FIFTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

CINQUANTE-TROISIÈME SESSION DE LA
COMMISSION ÉCONOMIQUE POUR L'AFRIQUE

AFRICA'S SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND
DIVERSIFICATION IN THE DIGITAL ERA IN THE
CONTEXT OF COVID-19

L'INDUSTRIALISATION DURABLE ET LA DIVERSIFICATION
DE L'AFRIQUE À L'ÈRE DU NUMÉRIQUE DANS
LE CONTEXTE DE LA COVID-19

2021
COM

SIDE EVENT

Sunday 21 March 2021 at 2:00-4:00 pm EAT.

African Girls Can Code Initiative

Background

The African Girls Can CODE Initiative (AGCCI), a partnership between UN Women, African Union Commission (AUC) and International Telecommunications Union (ITU) which aims to train and empower a minimum of 2000 young girls aged between 17-20 across Africa to become computer programmers, creators and designers, placing them on track to take up studies and careers in the information, communication and technology (ICT) sector. The initiative has three key strategies namely: **coding camps, mainstreaming ICT, coding and gender into the national curricula**. Moreover, it promotes the implementation of national media campaigns involving role models (e.g. women in ICT, female teachers in schools) and utilizes an on-line platform to enhance networking among the girls, trainers and mentors.

AGCCI side event at COM-21

UN Women in partnership with the AUC, ITU and Danish Development Agency proposes to co-host a side event on "African Girls Can Code Initiative". The side event is expected to bring a select number of young girl coders and other key stakeholders with the following objectives:

- Provide a platform for young girl coders to share their innovative initiatives and COVID-19 success stories.
- Promote the role of young women in the growing innovation and development of Africa in line with the theme of COM-21.
- Garner commitment from relevant stakeholders including AU Member States, the UN system, development partners and the private sector to support the initiatives of the African girls who code.

Expected outcomes

- Relevant stakeholders have awareness of the AGCCI, and innovative actions rolled out by African girls who code.
- AGCCI learners network with key stakeholders and advocate for increased investment for programs and initiatives that support girls who code and gender mainstreaming in ICT.

Participants

The event will be attended by girls who code and participants from AUC, UN system, CSOs, development partners and the private sector.

Format, date and time:

The event will be conducted virtually on Sunday 21 March 2021 at 2:00-4:00 pm EAT.

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