International Women's Day (IWD) Celebration

Venue: University of Nairobi Towers

Concept Note & Programme

Background and Introduction

Since its inception, International Women's Day has grown into a global celebration of past and present accomplishments of women, and as an opportunity to look ahead to the untapped potential and opportunities for future generations of women.

In 1945, the Charter of the United Nations became the first international agreement to affirm the principal of equality between women and men. With that belief in mind, the UN celebrated its first official International Women's Day in 1975 - 46 years ago. This year, the theme for International Women's Day is "Time is Now: Rural and urban activists transforming women's lives, #PressforProgress". Despite the great progress in gender equality within the years since 1975, women are still underrepresented in so many sectors of society, undermining progress and sustainable development. The World Economic Forum's 2017 Global Gender Gap Report findings indicate gender parity is over 200 years away, thus a need to #PressforProgress. The gender disparities constraint creativity and talent and suffocate inclusion and pluralism.

UNESCO's long-term vision for the Global Priority gender equality, addresses gender inequalities and violence against women through empowering women in and through media and the use of ICTs (SDG 5, target b) to address gender inequalities in the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women, as well as gender mainstreaming, and support the Network for Gender, Media and ICTs.

UNESCO also mainstreams specific interventions for youth, Least Developing Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and marginalized social and ethnic groups, including indigenous peoples and local communities

The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of "leaving no one behind" also emphasizes the promotion of girls and women's opportunities. UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa strives to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs with a view to improving the economic, social and environmental conditions of women, men and persons living with disabilities in member States within the Eastern African Region and adjacent Indian Ocean Islands.

For the 2018 celebration of International Women's Day , UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa will focus on Women and Technology; showcasing the work, experiences, challenges and opportunities of women in the technological space and discussing the way forward for their involvement and advancement in these fields.

Objectives

Aligned to the World Wide International Women's Day celebrations themed Press for Progress, the overall goal of this event is to motivate and unite friends, colleagues and communities to think, act

and be gender inclusive, in the technological and innovation space. The event has the following objectives:

1. Changing the mindset of women on their role in the technology field.
2. Building confidence and encouraging women to pursue new careers in technology.
3. Addressing stereotypes on the role (or importance) of women in participation and decision making.
4. Advocating gender mainstreaming and the rights of women in the tech industry.

The event will be organized in the form of panel discussions which will focus on the following key areas:

1. Rights based approach in the work place
2. Approach to mainstreaming Gender in Technology

The panellists are expected to address the following issues during their discussions:

1. Maintaining a gender parity mind set in the world of Technology
2. Challenging gender stereotypes and bias against women's involvement in Technology
3. Forging positive visibility for women in Technology
4. Influence others' beliefs / actions
5. Celebrating the Achievement of women in Technology

The celebration of the International Women's Day will be a conclusion to the Women In Tech (WIT) Mobile Application Development Workshop which will run from 26 February to 2 March 2018 and will engage 30 young women in technology, to acquire the necessary technical skills and confidence to develop, promote, and sell locally relevant mobile applications, with a view to solving local problems and provide self-generated, viable employment opportunities in the mobile/ICT industry. UNESCO strongly believes that the YouthMobile initiative can contribute to solving the gender imbalance that exists in the technological field.

Draft Programme

Time	Activity			Person
8:30 – 9:00	Arrival			
9:00 – 9:10	Opening			Ann Therese Ndong-Jatta - UNESCO
9:10 – 9:20	KNATCOM initiatives for Women In Tech			Dr.Evangeline Njoka
9:20 – 9:40	Key Note Speech The role of Technology in Equal Rights			Corine Mbiaketcha – Oracle
9:40 – 10:00	**Coffee Break**			
10:00 – 11:15	**Panel Discussions**	**Topics**		
	Opportunities and challenges posed by Technology for Women and Girls	1. **Disruptive Technology:** Women in disruptive technology; 2. **Virtual Reality:** Virtual reality and stereotyping of gender roles; 3. **Data mining:** Using technology to obtain gender disaggregated data; 4. **Non-existent careers:** How to attract women to new careers in the technology eco system; 5. **Technology at the workplace:** Gender Mainstreaming in technology 6. **Uptake of STEM-** Challenges and opportunities for Women		1. Alex Nyingi (Microsoft)- TBC 2. Dorothy Sagwe – Oracle 3. Martha Chumo (UNESCO Youth Mobile) SearchforMartha Champion (Skype) 4. Kate Gitau – Ministry of ICT- (TBC) 5. Nyakan Munyeki – Timeless Women In Leadership and Enterprise (TWILE) 6. Jacqueline Mebur – Safaricom 7. Judy Owigar – Jua Kali Initiative 8. Alice Ochanda- UNESCO **Moderator- Grace Githaiga** – Kictanet - Convener
11:15 – 12:20	Q & A			Moderator-- Grace Githaiga
12:20 – 13:00	Summary			Closing Session