Session Outcome Document

Summary of Session: *How Can Women Digital Entrepreneurs Boost Inclusion?*
Voices from the field

UNCTAD

Tuesday, 25 April 2023

https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/228

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Economic impact of women's inclusion in the digital economy: Increasing women's participation in the economy benefits marginalized communities and society as a whole.

- Investing in women entrepreneurs: Equal opportunities, funding, and support in the digital economy lead to sustainable development by overcoming barriers, biases, and providing inclusive capacity building.

- Bridging the digital divide through collaboration: Government, NGOs, and technology companies play vital roles in creating inclusive policies, promoting equal opportunities, and challenging biases to empower women entrepreneurs.

- Role modeling for motivation: Showcasing success stories inspires women entrepreneurs to invest in learning and adopting digital tools, leading to increased participation and success in the digital marketplace.

- Leveraging networks for growth: Women digital entrepreneurs can expand their online businesses by joining and utilizing networks and ecosystems that offer training, professionalization, and collaboration opportunities to access global markets.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- Investing in women entrepreneurs and providing them with equal opportunities in the digital economy can lead to sustainable development, boost innovation, and foster economic empowerment for marginalized communities.

- There is still a need to overcome barriers and biases faced by women entrepreneurs, ensuring equal opportunities and access to resources, and bridging the digital divide to ensure inclusive participation in the digital economy.

- Building stronger partnerships and collaborations among stakeholders, including governments, private sector organizations, civil society, and international bodies, would enable to enhance the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and promote gender equality in the digital economy.

- Prioritizing capacity building programs, mentorship, and training initiatives to enhance digital skills and entrepreneurship capabilities among women, could ensure they can fully leverage the opportunities provided by the digital economy.

- Providing and expanding networks and ecosystems that support women digital entrepreneurs, with access to resources, knowledge sharing, and market opportunities, would enable them to scale their businesses and access global markets more effectively.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points)

- Raised awareness among participants regarding the significance of women's inclusion in the digital economy and its positive impact on societal inclusion.

- Showcased concrete examples of the positive impact of women digital entrepreneurs on their ecosystems.

- Facilitated peer-learning and the exchange of best practices among different regions.

- Identified opportunities for collaboration between UNCTAD, AfriLabs, and the e-Commerce Institute.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- UNCTAD will discuss further with AfriLabs and the e-Commerce Institute to foster collaboration on tangible initiatives and projects that support women digital entrepreneurs.
- Efforts will be made to amplify the visibility of women digital entrepreneurs who participated in the session, recognizing their contributions and their impact.
- UNCTAD and its initiative eTrade for Women will continue to provide women digital entrepreneurs with opportunities for networking and targeted training. The programme will also continue highlight women role models in the digital economy and leverage partnerships to promote inclusive policies.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- Sustainable Development and Digital Transformation: Examining how digital technologies can contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), promoting digital innovation for sustainable development, and measuring the impact of digital transformation on economic, social, and environmental dimensions.