



## Seminar

### **“African Immigrant Women, entrepreneurs in the World”**

**Rabat (Hybrid), Monday, 29 March 2021**

**09:00 to 11:00 a.m. Rabat time (11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Addis Ababa time)**

#### I- Context

The North Africa Office of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (SRO/NA) and the Ministry Delegate to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, in charge of Moroccan Expatriates are co-organizing a webinar on African Immigrant Women Entrepreneurs around the world. The webinar will take place on Monday, March 29 from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Rabat time (11 a.m. to 13 a.m. Addis Ababa time).

Studies on women entrepreneurs in African countries have shown that impressive progress has been made, yet general and gender-specific challenges still prevent their full contribution to sustainable and inclusive development in Africa. In fact, their share in cross-border trade and investment is still very low and below than that of men, and their needs and prospects are rarely taken into account in the regional integration process. It is therefore in this context that the SRO / NA and the Ministry Delegate to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, in charge of Moroccan Expatriates have decided to organize a webinar on African immigrant women entrepreneurs with the main objective of strengthening the contribution of women entrepreneurs to the inclusive and sustainable development of Africa.

The African continent is the first in the world in terms of number of women entrepreneurs, with 24% of the total number of entrepreneurs on the continent. Many African immigrant women are successful in entrepreneurship in Africa as well as in other regions of the world, but how to network and mobilize them to assist in the development of their country of origin and of the African continent?

At this level will be addressed the quadruple challenge facing the African immigrant woman entrepreneurs, the first challenge is linked to gender, while the second concerns the linked to the origin which implies a significant identity and cultural baggage but also the weight of belonging to a community. The third relates to immigration itself and the challenges imposed on any immigrant to successfully integrate into the host country. The fourth challenge relates to the risks of entrepreneurship adventure itself and its challenges. All these elements make specific the situation of the African immigrant woman entrepreneurs at several levels.

The webinar will address the following questions:

- What is to be done to strengthen trade and investment links between African immigrant women entrepreneurs?
- What roles could countries of origin play to support the initiatives of immigrant African women entrepreneurs?
- To what extent can digital technology accelerate the economic empowerment of African immigrant women and promote their networking to improve their skills?
- What can be done to better integrate the needs and perspectives of immigrant women entrepreneurs in the regional integration process?
- How is the Covid-19 crisis affecting African immigrant women business leaders and what could be their role in the economic recovery?

## **II- Purpose**

The webinar aims to promote knowledge through creating a space for sharing real lessons learned from the experiences of immigrant African women entrepreneurs around the world, and identifying the lines of intervention for a better mobilization of the African female diaspora in the world for its active participation in the continent development.

## **III- Expected Outcomes**

- African immigrant women entrepreneurs strengthen their links and organize themselves in networks;
- The various actors become aware of the individuality and the particularity of the situation and consequently of the African immigrant women entrepreneurs' needs and the requirement to provide appropriate responses;
- The different actors measure the importance of digital technology in the networking of African immigrant women;
- Women entrepreneurs identify existing opportunities related to cross-border trade and investment in Africa; and
- Regional institutions integrate the needs and perspectives of Business Leader African immigrant women.

## **IV- Participation**

Representatives of expatriate institutions, women business leader organizations, women entrepreneurs, the private sector, financial institutions, business institutions and the United Nations system agencies will be invited to take part in the webinar.

## **V- Date**

March 29, 2021 (9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Rabat time).

## **VI- Working languages**

There will be simultaneous interpretation into Arabic, English and French.

## **VII- Contacts**

For further information regarding the organization of the webinar, please contact:

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