INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2023 / Friday, 3.3.2023, 15:00-17:00 CET,   BY ZOOM

THEME: "DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality"

International Women's Day (IWD) is a global event celebrated annually on March 8 as a focal point in the women's rights movement, bringing attention to issues such as gender equality, reproductive rights, as well as violence, abuse and discrimination against women.

This year, the United Nations Observance of IWD recognizes and celebrates the women and girls who are championing the advancement of transformative technology and digital education; thus the choice of the theme: *DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality*" which will guide our conversation. Unfortunately, access to education and funding for start-ups remain a challenge for girls and women in some parts of the world. Thus the need for innovative technological change and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and the girl child (1)

Findings conducted in different quarters as indicated on "Comparethemarket.com" show that the key gap in the tech industry between men and women is not encouraging and it's worrisome with the nature of activities in the tech world. Currently, only 24% of jobs in the digital economy are held by women. Although the number of women in the tech world has been growing, progress still needs to be made.
The representation of women in the tech sector matters a lot. Indeed, diversity in the workforce contributes to creativity, productivity, and innovation. Women's experiences as well as men's should inform the direction of digital innovation.

Women entrepreneurship has been recognised as an important source of economic growth. Women entrepreneurs create new jobs for themselves and others and also provide society with different solutions to management, organisation and business problems. However, they still represent a minority of all entrepreneurs.
In Africa over the last 20 years, women software engineer's hires have only increased by 2% in 2021 according to women in tech report. In 2021 alone, women in sub Saharan Africa build design skill to challenge the gender gap in the tech space with over 1000 women to be supported under the 1000 in digital scholarships in partnership with Geneza school of design. We want to be part of the success stories in bridging the Gap in tech industry, by partaking in the "Digital" initiatives and technology for gender equality, with program designed in promoting the awareness and education of women and the girl child (2)

The conversation is open to all in English and French with simultaneous translation and drives the objectives of the theme of the year. In support of UN Women, it will explore the barriers women face in terms of access to funding, technology and digital skills development. and intensively looking at the best ways and the interventions available to cultivate digital skills for women. The impact will result in bridging the gender gaps and changing the narrative in the tech space by challenging all stakeholders from across the public and private sectors to be part of a powerful coalition to make gender equality a lived reality in and through the education, job market, tech and digital ecosystem.

1. https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/announcement/2022/12/international-womens-day-2023-digitall-innovation-and-technology-for-gender-equality?gclid=Cj0KCQiA_bieBhDSARIsADU4zLeuJclPW3_eEo_Lid1rfdEgHgTio6K5nOqYe8AKLjLNKGoS-6aDJ8IaAsa6EALw_wcB
2. https://www.comparethemarket.com/meerkat-your-career/articles/the-world-of-black-women-in tech/#:~:text=Over%20the%20last%2021%20years,is%20a%20barrier%20to%20promotion.

African Diaspora Council of Switzerland is the national platform of the African Diaspora in Switzerland (www.africancouncil.ch)

PROGRAMME: 3:00pm - 5:00pm / ZOOM ID : 841 8413 2982 https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84184132982

3:00pm-3:10pm	*Welcome remark*	**Pat Santschi,** President, African Diaspora Council of Switzerland
3:10pm-3:30pm	*Opening remark*	**Karen Bhavnani,** Vice President Women in Digital Switzerland Zurich, Switzerland **Sonia Karkare** Director of Digital Transformation & Innovation and speaker for WDS
3:30pm-4:00pm	Keynote Presentation: *'Methods To Developing A Tech Startup'* - Understanding the Tech Ecosystem - Developing A Tech Startup - Women At The Fore-Front of Digital Transformation - Opportunities & Challenges of a Tech Startups - Is Capital Possible For Women-Led Startups?	**David Lanre Messan** Founder and CEO Firstfounders Curator of Lagos Global Shaper of the World Economic Forum Lagos, Nigeria
4:00-4:20pm	Presentation: *Protection of Women against Discrimination in the Swiss Job market*	**Silvia Locatelli** Head, Neuchâtel region UNIA Suisse
4:20-4:40	Presentation: *"Promoting Women in Science"*	**Karin Schneider** Quality Expert Food & Pharma and Lead Auditor Zurich, Switzerland
4:40pm-5:00pm	Q & A, contributions, observations, initiatives, recommendations *Closing remark*	**Agathe Kabore Roth** Head of Women Commission African Diaspora Council of Switzerland

ORGANISERS: African Diaspora Council of Switzerland / African Foundation for Migration & Development

➢ Ajere African Heritage
➢ Youth African Leaders
➢ Jeunesse en Détresse
➢ Les Amis du Monde Entier, AME
➢ ADEPT: Africa Europe Diaspora Development Platform
➢ Mouvement International pour la Construction des Identités Collectives, MICIC

1. https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/announcement/2022/12/international-womens-day-2023-digitall-innovation-and-technology-for-gender-equality?gclid=Cj0KCQiA_bieBhDSARIsADU4zLeuJclPW3_eEo_Lid1rfdEgHgTio6K5nOqYe8AKLjLNKGoS-6aDJ8IaAsa6EALw_wcB

2. https://www.comparethemarket.com/meerkat-your-career/articles/the-world-of-black-women-in tech/#:~:text=Over%20the%20last%2021%20years,is%20a%20barrier%20to%20promotion.