



**WSIS
FORUM 2026**

**6-10 July 2026
Geneva, Switzerland**

Session Outcome Document

“I thought AI was only for Tech Experts”

A Practical Introduction to Engaging with AI for Women

International Council of Women

Tuesday 7th July 2026 at 15.00 CET

[Session 318— I Thought AI Was Only for Tech Experts: A Practical Introduction to Engaging... | WSIS Forum 2026](#)

Key Issues discussed:

- AI is not the future. It is the present. AI is becoming embedded across every sector of society, yet women remain significantly under-represented across the AI ecosystem as users, developers, entrepreneurs, researchers, leaders and decision-makers, limiting both equitable participation and inclusive AI governance.
- Practical AI literacy and capacity-building are essential to enable women in all sectors to engage meaningfully and confidently with AI and apply it responsibly in their work.
- Participants heard the benefit of focusing on the task before selecting an AI tool, and were shown how small, simple adjustments in prompting technique can improve the quality, relevance and usefulness of AI-generated outputs.
- Responsible AI use was discussed including the importance of verifying AI-generated information, recognising hallucinations and bias, protecting personal, sensitive and confidential information, and the importance of critical thinking and human judgement.
- Practical implementation challenges discussed included unequal access to AI tools, connectivity constraints, language barriers, affordability, and the need for guidance tailored to local contexts and community needs.
- Participants recognised that educational institutions are actively exploring ways to harness the benefits of AI while safeguarding the development of critical thinking, independent analysis and academic integrity.
- Questions and discussion revealed strong demand for accessible AI literacy training that addresses practical workplace needs particularly in low resource settings.

Key Outcomes of the Session:

- Moving beyond discussion of the need for AI capacity-building, this session demonstrated that AI capacity-building for women new to AI can be successfully delivered within the WSIS Forum by presenting AI in clear, accessible language, strengthening participants' foundational understanding, and providing practical exercises and resources to support continued learning after the workshop.
- The International Council of Women launched its Practical AI Companion, a beginner-friendly practical resource to accompany the workshop and to share widely after WSIS.

Collaborations

- The workshop benefited from the valued collaboration of e-Durable and Recycled Clouds, Switzerland, particularly the support of Founder John-Damien Beaud and technical consultant Leo Angonnet.
- Our existing collaborations with Adam Skali, President Young AI Leader Madrid Hub, Spain who assisted with planning and technical support and Kristine Yakhama, Together in Solidarity, Kenya who managed the online participation, were further strengthened.
- We gratefully acknowledge the support of Janna Salokangas from US-based Mia AI in delivering the hands-on segment of the workshop and thank Patrick Rey for his valuable technical expertise during the planning process.

Key Recommendations and Forward-Looking Actions

- Governments, international organisations and development partners should invest in locally led, gender-responsive AI capacity-building that reflects local languages, cultures, priorities and community realities.
- AI literacy initiatives should prioritize task-based learning allowing participants to apply AI immediately in their professional work while promoting responsible and ethical use.
- Women's organisations, civil society networks and educational institutions should strengthen collaboration to expand AI literacy, share resources and advocate for inclusive AI policies that ensure women participate fully in shaping the future of AI.
- Future WSIS implementation should continue supporting accessible AI education through affordable tools, practical learning resources and capacity-building approaches that address barriers including limited connectivity, device access, language diversity and time and other constraints many women face such as unpaid care responsibilities.
- Overall, it is essential that AI systems respect human rights, uphold equity and inclusion, serve all communities fairly, and are developed and used responsibly.