

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE

Media Advisory

Date: 9th November, 2023

Venue: Cairo, Egypt

WHAT: From Processors to Entrepreneurs: Empowering African Women for Market Integration

Join us for a session dedicated to raising awareness about inclusive strategies and policies aimed at empowering women in processing to transition into entrepreneurship. We will discuss mechanisms to create a supportive entrepreneurial environment, including tools such as the Gender Equality Seal and the Call to Action for Africa and its Diaspora to invest in the continent.

During this session, we'll also showcase the innovative concept of buying into the proposed export aggregation hub and explore the importance of standardization and green innovation mechanisms within the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

WHEN: Time: 11:30 AM - 12:20 PM (+2hrs GMT)

VENUE: Multipurpose Hall B

WHO: The African Union in partnership with the Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PACCI)

PROGRAM:

- Mr. M. Ali Adji Mahamat SEID the Incoming President of the Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- Dr. Lucy Surhyel Newman - Chief Executive Officer of Africa Private Sector Summit (APSS).
- Mr. Aminou Akadiri - Chief Executive Officer of the Federation of West Africa Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FEWACCI).

Objective

- Provide a platform to sharing best practices, showcasing successful women for lessons learned among women entrepreneurs, professionals, and policymakers on the continent;
- Provide capacity building through training sessions, workshops on various topics including market access, finance, technology adoption, value addition, and leadership development;

- Explore and encourage networking among participants to foster cooperation, joint ventures, among women and other stakeholders on the continent;
- Raise awareness about gender mainstreaming in industrialization and processing sectors, and advocate for policies that that promotes inclusivity, equal Offer networking opportunities, and supportive environment for women;
- Highlight and promote innovative technologies, products, and services developed by women in industrialization and processing sectors with the aim of boosting knowledge sharing and transfer

BACKGROUND:

The African Women in Processing (AWIP) initiative seeks to address the gender gaps in the manufacturing sector by providing a forum for African women to exchange experiences, access new opportunities, and establish partnerships.

The AWIP Summit aims to support the African Union's industrialization agenda and achieve the goals of Agenda 2063 by catalyzing and accelerating the transformation of industrial processing led by women.

With a focus on inclusive and sustainable social-economic development, AWIP addresses structural norms and sets a new policy direction for women to take advantage of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). As a driver of intra-African trade, it has the potential to advance women's economic independence and financial inclusion through, but not limited to, e-commerce and other digital related initiatives. It also has the potential to create trade and business opportunities in critical sectors where women are actively engaged, including agro-processing, fashion value chain and the services sector.

[Learn more about our Activities at the IATF](#)

For further information, please contact:

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This session will aim at raising awareness of inclusive strategies and policies for women in processing into entrepreneurship, mechanisms to create an enabling entrepreneurial environment through tools such as the Gender Equality seal, Call to action for Africa and Diaspora to invest in Africa, showcase the concept of buying into the proposed export aggregation hub, as well as standardization and green innovation mechanisms under AfCFTA..

TENTATIVE PROGRAM