

Celebrating the International Day of Women and Girls in Science! Message from the CTU Network of Women (CTU-NoW)

Empowering Women and Girls in STEM: A Commitment to Inclusion and Innovation

Today, the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) honours the remarkable contributions of women and girls in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), reaffirming its commitment to empowering young women to pursue careers in science-related fields and ICT. As we continue to break barriers and foster inclusivity in science, it is essential to recognise the pivotal role that Caribbean women have played in shaping scientific progress—while also acknowledging the persistent gender disparities that exist in these fields.

The year 2025 marks two significant milestones in the global movement for gender equality in science: the **10th anniversary of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science (IDWGS)** and the **30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action**. Both events serve as a powerful reminder of the strides made towards advancing women's participation in science related fields, as well as the challenges that still need to be addressed.

Despite their profound impact on scientific advancements, women and girls continue to encounter systemic barriers, biases, and stereotypes that hinder their full participation. From underrepresentation in leadership roles to unequal access to resources and opportunities, these challenges highlight the urgent need for sustained efforts to close the gender gap in science-related fields.

Achieving gender equality in science related fields requires a collective commitment to breaking stereotypes, promoting positive role models, and implementing targeted initiatives that support women's advancement. Encouraging young girls to pursue STEM education, showcasing successful female scientists, and fostering inclusive policies that promote diversity and equity are all critical steps in ensuring a more balanced and representative scientific community.

By investing in mentorship programmes, capacity-building initiatives, and policies that create equitable opportunities, organisations and governments can help empower more women and girls to excel in STEM. Representation matters—when young girls see women leading in STEM fields, they are more likely to envision themselves as future scientists, engineers, and innovators.

As we celebrate the trailblazers who have paved the way for women in STEM, it is equally important to inspire the next generation to dream big, explore boldly, and pursue their passions without limitations. The future of science and technology depends on diverse perspectives and inclusive leadership, and empowering women and girls in STEM is a crucial step towards building a more innovative and equitable world.

Together, the CTU through its Network of Women along with our regional and international partners, can create a future where every girl has the opportunity to thrive in STEM—one where talent, curiosity and determination are the steps to success. Let us continue working towards a world where women and girls are not only included in science but are leading the way in shaping its future.

CTU Focal Point for ITU's Network of Women