

## 2026 UN STI Forum: Thematic Session 2

*“Powering sustainable development through clean energy technologies for affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”*

**Thursday, 7 May 2026 | 10:00–13:00 | United Nations Headquarters, New York**

Statement by:

**Ing. Dr. Enyonam Kpekpena, Vice President/Chair - Committee for Women in Engineering, WFEO & Executive Director, Ghana Institution of Engineering World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) – Women in Engineering Committee**

Distinguished Chair, Excellencies, colleagues,

Engineering must lead the delivery of SDG 7: affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. The global energy transition will be shaped not only by technology and innovation, but by how effectively engineering systems are designed, deployed, and scaled across diverse contexts.

From decentralized renewable systems to grid modernization and clean cooking solutions, engineering is already transforming how energy is generated, distributed, and used. Yet, persistent gaps in access show that technical solutions alone are not sufficient without inclusive and context-responsive design.

A practical example is the role of women in energy systems. As primary household energy managers, women influence adoption, efficiency, and sustainability of energy solutions, yet remain underrepresented in engineering and the energy workforce. Integrating this perspective strengthens system performance and accelerates uptake.

Aligned with WFEO's objective to promote ethical, inclusive, and responsible engineering practice, the Women in Engineering Committee is advancing targeted interventions: strengthening STEM pipelines, supporting innovation, convening global partnerships, and developing gender-disaggregated engineering data to inform policy.

We call on Member States and partners to embed inclusive design principles, dedicated financing, and accountability mechanisms across all SDG 7 implementation frameworks.

Thank you.