



**International Women Leaders' Conference**  
**SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**  
*Education and Training for Women and Girls*  
*Marking MCTC's Jubilee*  
 29 May – 3 June, 2011



## HAIFA DECLARATION

We, the participants in the International Women Leaders' Conference on *"Science, Technology and Innovation: Education and Training for Women and Girls"*, May 29- June 3, 2011, in Haifa, Israel, hereby:

**Recognize** that education at all levels is a human right and that women and men have the right to equally enjoy and contribute to the benefits of scientific progress and its applications, without discrimination of any kind.

**Recognize** the crucial contributions of women in science and technology, including the indigenous and traditional knowledge held by women, including rural women.

**Recognize** that equal access to education and training in science, technology and innovation empowers women and girls, particularly in the context of global economic and technological changes, and promotes development.

**Recognize** the crucial role of the media to promote gender equality in all spheres, including in science, technology and innovation, and to facilitate women's and girls' participation in all information and communication systems.


**Recognize** the central role of national governments to promote gender equality in all spheres, including in science, technology and innovation.

**Recognize** that the widespread underrepresentation of women and girls in science and technology contributes to an underutilization of talents and perspectives, inhibits economic development and women's economic empowerment and widens the gender pay gap.

**Reaffirm** that access to quality formal and non-formal education, as well as scientific, technical and vocational education and training, is critical to achieving gender equality and empowering girls and women.

**Reaffirm** that education is the essential foundation for a just and prosperous society, where women and men live with dignity, contributing equally to the development of their communities.





**Encourage** governments, international organizations and scientific communities to conduct the necessary research at national, regional and global levels in order to determine and understand the underlying factors of the current gender gap in science and technology, as well as devise strategies and actions that would lead to gender equality.

**Encourage** governments, international organizations and scientific communities to address the specific needs and realities and to take into consideration the perspectives of women, in order to ensure greater participation of women in decision and policy-making at all levels and in all relevant institutions, with a view to setting research and development agendas.

**Encourage** governments and international organizations to take into account and address social, economic, cultural and institutional factors when formulating policies, including gender-based discrimination that may disadvantage women and girls from entering, pursuing and excelling in scientific and technological careers.

**Encourage** governments and international organizations to prioritize and promote transparent funding for research and capacity building efforts for the education and training needs of women and girls in the fields of science, technology and innovation.


**Encourage** the private sector and foundations to invest in programs and capacity building for women- owned enterprises and career development opportunities for women and girls.

**Encourage** governments, international organizations and the media to counter gender-stereotypes related to women in scientific and technological fields and careers by promoting positive female role models in the classroom, the job market, the public arena and the media.

**Call on** stakeholders to adapt technological knowledge and innovation to the realities and needs of women in order to eradicate poverty and to promote economic, social, environmental and cultural development.

**Call on** governments and international organizations to ensure women's and girls' full and equal access to quality primary, secondary and higher education, technical and vocational training and adult education, including science education, through gender mainstreaming in legislation, policies and programs.

**Call on** governments and concerned stakeholders to integrate gender into the analysis of scientific research and technological innovation and development.



**Call on** governments and international organizations to integrate gender-responsive science and technology training into formal and non-formal education, supported by gender-sensitive policy frameworks and capacity development programs.

**Call on** governments and international organizations to take appropriate measures to support the recruitment, retention and advancement of women and girls in science and technology through transparent criteria leading to decent work.

**Call on** research institutions and academia to educate and train professionals and staff at all levels on gender issues in science and technology.

**Call on** governments and other stakeholders to take appropriate measures to address occupational segregation in scientific and technological fields.

**Call on** governments to urge schools, universities and other educational institutions to develop gender-sensitive support structures, including mentoring and career guidance programs, to encourage women and girls to pursue careers in science and technology.

**Call on** governments, international institutions and academia to collect, analyze and disseminate relevant, internationally comparable sex-disaggregated data on education and training in science and technology.

**Strongly recommend** governments to report on the advancement of women in science, technology and innovation at the regional reviews on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, including in science and technology training and education for women and girls.

**Invite** all stakeholders to adapt scientific and technological advances to the needs and perspectives of women, particularly rural women, through South-South and North-South-South cooperation.

**Invite** all stakeholders to strengthen international cooperation, build and strengthen networks and share good practices in the area of access and participation of women and girls in education and training in science and technology, especially through South-South and North-South-South cooperation.