GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA

GENERATION EQUALITY FORUM

REALIZING WOMEN'S RIGHTS FOR AN EQUAL FUTURE

GOBIERNO DE MÉXICO

GOUVERNEMENT
Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité

UN WOMEN

In partnership with civil society and youth

GOR's commitments towards
"Gender Equality in Technology and Innovation by 2026"

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…..First, we aim to bridge the gender gap in digital access by 2026. We will do this in three specific areas: Ownership of smartphones, Access to digital financial services, and Science, Technology and Math studies at the upper secondary level.

Second, we will ensure that our innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem is fully inclusive, by doubling the number of women and girls supported by innovation centers.
Rwanda has also engaged the East African Community in pursuit of possible joint commitments in these domains.
Achieving gender equality in technology and innovation is just one part of the wider struggle to guarantee equal rights and opportunities for women and girls. Every human being, regardless of gender, should be able to live the life that they choose….

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H.E President Paul Kagame, Paris 1st July 2021

1 BACKGROUND

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of 1995 (Beijing Platform for Action) was adopted by 189 governments committed to taking strategic, bold action in 12 critical areas of concern: poverty, education and training, health, violence, armed conflict, economy, power and decision-making, institutional mechanisms, human rights, media, environment, and the girl child.

Twenty-five years later, UN Women launched the Generation Equality Forum for gender equality, to tackle the unfinished business of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of 1995 by adopting a series of concrete, ambitious and transformative actions to achieve immediate and irreversible progress towards gender equality. To achieve that, six related Action Coalitions (A.C.) have been created to catalyze collective action, spark global and local conversations and drive increased public & private investment namely:

1. Gender-based violence
2. Economic justice and rights
3. Bodily autonomy and Sexual and Reproductive health and rights
4. Feminist action for climate justice
5. Technology and innovation for Gender Equality
6. Feminist movements and leadership.

In November 2020, the Government of Rwanda joined other co-leaders (Armenia, Tunisia, Chile, Finland, Rwanda, Koc, Digital Grassroots, ITU, Social Builder, <A+>Alliance, Rockefeller, UNICEF, Global Fund for Women, and Microsoft) in the Action Coalition for "Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality".

The GoR through MIGEPROF and MINICT/RISA contributed in putting together the A.C. blueprint aimed at guiding commitment makers for tangible and measurable pledges for the next 5 years (2021-2026).

All 6 A.Cs' blueprints were presented and validated in Mexico by 29th-31st March 2021 in a Ministers' forum and by June 30th – July 2nd 2021 in Paris, Heads of States announced individual/collective commitments in relation to the developed blueprints.
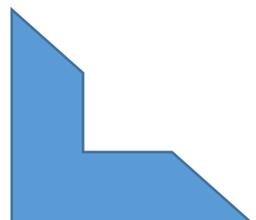
2 "TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR GENDER EQUALITY" BLUEPRINT

The blueprint for Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality was built around four actions areas namely:

✓ Bridging the Gender Gap in Digital Access and Competences

This includes creating learning environments with access to digital technology, shaping blended financing instruments for digital skills, developing gender-responsive distance learning, improving affordability of digital devices and addressing stereotypes limiting access and careers choices.

✓ Investing in Feminist Technology and Innovation

This includes amplifying mission driven innovations making tech accessible, usable and sustainable for all women and girls, adopting policies mitigating risks of bias and mainstreaming gender by design, systematizing the use of gender impact assessments and quality data for evidence-based solutions.

✓ Building Inclusive, Transformative and Accountable Innovation Ecosystems

This includes creating gender-transformative innovation hubs, boosting women's participation in the tech workforce and leadership, mainstreaming gender in digital public policies and defining indicators to better measure the gender digital divide and its impact on the digitalization of countries.

✓ Preventing and Eliminating Online and Tech-Facilitated GBV and Discrimination

This includes developing tools that better prevent and respond to online violence, training law enforcement to better tackle online violence and safety issues, sensitizing young people and educators to better prevent, handle and protect.
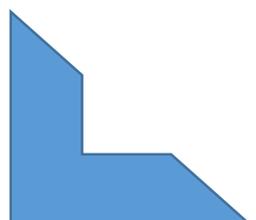
3 GOR COMMITMENTS

3.1 Bridge the gender gap (50/50) in STEM upper secondary level by 2026 (Current: 44.7/55.3) through:

1. Regulating the STEM industry to promote a gender balanced workforce.
2. Strengthening the existing reward scheme for best female performers in STEM-related subjects in primary and secondary level final exams
3. Developing Girl-Friendly Pedagogy (Instructors/teachers)
4. Institutionalizing Career guidance and coaching to make sure girls are mentored to join STEM

3.2 Attain 100% of mobile phone ownership per female headed household by 2026 (Current: 54.4%) through:

1. Mainstreaming gender in Mobile phone acquisition programs.
2. Mobilizing at least 10M USD by 2026 to strengthen "Connect Rwanda Campaign" from different stakeholders
3. Mobilizing banks to introduce favorable loan schemes for Smart devices for women.

3.3 Double the percentage of women who use digital financial services by 2026 (Current: 29%) through:

1. Mainstreaming gender in digital finance schemes
2. Strengthening existing digital financial literacy programs for women.
3. Reviewing the National Digital Ambassador programs to make sure it is addressing women digital skills gap.
4. Investing in digitalization of financial services that benefit financially excluded population, especially women by digitalizing MFIs, Umurenge SACCO, and VSLAs.

3.4 Boost the number of young girls innovators supported through innovation ecosystems. (Reach 50% from 15% of women/girls representation among teams/startups and reach 30% from 5% of women/girls representation among team leaders/startups owners.) through:

1. Mainstreaming gender in innovation ecosystem.
2. Mobilizing at least 10M USD to create gender inclusive Innovation incubators (At least one innovation incubator per district) and to support other programs aimed at empowering young girls innovators.
3. Putting in place a streamlined competition and mentorship program for Young Girls innovators including hackathons, challenges and Boot Camps.
4. Organizing regular investment expo/innovation fairs **for young girls.**

4 JOINT COMMITMENTS

4.1 Reduce the gender gap in STEM within EAC Community by 2026 through:

1. Enforcing Gender parity in scholarships allowance in the Regional Center of Excellence for ICT by 2026
2. Mobilizing resources to Establish a Regional Network of women in science for increased collaboration between women in science and mentorship of the girl child
3. Mainstreaming Gender in DSkills@EAC program (Digital skills for Innovative East African Industry).

4.2 Reduce the gender gap in the usage of digital technology within EAC Community by 2026 through:

1. Enhancing the 50MAWS platform to make it user friendlier.
2. Conducting capacity building on large scale across the EA community to boost the number of women benefiting from "50 Million African Women Speak Networking Platform (50MAWS)".

4.3 Reduce the gender gap in the usage of digital technology within Smart Africa Alliance member countries by 2026 through:

1. Developing the Smart Africa women and Girls ICT/Digital Blueprint to guide countries to bridge the gender digital divide.