International Girls in ICT Day 2022
Africa Regional Event
Concept Note

BACKGROUND

Science, technology, and innovation are key drivers of our increasingly global society. But only [28% of the world's workforce](#) in this area are women. With this inequality persisting through the 21st century, the need for diversity, equity, and inclusion of women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) is dire. The main goal of Girls in ICT (GICT) Day is to cultivate the presence and digital skills of young women and girls [aged 12-24] in the career field of STEM, particularly ICTs (Information and Communication Technologies).

The **GICT Theme 2022 is Access and Safety.** The GICT 2022 theme was selected with a mindfulness that **access and safety** are initial step for girls to access the digital environment. Indeed, According to ITU's latest data, the proportion of women using the Internet globally amounts to 48 per cent, compared to 55 per cent of men. In relative terms, this means that the global Internet use gender gap stands at 12.5 per cent[1]. If girls and women are unable to access the internet and feel unsafe online, they are unable to develop digital skills and participate in digital spaces, diminishing their opportunities to pursue a career in STEM fields.

The **International Girls in ICT Day** will be celebrated on **28 April 2022** in collaboration with Governments, partners, UN Organizations, industry, academia, and different key stakeholders. The celebrations will include engagement and activities at global, regional and national levels and a High-Level Panel organized by ITU within the framework of the WSIS – World Summit on the Information Society – Forum 2022 in addition to planned events to celebrate the day at the different ITU Regional and Area Offices.

AFRICA REGIONAL GIRLS IN ICT EVENT

The Africa Regional Girls in ICT Day event organized in coordination with youth envoys from the Generation Connect ([GC),](#) the Africa networks of Women for WTDC ([Africa NoW4WTDC](#)) will held on 28 April, 2022 from 12:00- 13:00 CEST and 13:00-14:00 EAT (GMT+2). The event will be conducted virtually in French and English.

The event, linked to the global GICT Day program will be in hybrid format to allow participation from various parts of the world and linking together the various national celebrations across Africa. Women mentors under the Network of Women for WTDC (NoW4WTDC) shall be connected to young girls across Africa to share their experiences and aspirations to start a career in tech and to highlight the importance of digital access and safety challenges, solutions and opportunities for young girls in Africa.

A draft agenda for the Africa Regional Girls in ICT Day event is shared below.

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[1] https://www.itu.int/itu-d/reports/statistics/2021/11/15/the-gender-digital-divide/

Africa Girls in ICT Day Regional Event

Powered by the Africa Network of Women for WTDC (Africa NoW4WTDC) and the ITU Generation Connect (GC) Youth Envoys for Africa

Time: 1200-1300 Central European Summer Time (CEST)
          1300-1400 East African Time (EAT)- (GMT+2)

Event link: (tbp)

1200 – 1210   OPENING CEREMONY
- Welcome Remarks by the Representative of the Africa NoW4WTDC
- Remarks by the ITU Regional Director, Ms. Anne-Rachel Inné
- Remarks by the Director of ITU Development Bureau , Ms. Doreen Bogdan Martin

GROUP PHOTO

1210- 1230   Session one - Voices of Youth – Connecting live from the national GICT day programs in Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia and Zimbabwe, the young girls will speak about their national GICT celebration and share their stories in respect to challenges, opportunities, and prospects for career in the field of STEM.

- Speaker (s) 1 - Live from Addis (TBC)
- Ms. Emmanuela Able- ITU Generation Connect Youth Envoy, Côte d'Ivoire
- Speaker (s) 3- Live from Harare (TBC)

1230- 1255 Session two – Messages from the Adults – A panel discussion composed of mentors and women role models from the Africa NoW4WTDC, Industry, Academia, UN and Development Partners to share experiences and inspire the young girls.

- Speaker 1   Government, regulator - Access and Safety why now and how- Live from Cote d'Ivoire
- Speaker 2   Academia e.g. University - Learning ethics, discipline, and creativity - Live from Harare
- Speaker 3   UN Community/ Partners - Boundless opportunities or Safety online - Live from Addis
- Speaker 4   Private Sector/ Lead in the Tech sector- Breaking barriers in Tech.

1255 – 1300   WRAP UP AND NEXT STEPS

- Representative from Africa NoW4WTDC
- Short Video from the GC Youth Envoys for Africa
- ITU Regional Director, Ms. Anne-Rachel Inné

For more information, visit the event page at:

https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Africa/Pages/Girls-in-ICT---AFRICA-REGION%2c-28-April-2022.aspx

Registration:

To register, you can complete the online form using the following link: ITU Event Registration

Date and venue/ How to participate

The event will be held virtually via the Zoom platform on **28 April 2022**. A Zoom meeting invite, and details will be sent via email to all registered participants closer to the event date. For more information on how to use Zoom, please visit https://us04web.zoom.us/

When joining meeting, please use the ID in the following template

"Yourname_Organization"

Event Organizers

ITU Regional Office for Africa

Generation Connect (GC),

Africa networks of Women for WTDC (Africa NoW4WTDC)

Event Coordinator

Contact ITU Regional Office for Africa Focal point: Ms. Anne Rita N. SSEMBOGA Program Officer

anne.rita.ssemboga@itu.int

Social Media

This event will be promoted via ITU Social Media platforms. Follow us and join us to promote this celebration through your network.

Twitter@ITUAfrica

Visit here: https://www.itu.int/net4/ITU-D/GICT/2022/index.asp for more details about Girls in ICT Day 2022.

We look forward to you joining us for this online meeting!