Romania has ranked the lowest or second-lowest in EU by research and development spending as a percentage of GDP, standing at roughly 0.5% in 2016 and 2017, substantially below the EU average of just over 2%. The country joined the European Space Agency (ESA) in 2011, and CERN in 2016. In 2018, however, Romania lost its voting rights in the ESA due to a failure to pay €56.8 million in membership contributions to the agency.

The nuclear physics facility of the EU's proposed Extreme Light Infrastructure (ELI) laser will be built in Romania. In early 2012, Romania launched its first satellite from the Centre Spatial Guianais in French Guiana. Starting in December 2014, Romania became a co-owner of the International Space Station.

Details: <https://sdgs.un.org/statements/romania-9231>

# Collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO)

## WHO | Romania



### Health Service management training benefits Romania's Healthcare system.

Developing tailored solutions that effectively tackle Romania's health challenges is a key objective of a WHO-led course aimed at health trainers and professionals working in health services management in the country.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the National Institute of Health Services Management, as well as academics from across the WHO European Region, the Training of Trainers (To Ts) program builds understanding of current health sector dynamics, while incorporating the latest teaching models and practices applicable across different levels of

the health system.

Healthcare system face many, many challenges, not only here in Romania but all over the world. On our course, we focus on improving access to health care, increasing collaboration and the integration of care within the healthcare system. We aim to help participants transfer inspiring examples from other countries, from other realities to the specific example of Romania.

The 6 week of training covered several topics , including:



1. Ethics and integrity in healthcare management;
2. Public health and health policies;
3. Innovation and digital transformation;
4. Design and delivery of healthcare;
5. Innovative teaching methodologies in executive education;
6. Leadership and change management.

These courses present the evolution of public health in parallel with the evolution of medicine.

### Next Steps

The To Ts program is part of the technical assistance offered by the WHO to the Government of Romania for the implementation of the country's National Recovery and Resilience Plan, and a great

example of WHO's comprehensive support to countries in the Region to advance their health workforce capacity.

## Hope and Health: Ukraine's Refugees in Romania

WHO is working closely with its offices in Ukraine and neighboring countries, as well as partners, to rapidly respond to health emergency triggered by the conflict and to minimize disruptions to the delivery of critical healthcare services. Ensuring the health and wellbeing of all people lies at the core of WHO's mandate and commitments in all situation, including humanitarian crises and conflicts.

Details: <https://www.who.int/countries/rou/>





**Romania is Member of the UNESCO since 1956**



**Villages with Fortified Churches in Transylvania**

These Transylvanian villages with their fortified churches provide a vivid picture of the cultural landscape of southern Transylvania.

The seven villages inscribed, founded by the Transylvania Saxons, are characterized by a specific land-use system, settlement pattern and organization of the family farmstead that have been preserved since the late Middle Ages.

They are dominated by their fortified churches, which illustrate building styles from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> century.



**Wooden Churches of Maramureș**

These eight churches are outstanding examples of a range of architectural solutions from different periods and areas. They show the variety of designs and craftsmanship adopted in these narrow, high, timber constructions with their characteristics tall, slim clock towers at the western end of the building, either single- or double-roofed and covered by shingles.

As such, they are a particular vernacular expression of the cultural landscape of this mountainous area of northern Romania. The Maramureș wooden churches are outstanding examples of vernacular religious wooden architecture resulting from the interchange of Orthodox religious traditions with Gothic influences in a specific vernacular interpretation of timber

construction traditions, showing a high level of artistic maturity and craft skills.



**Recognition, Validation and Accreditation in Romania**

In Romania over the last few years, some notable steps have been taken in the area of validation of formal, non-formal and informal learning. Although new legal and institutional frameworks have been developed and a set of laws and decrees have been adopted, not all the regulations have been put into effect. Work still needs to be done to improve coherence between the validation of non-formal and informal learning and the National Qualifying Framework, as well as to stabilize more solid links between institutional actors

responsible for non-formal and informal validation mechanisms and the stakeholders in the sectors of education training, and employment. One making challenges is to link structures and stakeholders from Vocational Education and Training (VET), higher education and the labor market in a more comprehensive framework.

Details: <https://www.unesco.org/en/countries/ro>

# Bulletin Board

## Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

*Adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015*

### ..... *Sustainable Development Goals Continued*

#### **Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.**

2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.

2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.

2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, which help maintain ecosystems, which strengthen capacity for adoption to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve soil quality.

2.5 By 2030, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.

2.a Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries.

2.b Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agriculture markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round.

2.c Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilities and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility.

*To be continued.....*



## Collaboration with UN University (UNU)

UNU-WIDER (World Institute for Development Economics Research)

Expert Series on Health Economics

### Corruption and Inequality

Economic inequality provides a fertile breeding ground for corruption, and in turn, leads to further inequalities. Most corruption modes focus on the institutional determinants of government dishonesty. However, such accounts are problematic. Corruption is remarkably sticky over time. There is a very powerful correlation between cross-national measures corruption in 1980 and in 2004. In contrast, measures of democracy such as Freedom House scores are not so strongly correlated over time, and changes in corruption are unrelated to changes in institutional design. On the other hand, inequality and trust-like corruption are also sticky over time. The connection between inequality and quality of government is not necessarily so simple. The aggregate relationships between inequality and corruption are not strong. The path from inequality to corruption may be indirect, through generalized trust, but the connection is key to understanding why some societies are more corrupt than others.

This study estimates a simultaneous equation model of trust, corruption, perceptions of inequality, confidence in government, and demands for redistribution in **Romania**, and shows that perceptions of rising inequality and corruption lead to lower levels of trust and demands for distribution.

Successful (or well-ordered) democracies are marked by high levels of trust in people and in government, low levels of economic inequality, and honesty and fairness in the public sphere. Trust in people, as the literature on social capital has shown, is essential. Trust in government is essential for political stability and compliance with the law. Democratic governance is more than a set of institutional arrangements, a legislature, and executive, and courts. Establishing a constitution is the easy part. 'Making democracy work' is more difficult task. Under communism, all citizens were theoretically equal and overall distribution of income was, in comparison with other countries, fairly equitable. Transition led to increases, often sharp, in inequality and this threatened both the social order and the legitimacy of government.

Perception of growing inequality, corruption and a lack of cofinance in government and fellow citizens lead to an inequality trap. When people believe that they no fair chance to get a better life – and that the only way to prosper is by being corrupt – it will be difficult to escape an inequality trap. Corruption, mistrust and inequality are all sticky. They do not change easily because each breeds the other.

There is a causal spiral from inequality to corruption (and back again) and from both inequality and corruption to lower levels of trust and from low levels of out-group trust and high levels of in-group (or particularized) trust to corruption. Perhaps most critical in this vicious circle is the link between inequality and trust. High levels of inequality lead to low out-group trust and high in-group trust and countries with high levels of trust enact policies that help reduce inequality; they spend more on the poor and more on programs such as education that help equalize opportunities. The path to a successful transition must find a way to break this vicious cycle. Accomplishing this is not easy. There are few institutional 'quick fixes' to corruption and tackling the issue of economic inequality is difficult politically, especially when there are great social strains in a society. Unless the political and social will is found, the road to a successful transition will continue to be rocky.

Publisher: UNU-WIDER; Author: Eric M. Uslander; Sponsor: UNU-WIDER gratefully acknowledges the financial contributions to the research program by the governments of Denmark (Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Finland (Ministry for Foreign Affairs), Norway (Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Sweden

*Details of the paper can be accessed from the link of UNU-WIDER on CME*

*Page*<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/cme/>



## Two Articles of Highest Impact, March 2025

*Editors' Choice – Journal Club Discussions*

*Fully open-access with no article-processing charges*

*Our friendship has no boundaries. We welcome your contributions.*

1. **Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Health;**

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/heal/heal029.php3>

WHEC Publications. Funding: WHEC Global Initiatives are funded by a grant from an anonymous donor. Join us at WHEC Global Health Line for discussion and contributions.

2. **Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome;**

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/obsnc/obsnc010.php3>

WHEC Publications. Funding: WHEC Global Initiatives are funded by a grant from an anonymous donor. Join us at WHEC Global Health Line for discussion and contributions.

### ***Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (World Health Organization) PMNCH Member***

***Worldwide service is provided by the WHEC Global Health Line***

## World Health Day 2025

7 April 2025



### **Healthy beginnings, hopeful futures.**

World Health Day, celebrated on 7 April 2025, will kick off a year-long campaign on maternal and newborn health. The campaign, titled *Healthy beginnings, hopeful futures, hopeful futures*, will urge governments and the health community to ramp up efforts to end preventable maternal and newborn deaths, and to prioritize women's longer-term health and well-being.

WHO and Partners will also share useful information to support healthy pregnancies and births, and better post-natal health.

### **Helping every woman and baby survive and thrive**

This task is critical. Tragically, close to 300,000 women lose their life due to pregnancy or childbirth each year, while over 2 million babies die in their first month of life and millions more are stillborn. That is roughly 1 preventable death every 7 seconds.

Based on current trends, a staggering 4 out of 5 countries are off track to meet global targets for improving maternal survival by 2030.

### **Listening to women and supporting families**

Women and families everywhere need high quality care that supports them physically and emotionally, before, during and after birth.

Join the efforts!



## From Editor's Desk

*WHEC Projects under Development*

### The Women's Health Education Center's (WHEC's) Global Efforts in Public Health



WHEC in collaboration with the United Nations (UN and WHO) and UN System has unwavering commitment to health and education sectors. Since the foundation of WHEC in 2001, the advocacy programs of WHEC has dealt with countless public health challenges threatening our health and well-being. However, numerous obstacles have been overcome and remarkable advancements are made in medical science, healthcare and overall population health.

Since the turn of the century, there have been significant improvements in global population health. Child mortality rates have fallen by half, maternal mortality have decreased by a third, and the incidence of many infectious diseases such as HIV, tuberculosis (Tb), and malaria have dropped. Additionally risks associated with premature deaths from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and injuries have dropped.

As a result of these achievements, global life expectancy at birth has increased from 67 years in 2000 to 73 years in 2019. These positive outcomes are attributed to several factors such as enhanced access to essential health services and reduced exposure to health risks such as tobacco use, alcohol consumption, and child undernutrition.

### The Global Initiatives in Public Health

At the outset, it was decided the WHEC's top priorities would be malaria, women's and children's health, tuberculosis, venereal disease, nutrition and environmental pollution. Many of those remain on our agenda today, in addition to such relatively new diseases as HIV/AIDS, diabetes, cancer and emerging diseases such as SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), Ebola and Zika virus. Some of groundbreaking advocacy programs on the following:

- **Antibiotics** (2001) The great era of discovery of present-day antibiotics begins, and WHEC begins advising countries on their responsible use.
- **Polio** (2001) The Global Polio Eradication initiative in 1988 is established at a time when polio paralyzed more than 350,000 people a year. Since then, polio cases have decreased by more than 99% because of immunization against the disease worldwide.
- **Smallpox** (1989) following an ambitious 12-year global vaccination campaign, smallpox was eradicated.
- **Tuberculosis** (2023) The strategy for reducing the toll of tuberculosis (TB) is launched. At the end of 2023, more than 37 million lives had been saved through TB diagnosis and treatment under the strategy. <http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/obsidp/TB-in-Pregnancy.pdf>
- **AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria** (2001). The Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, a new partnership and funding mechanism initially hosted by WHO, is created in collaboration with other UN agencies and major donors.
- **Heart Disease, diabetes, cancer** (2012) For the first time WHO Member States set global targets to prevent and control heart disease, diabetes, cancer, chronic lung disease and other non-communicable diseases.
- **Ebola virus outbreak** (2014) The biggest outbreak of Ebola virus disease ever experienced in the world strikes West Africa. <http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/obsidp/obsidp011.php3>

## WHEC @ Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Forums



Honorable mention in **UN Document: E/HLPF/2023/6**; # 102; page 16.

“Side Event provided significant opportunity for governments and other stakeholders to participate in the Forum.”

<https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/STI%20Forum%202023--Note%20by%20the%20Secretariat.pdf>

Women’s Health and Education Center (WHEC) @ STI

Side Events title and summary:

### 2024 – Artificial Literacy in Health and Education Sectors

WHEC Statement: <http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/2024-STI-Forum-Side-Event-WHEC-Statement-May-2024.pdf>

### 2023 - Open Science Initiatives to Transform Health and Education Systems

Details available @ <http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/whec/sti.php3>

### Science Policy Briefs Published by STI

2024 - Artificial Intelligence and Ethical Considerations in Neurotechnology

[https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2024-05/Luthra\\_Artificial%20Intelligence%20and%20Ethical%20Considerations%20in%20Neurotechnology.pdf](https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2024-05/Luthra_Artificial%20Intelligence%20and%20Ethical%20Considerations%20in%20Neurotechnology.pdf)

2023 – Open Science to Achieve United Nations 2030 Agenda

[http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/B41\\_Luthra\\_Science\\_and\\_Technology\\_to\\_Educate\\_Sustainable\\_Development.pdf](http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/B41_Luthra_Science_and_Technology_to_Educate_Sustainable_Development.pdf)

## Copy of a Historical Document that lives on 78 years later

### UN, USA and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

#### AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA REGARDING THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

PUBLIC LAWS-CHS, 480-482-AUG 4, 1947

“And, on this 8th day of July, 1947, JAMES H. DUFF has affixed his signature hereto as Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and caused the great seal of the Commonwealth to be attached thereto.

“JAS. H. DUFF

*“Governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.”*

(GREAT SEAL)

Approved August 4, 1947.

Details: <http://www.un.org/depts/DGACM/index.shtml>

[https://protocol.un.org/dgacm/pls/site.nsf/files/HQ\\_Agreement/\\$FILE/Headquarters\\_Agreement.pdf](https://protocol.un.org/dgacm/pls/site.nsf/files/HQ_Agreement/$FILE/Headquarters_Agreement.pdf)



## In The News

### Making Artificial Intelligence (AI) work better for consumers and societies



A global regulatory framework centered on transparency, accountability, and inclusivity is key to unlocking the benefits of AI for all. The growing presence of AI in consumers' lives has put our societies at a crossroads.

Advancing at breakneck speeds, data-driven AI holds vast promise for consumer welfare, through personalizing products and services, optimizing customer support, and addressing dispute online. But at the same time, there are growing

concerns over the fair, responsible and ethical use of AI, as efforts to govern the technology continue to play catch-up worldwide.

- The rise of AI can mean both progress and peril to societies and humanity.
- Even with milestones like AI Act, recently approved by European Parliament, global governance efforts for AI technology remain insufficient.
- The world must urgently come together, as the stakes are too high for inaction.

### Red Flags

Globally, billions of people risk being left behind in the AI revolution, with two thirds of the population in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) offline and women still trailing men in internet access. There are also risks of abuse, given how deepfakes could massively mislead consumers, spread misinformation and destabilize societies.



### Transparency, Accountability and Inclusivity

More broadly, Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) contributes to ongoing efforts driven by UN Secretary-General's AI Advisory Body, tasked with analyzing and advancing recommendations on the ethical development and use of the transformative technology. It advocates for global framework to guide fair and responsible AI, understanding the need for transparency, accountability and inclusivity. This entails making AI

algorithms more transparent and data collection practices more responsible, as opposed to tech companies closing off their system from public scrutiny.

On accountability, developers need to ensure that AI technologies positively impact societies on the whole. Additionally, AI systems should be as diverse and inclusive as the world they are designed to serve. Public policies need to guide innovation and the design of AI to mitigate, instead of perpetuating, human biases rooted in longstanding socioeconomic inequalities.

They must also ensure that AI-powered goods and services reach vulnerable and marginalized populations.

[Join the efforts of WHEC!](#)



## Art & Science

*Art that touches our soul*

### **Street Musicians at the Door** by Jacob Ochtervelt



**Street Musicians at the Door**, is an Oil-on-canvas painting by the Dutch Golden Age artist **Jacob Ochtervelt**, painted in Rotterdam in 1665. It depicts a mother, child and maid from a wealthy family interacting with two musicians at the door of their house. The musicians who play the violin and a hurdy-gurdy. It is an example of an “entrance hall painting,” a genre pioneered by Ochtervelt.

The artist used this setting to show the contact between the two worlds of the wealthy inhabitants within the house and poor street people beyond. The maid and child act as intermediaries between these two worlds, with the mother showing her child how to give alms to the begging musicians. The scene reflects the mores of the time, in which beggars were expected to perform some small service (in this case, playing music) that they could be paid for.

Although most critics agree that music is depicted here in a positive light, as a beneficial influence on children’s minds, a dissenting view holds that the low opinion of music in Dutch Calvinism is borne out by the low position of the musicians in the painting.

A minor detail of the interior, the Pythagorean tiling of its flooring, has been called out as an example of the long history of use of this tiling pattern. The people in painting, are shown in different styles, contrasting the dignified faces of women with the more caricatured depiction of the musicians.

The work is now in the collection of Saint Louis Art Museum in St. Louis, Missouri, (USA).

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*Monthly newsletter of WHEC designed to keep you informed on  
The latest UN and NGO activity*

<http://www.WomensHealthSection.com>

