

POLICY INNOVATION CENTRE

# Gender & Inclusion Summit 2026

September 8th – 9th | Abuja, Nigeria

**THEME:**

**From Agenda to Action:  
Making Innovations Count for the Last Mile**



**Gender &  
Inclusion  
Summit**





# Background

Prioritising innovation is central to accelerating progress toward the SDGs, as it enables inclusive, data-driven solutions capable of addressing inequities. Yet innovation delivers real value only when it reaches those at the last mile. In Nigeria and across the African continent, where rural, low-income, and conflict-affected communities still depend on informal and under-resourced systems for essential services, ensuring last-mile delivery is critical to making inclusion a lived reality rather than an aspiration.<sup>1,2</sup>

Technology is reshaping education, health, agriculture, and financial inclusion. EdTech platforms and tools such as WAEC's EDUSTAT demonstrate how data strengthens system performance, while Nigeria's growing EdTech market reflects rising demand for technology-enabled learning.<sup>3</sup> Digital health innovations, including telemedicine, mobile diagnostics, AI-assisted decision tools, and community-based nutrition delivery, are improving access and reducing preventable deaths.<sup>4,5</sup> Across agriculture and livelihoods, digital advisory tools, mobile extension services, and climate-smart solutions are helping smallholder farmers, especially women, adapt to climate shocks and improve productivity. However, structural constraints, mobile diagnostics, limited connectivity, affordability challenges, and increasing climate shocks continue to constrain scale and impact.<sup>6</sup> These barriers contribute to persistent outcomes, such as sub-Saharan Africa accounting for 43% of the world's stunted

children.<sup>7</sup> They also risk widening existing gender and inclusion gaps if innovations are not intentionally designed, financed, and governed to reach those furthest behind.

The challenge today is not a lack of ideas, pilots, or tools, but the persistent failure to translate existing innovations into equitable, measurable impact at scale. Moving "From Agenda to Action" is therefore essential: policies, commitments, and prototypes must be converted into funded, implemented, and accountable solutions that work in real-world conditions. For example, digital financial tools and women's cooperatives can accelerate women's economic empowerment when reinforced by inclusive infrastructure and climate-resilient tools. Similarly, climate-smart agriculture, biofortified crops, and mobile extension services offer pathways to strengthen food security across rural communities. Likewise, in education, EdTech platforms, paired with offline learning solutions, can be leveraged to close digital gaps and ensure that no child is excluded due to geography or poverty. However, without deliberate attention to gender, disability, age, and location, these innovations risk reproducing the very exclusions they seek to solve.

**GS-26 responds to this by centring last-mile realities, inclusive design, and accountability for impact across all its conversations and commitments**

<sup>1</sup> World Bank. (2018). Poverty in a rising Africa. World Bank. <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/09021487990902089/pdf/109044-PUB-POVERTY-AFRICA-Box0447B-PUBLIC.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> International Labour Organization. (2019). Promoting transition to formality in Africa. ILO. <https://www.ilo.org/resource/news/more-40-cent-world%E2%80%9C%E2%80%9C-employed-population-are-informal-economy>

<sup>3</sup> West African Examinations Council (WAEC). (2023). EDUSTAT: Data-Driven Insights for West African Education Systems. <https://sidmach.com/2023/01/13/edustat-educational-data-analytics-platform-by-waec/>

<sup>4</sup> Bet-imi, N. C., et al. (2019). How to build bridges for universal health coverage in underserved rural areas. *BMJ Global Health*, 4(11), e011188. <https://gh.bmj.com/content/4/11/e011188>

<sup>5</sup> Till, S., et al. (2019). Digital Health Technologies for Maternal and Child Health in Africa and Other Low- and Middle-Income Countries: Cross-disciplinary Scoping Review With Stakeholder Consultation. <https://www.jmir.org/2019/1/e011188/>

<sup>6</sup> Ahiaku, P. K. A., Uleanya, C., & Muyambi, G. C. (2019). Rural schools and tech use for sustainability: the challenge of disconnection. *Education and Information Technologies*, 19(1), 119-131. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10609-018-11911-9>

<sup>7</sup> <https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/JME-Brochure-UNSDG-regions-2018-v4.pdf>



# About the Summit

The Gender and Inclusion Summit is a leading platform dedicated to catalysing evidence-based agenda setting, human-centred policies, institutional reform, and sustained advocacy for gender equity and gender-responsive governance in Africa. The summit brings together stakeholders to exchange knowledge on gender-transformative policies and practices, advocate for inclusive governance and economic participation, and strengthen networks to foster collaboration for impactful gender initiatives. GS-26 marks a strategic evolution of the Summit. Building on the momentum of previous editions, GS-26 shifts decisively from dialogue to delivery, from agenda setting to action. The 2026 theme, “From Agenda to Action: Making Innovations Count for the Last Mile,” reflects PIC’s commitment to ensuring that innovations, policies, and commitments deliver measurable and equitable impact for those furthest behind.

The Gender and Inclusion Summit is delivered as a three-day hybrid event, featuring Plenary sessions, Breakout Sessions, the Learning Workshop Series, Innovation Pitches, Research & Abstract Presentations, Youth Town Hall, Faith and Security Dialogues, as well as an exhibition booth display. The Summit’s reach and influence have expanded rapidly. Participation has grown from 700 in-person attendees in 2022 to now welcoming over 2,000 in-person participants. In 2025, GS-25 convened participants from 29 countries across five continents, with more than 2,500 in-person attendees and 3,848 virtual participants, reflecting its emergence as one of Africa’s most influential platforms on gender and inclusion.

Distinguished speakers and participants included national and sub-national leaders from the executive and legislative arms of government, public policy leaders across all sectors, the diplomatic corps, traditional and religious leaders, advocates, and development partners. The Summit has supported national initiatives, such as Nigeria’s Women Economic Empowerment (WEE) Policy. Another notable outcome of the Summit includes the annual release of the Purple Book, which offers actionable policy and program recommendations, driving continuous progress toward gender inclusion in Nigeria and beyond.

## Summit Goal

Against this backdrop, the Gender and Inclusion Summit 2026 (GS-26) aims to accelerate inclusive development by shifting decisively from agenda to action. The Summit will champion actionable, data-driven innovations that dismantle structural barriers and ensure that transformative solutions reach those at the last mile: women, youth, persons with disabilities, rural communities, and other underserved groups.



# Objectives

GS-26 is designed to:

01. Advance evidence-based agenda setting across health, education, economic inclusion, governance, security, and climate-resilient livelihoods, with a deliberate focus on the last-mile realities.
02. Showcase and catalyse the scaling of gender-responsive, inclusive-by-design innovations delivering measurable impact for underserved and marginalised communities.
03. Mobilise high-level commitments and partnerships among key stakeholders including governments, private sector leaders, development partners, academia, investors, and community-focused institutions to unlock gender-inclusive financing and drive coordinated action toward measurable outcomes.
04. Strengthen implementation and scaling pathways by equipping stakeholders with practical tools, accountability mechanisms, and an innovation-to-impact pipeline that translates policy, ideas, and models into sustainable large-scale impact.



## Summit Delivery Strategy

GS-26 will take place September 7–9, 2026, at Abuja Continental Hotel, Nigeria, as a three-day hybrid convening structured to move stakeholders from agenda to action through evidence sharing, co-creation, commitment-making, and implementation planning. The Summit will convene cross-sector leaders and feature plenaries, panels, breakout sessions, innovation showcases, and workshops, with pre and post-summit activities. Post summit activities will prioritise accountability, follow through, and dissemination of the Purple Book 2026.

# Summit Tracks

THEME	<b>Gender-Based Violence (GBV)</b> 	<b>Economic Inclusion (EI)</b> 	<b>Health – Child Nutrition</b> 	<b>Education</b> 
FOCUS	Prevention & response systems; access to justice; survivor-centred services; social norms change	Decent work, digital tools, access to markets/finance, green jobs, legal reforms	Maternal & child nutrition	Girls' access to quality learning; STEM; digital skills; school-related GBV
JUSTIFICATION	GS-26 will prioritise models that strengthen community-level protection architecture, engage men and traditional leaders in norm change, and ensure that GBV services are accessible, affordable, and survivor-centred.	GS-26 will prioritise models that strengthen community-level protection architecture, engage men and traditional leaders in norm change, and ensure that GBV services are accessible, affordable, and survivor-centred.	GS-26 will emphasise integrated nutrition systems that combine digital tools, community health workers, and local food systems to reduce stunting and malnutrition among children under five.	GS-26 will prioritise inclusive learning innovations — including offline-first EdTech, community learning hubs, and STEM pathways for girls — ensuring that no learner is excluded due to geography, disability, or poverty.
SDG INDICATORS				

THEME	Agriculture – Climate	Transportation	Health - Maternal Mortality	Security
				
FOCUS	<p>Climate-smart agriculture; women’s access to climate finance, land, green tech</p>	<p>Safe, accessible mobility; inclusive transport systems; rural connectivity; women’s safety</p>	<p>Safe pregnancy &amp; childbirth</p>	<p>Protection and safety in public spaces; civil-military engagement; conflict-responsive service delivery; community-level security architecture</p>
JUSTIFICATION	<p>GS-26 will highlight climate-resilient innovations that strengthen food systems, expand women’s access to land and finance, and support adaptation for rural and smallholder farmers.</p>	<p>GS-26 will elevate mobility innovations that improve safety for women and girls, expand rural connectivity, and support inclusive urban planning.</p>	<p>GS-26 will prioritise scalable maternal health innovations that reduce delays in care, strengthen referral systems, and expand access to skilled birth attendance.</p>	<p>GS-26 will emphasise community-driven security models, gender-responsive policing, and inclusive civil-military coordination that protects those most at risk.</p>
SDG INDICATORS				

# GS-25 Highlights

## ATTENDANCE – IN-PERSON

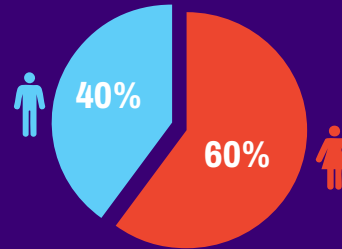


# 1612

Day 1 Attendance

# 1376

Day 2 Attendance



## ATTENDANCE – VIRTUAL



# 3848+

Streamed Online

## INCLUSION



# >5%

...of attendees and volunteers were persons with disability

## SPEAKERS & PANELISTS



# 159+

Speakers and panelists

- Academia
- Celebrities
- Military
- Policymakers
- Healthcare
- Transportation
- Advocacy coalitions
- International Delegates
- Executives



# Summit Forum

GS-26 is structured around six core forums designed to move stakeholders from dialogue to delivery. Each forum is anchored to a strategic thematic priority and is intentionally crafted to generate collaborative commitments, unlock partnerships, and produce actionable roadmaps that ensure innovations reach the last mile. The forums serve as engines for implementation — translating evidence, innovations, and policy aspirations into measurable, gender-responsive outcomes.



## Economic Inclusion Forum

**Focus:** *Women's Leadership | WEE | Education | Jobs | Agriculture & Climate*

Brings together policymakers, private sector leaders, and innovators to advance women's economic participation. The forum highlights scalable solutions and produces actionable roadmaps and financing pathways to improve women's livelihoods.



## Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Forum

**Focus:** *Prevention | Justice | Survivor Services | Social Norms*

Convenes government, civil society, and key actors to strengthen GBV prevention and response systems, expand survivor-centred services, and improve accountability through innovative reporting and community-driven solutions.



## Innovation Forum

**Focus:** *Innovation Hub | Pitchathon | Deal Rooms | Tech Demos*

Showcases solutions across health, climate, mobility, GBV, and digital inclusion. Innovators pitch to investors and partners to accelerate funding, partnerships, and large-scale implementation.



## Inclusive Digital Transformation Forum

**Focus:** *Digital Inclusion | AI & Data Equity | EdTech | Digital Finance*

Explores how inclusive digital infrastructure and responsible technology can close the gender digital divide and expand opportunities for underserved communities.



## Health Forum

**Focus:** *Maternal Health | Child Nutrition | Reproductive Health | Last-Mile Care*

Highlights innovations and policies that improve maternal and child health services, especially in rural and underserved communities.



## Security Forum

**Focus:** *Public Safety | Civil-Military Collaboration | Community Security*

Examines inclusive security approaches that protect women and vulnerable groups, using tools such as early-warning systems, digital reporting, and community protection models.

# Program Overview

The GS-26 program is intentionally structured to guide participants through a sequenced journey, from ‘evidence and agenda setting’ to co-creation, commitment-making, and implementation planning. Each day is designed to deepen engagement, elevate new voices, and ensure that innovations showcased at the Summit translate into measurable last-mile impact.

## Day Zero: Monday, September 7, 2026 Academic Summit & Pre-Summit Activities

Morning	<p><b>Academic Summit</b> Oral and Poster Abstract Presentations. A dedicated space for researchers, academics, and graduate scholars to present evidence-based work on gender and inclusion themes.</p> <p>This year's Academia Summit will prioritise research that strengthens last-mile implementation, inclusive innovation, and gender-responsive systems change.</p>
Afternoon	<p><b>Poster Exhibition &amp; Peer Review</b> Structured review and dialogue sessions between abstract presenters, faculty, and thematic experts.</p>
Late Afternoon	<p><b>Call for Innovators — Innovation Hub Setup</b> Innovators and exhibitors access the Innovation Hub space for setup and orientation.</p> <p>The Hub will also include onboarding for innovators participating in the Pitchaton and Deal Rooms, ensuring readiness for investor engagement.</p>

## Day One: Tuesday, September 8, 2026

Opening Ceremony | High-Level Plenaries | Economic Empowerment | Innovation | CEO Roundtable

Morning	<p><b>Summit Flag-Off: Opening Ceremony</b> Official opening of GS-26. Welcomes country leaders, ministers, high commissioners, traditional rulers, First Ladies, and international development partners. Sets the tone for the Summit theme: From Agenda to Action.</p>
Mid-Morning	<p><b>High-Level Plenary: Security and Gender</b> Ministerial and security leadership panel examining civil-military engagement, community-level protection architecture, and inclusive security frameworks.</p>
Mid-Morning	<p><b>Exhibition Booths Open — MSMEs &amp; Partners</b> Partners, innovators, and MSMEs officially open their exhibition stands. Networking and product showcases begin.</p>
Mid-Morning	<p><b>Gender Equity Wall Launch</b> An interactive installation inviting all participants to document commitments and aspirations for gender equity.</p>
Afternoon	<p><b>Economic Inclusion Forum</b> Co-creation workshops and roundtable on WEE, women in leadership, education, and agriculture. Facilitated by sectoral experts and partner organisations.</p>
Afternoon	<p><b>Health Forum</b> Focuses on maternal mortality, child nutrition, and last-mile health innovations. Includes co-creation workshop and roundtable format.</p>
Afternoon	<p><b>Innovation Forum — Pitch-a-ton (Round 1)</b> First round of innovation pitches across all thematic areas. Innovators present to judges comprising investors, policymakers, and sector experts.</p>
Evening	<p><b>CEO Roundtable (Invite Only)</b> An exclusive, invite-only session bringing together chief executives, economic reform leaders, and senior development professionals to discuss private sector commitments to gender inclusion.</p>

**Day Two: Wednesday, September 9, 2026****Opening Plenary | GBV Forum | Digital Transformation | Innovation Deal Rooms | High-Level Cocktail**

Morning	<b>Opening Plenary Session</b> Day Two keynotes and scene-setting for the day's thematic agenda. High-level commitments from partner governments and institutions.
Morning	<b>High-Level Ministerial Panel</b> Ministers and senior officials from across Africa engage on progress, gaps, and shared commitments toward gender-responsive governance and the SDGs.
Late Morning	<b>GBV Forum</b> Dedicated forum on gender-based violence — prevention, survivor-centred service delivery, digital reporting tools, and strengthening the legal and policy ecosystem.
Afternoon	<b>Exhibition Booths &amp; Networking</b> Final exhibition period. Structured networking sessions among participants, partners, and innovators.
Afternoon	<b>Inclusive Digital Transformation Forum</b> Sessions on bridging the gender digital divide, AI ethics and data equity, digital finance for women, and EdTech solutions for last-mile learners.
Afternoon	<b>Innovation Forum — Pitchaton Deal Rooms</b> Curated deal room sessions where shortlisted innovators from the Pitchaton engage directly with funders, investors, and institutional partners.
Evening	<b>Innovation Forum — Pitch-a-ton (Round 1)</b> First round of innovation pitches across all thematic areas. Innovators present to judges comprising investors, policymakers, and sector experts.
Evening	<b>GS-26 High-Level Partner's Cocktail</b> A premium evening reception for VVIP pass holders, VIPs, sponsors, and distinguished guests — celebrating partnerships, recognising excellence, and setting the stage for continued action.

Equity Begins at Home:  
 Families as the Foundation  
 for Gender and Inclusive S...

## Post-Summit Deliverables

01

**The Purple Book 2026:**

A curated publication capturing GS-26's key policy recommendations, implementation pathways, and last-mile innovations, shared with governments, development partners, the private sector, and civil society across Africa and globally.

02

**Sustained Advocacy:**

PIC will advance Summit outcomes by supporting partners to implement commitments, strengthen systems, and embed inclusive innovations within national and institutional programs.

03

**GS-26 Commitment Tracker:**

A public platform documenting Summit commitments, timelines, responsible actors, and progress indicators. Updated quarterly to ensure accountability and inform the Purple Book 2026.

# Participation Tiers

GS-26 offers four clearly defined participation categories, ensuring that every attendee, from senior officials to sector practitioners, has a meaningful and dignified summit experience. Each category is designed to reflect appropriate access, recognition, and engagement.

Access & Benefits	VVIP Pass	VIP Pass	Speaker Pass	Summit Pass
Opening Ceremony & High-Level Plenaries	✓	✓	✓	✓
Six Thematic Forums (Full Access)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Innovation Hub & Pitchathon Sessions	✓	✓	✓	—
CEO / High-Level Roundtable	✓	✓	—	—
Partner's Cocktail (Evening, Day Two)	✓	✓	—	—
Learning & Capacity Workshops	✓	✓	✓	—
Academic Summit (Day Zero)	✓	✓	✓	—
Exhibition & Networking Hall	✓	✓	✓	✓
Priority / Reserved Seating	✓	—	—	—
VIP Lounge Access	✓	✓	—	—
VIVP Lounge Access	✓	—	—	—
Summit Materials & Branded Kit	✓	✓	✓	—
Light Refreshment / Snack	✓	✓	✓	✓
Digital Certificate of Participation	✓	✓	✓	✓
Purple Book (Digital Copy)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Purple Book (Printed Copy)	✓	✓	—	—
Media & Programme Recognition	✓	—	—	—
			By Invitation	Complimentary



## Note:

Speaker Pass is extended by invitation to confirmed presenters, panellists, and session facilitators. Summit Pass holders are warmly welcomed and guaranteed a fulfilling summit experience including access to the opening ceremony, exhibition hall, light refreshment, and digital certificate.

# Sponsorship Opportunities

Partnership with GS-26 offers organisations unparalleled visibility and influence at Africa's foremost gender and inclusion platform. With over 3,000 anticipated in-person participants, 5,000+ virtual attendees, and engagement across 30+ countries, GS-26 provides partners with a powerful stage to demonstrate leadership, drive brand equity, and advance institutional mandates aligned with gender-responsive development.

## Sponsorship Tiers

Access & Benefits	Diamond ₦50M	Platinum ₦40M	Emerald ₦25M	Gold ₦15M	Silver ₦10M	Bronze ₦5M
Logo on all Summit materials, website & social media	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Products included in Summit Package	✓	✓	✓	—	—	—
Media Features (TV / Radio) & CEO Interview	✓	✓	—	—	—	—
Goodwill Message / CEO Address at Plenary	✓	✓	—	—	—	—
Purple Book Feature (Full Page)	✓	✓	—	—	—	—
Purple Book Feature (Half Page)	—	—	✓	✓	—	—
Partner Spotlight throughout Summit	✓	✓	—	—	—	—
Branding at Prime High-Level Plenary Sessions	✓	—	—	—	—	—
Exclusive Ownership of a Thematic Forum	✓	✓	✓	—	—	—
Exclusive Ownership of a Breakout / Workshop Session	—	—	—	✓	✓	—
Innovation Hub Branding	✓	✓	—	—	—	—
Virtual Pre-Summit Event Hosting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	—
CEO / High-Level Roundtable Seat	✓	✓	✓	—	—	—
Premium Exhibition Booth (Priority Location)	✓	—	—	—	—	—
Dedicated Exhibition Booth	—	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
VVIP Passes Allocated	5	3	2	—	—	—
VIP Passes Allocated	—	—	—	3	2	—
Summit Passes Allocated	20	15	10	5	2	2

All financial figures are exclusive of applicable taxes. Custom partnership packages are available for organisations with specific engagement objectives. Please contact the PIC team to discuss tailored arrangements.

# Summit Partners

## GS-22



## GS-23



## GS-24




## GS-25



The Purple Book  
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## Contact & Enquiries

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For partnership enquiries, speaker nominations, abstract submissions, and registration, please contact the GS-26 Secretariat via the details above or visit the official summit website.

