

AI OR BE LEFT BEHIND: BUILDING THE HUMAN INFRASTRUCTURE THE SDGS ACTUALLY NEED

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — July 6, 2026

With fewer than four years to the 2030 deadline, an official UN HLPF 2026 side event names the crisis no one is funding: the human infrastructure gap. Friday, July 10, 2026 · 8:00–9:30 AM ET · Virtual · Free · RSVP at event.woyacentral.com

NEW YORK, July 6, 2026 — The Sustainable Development Goals are stalling — and this Friday, a women-led coalition is putting the reason on the record at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum. Not a lack of ambition. Not even a lack of technology. A gap in human readiness.

"AI or Be Left Behind: Building the Human Infrastructure the SDGs Actually Need" — a formally approved UN HLPF 2026 side event convened by WOYA (Women & Youth Advancement) and the Collaborative AI Group (CAiG) — brings together an extraordinary cross-section of global power and grassroots proof on Friday, July 10, 2026, from 8:00–9:30 AM ET, live and virtual, free and open to all.

The lineup spans five global regions and three generations of leadership:

H.E. Prof. Dr. Khaled Hanafy, Secretary General of the Union of Arab Chambers — the institution representing chambers of commerce across 22 Arab nations — and former Minister of Internal Trade & Industry of Egypt, delivers the opening keynote: *The Human Infrastructure Gap*.

H.E. Ambassador Professor Muhammadou M.O. Kah, Chairman of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), Ambassador of The Gambia to Switzerland, and Permanent Representative to UNOG and the WTO, delivers the Special Ministerial & Policy Spotlight: *Technology for Whom? Governing AI for Development in the Age of the Global Digital Compact*.

H.E. Dr. Agnes Chimbiri-Molande, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Malawi to the United Nations, joins Panel 2 — connecting global AI policy to the lived realities of the communities the SDGs were written for.

And between the panels, the floor belongs to **Issaiah Guzmán Arancibia** — a 15-year-old Chilean author, four-time UN interventionist, and the youngest person ever to address the Chilean Supreme Court. His presence is the event's thesis made visible: human infrastructure includes the humans not yet old enough to vote.

They are joined by leaders from Parsons School of Design/The New School, the George Kerry Life Foundation — whose health education work has reached more than 100,000 families in Nigeria — SONSIEL, Resolution Project, and voices in energy equity, financial justice, trauma-informed peacebuilding, and justice-system reintegration: an 80-minute program the organizers describe as "zero wasted time."



Organized by:



Co-Organized by:



"AI is becoming the infrastructure of opportunity. Building human capacity to access, understand, and apply it may be one of the defining development challenges of our time," said **Judi Snell**, Executive Director/CEO of WOYA and Founder of CAiG, who convenes the event. "We are deeply honored to welcome these leaders to our platform. This is not just a moment for our organizations — it is a statement that women-led, community-rooted voices belong in global AI policy conversations at every level. Ahead of the 2030 Agenda, the Global Digital Compact, and the Pact for the Future, their presence affirms that powerfully."

The event marks the latest chapter in WOYA's rapidly expanding presence on the global stage — following its Solutions Session at the Second World Summit for Social Development (Doha, 2025), its presentation at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (Seville, 2025), a Summit of the Future Action Days side event (2024), and Snell's participation in the historic UN Launch of the Global Dialogue on AI Governance (2025).

EVENT DETAILS

- **What:** AI or Be Left Behind: Building the Human Infrastructure the SDGs Actually Need — Official UN HLPF 2026 Side Event
- **When:** Friday, July 10, 2026 · 8:00–9:30 AM ET
- **Where:** Virtual · Free · Open to all HLPF participants and the public
- **RSVP & Full Program:** event.woyacentral.com
- **Co-Organizing Partners:** Union of Arab Chambers (UAC) · SONSIEL · George Kerry Life Foundation

About CAiG — Collaborative AI Group

CAiG (caig.woyacentral.com) is a women-led movement co-shaping AI governance, building inclusive AI products, and creating networks of women who understand that the decisions being made about AI right now will define the next century. Incubated by WOYA, CAiG is the policy, advocacy, and community intelligence arm of the WOYA ecosystem — and a formal actor in international AI governance spaces.

About WOYA — Women & Youth Advancement Inc.

WOYA (woyacentral.org | woyacentral.com) is a New York-based 501(c)(3) NGO accredited by the UN across multiple global conferences, advancing AI adoption for purposeful use, AI-powered small business training and launch, workforce development, and compassionate, non-judgmental spaces for motivation and community empowerment across North America, Africa, and beyond.

MEDIA CONTACT

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