



Around the globe, women are less likely than men to have access to technology. This is a gap that exists in developing and developed countries alike. With an aim to address this issue and propose ways to empower young women, ECOSOC and ITU are hosting a Google+ Hangout on 6 June featuring Academy Award winning Actor and ITU Special Envoy for Women and Girls in ICT, Ms. Geena Davis.

This year, the United Nations Economic and Social Council ([ECOSOC](#)) is putting a spotlight on “Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the MDGs”, as part of its Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) taking place during the Council’s annual meeting in Geneva this July.

Ahead of this major event, the Council is making every effort to bring the voices of youth into the important discussions and decisions to take place in Geneva, through its major online campaign “Innovate Your Future”, featured on Facebook, Twitter and Thunderclap. The campaign seeks worldwide support to help empower youth and shape future innovators.

Turning the spotlight on women and girls

As part of this campaign, ECOSOC is teaming up with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), to host a Google+ Hangout on 6 June at 20:00 CET, featuring Ms. Geena Davis, founder of the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media, the only research-based organization working within the media and entertainment industry to engage, educate, and influence the need for gender balance, reducing stereotyping and creating a wide variety of female characters for entertainment targeting children.

Moderated by Gary Fowlie, Head of the liaison office of ITU in New York, the Hangout “Innovate Your Future: Empower Young Women through Technology”, will gather a number of prominent panelists for a live discussion on the [UN Google+ platform](#), highlighting the potential of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in advancing gender equality and in contributing to bridging the digital divide between women and men.

[Read the full news release...](#)

Additional information:

- [Google+ Hangout “Innovate Your Future: Empower Young Women through Technology” \(6 June, 2pm EDT\)](#)
- [Share ideas and questions with ECOSOC on Facebook ahead of this hangout](#)
- [Show support for youth worldwide on Thunderclap](#)
- [ECOSOC’s Innovate Your Future Campaign](#)
- [Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media](#)
- [ITU – ITU \(International Telecommunication Union\)](#)
- [UN Google+ page](#)

Source: [UN-DESA News](#)