

**STATEMENT AT THE GLOBAL YOUTH CONSULTATION – August 5, 2026 (AI
Governance Declaration Consultation)**

**On Youth Declaration on AI Policy and Governance to be presented at the Youth & AI Summit
on August 12, 2026 at the UN Network**

Good day, everyone. My name is Onyekachi Williams, and I represent The Williams Hope Alive Humanitarian Foundation in Nigeria.

When we talk about artificial intelligence, it's easy to focus on the technology itself. But for many young people in my community, the conversation starts much earlier. It starts with whether they have electricity to charge a laptop, whether they can afford internet access, whether their school has a computer lab, or whether anyone has ever introduced them to AI. There are brilliant young people with incredible ideas, but opportunity is often what they lack.

Through our work with schools and young people, I've met students who are eager to learn, create, and solve problems in their communities. They don't want to simply use AI—they want to build solutions that improve healthcare, strengthen education, support farmers, protect the environment, and address local challenges. Yet many of them are excluded from the AI conversation before it even begins because they lack access to the resources and training needed to participate.

That is why I believe AI governance must be about people, not just technology. It should ensure equitable access to AI education, digital infrastructure, and affordable connectivity. It should protect privacy, human rights, and dignity while promoting transparency and accountability in AI systems. Most importantly, young people should have a seat at the table when AI policies are being developed. We are not just the generation that will live with these decisions—we are the generation already creating solutions.

I also believe AI governance should encourage local innovation. Communities understand their own challenges best, and young innovators should be supported to develop AI solutions that reflect their cultures, languages, and realities. Responsible AI is not only about reducing risks; it is about creating opportunities that are shared fairly across countries and communities.

If we get this right, AI won't just be another technological revolution—it will become a powerful tool for reducing inequality, expanding opportunity, and helping every young person, regardless of where they are born, contribute to shaping our shared future.

Thank you.