

Title: Leveraging AI and Innovation for Sustainable Development: Empowering Women in Global Trade

Background: The Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD) provides a crucial platform for addressing sustainability challenges and opportunities in Africa. Recognizing the pivotal role of women in driving sustainable development, particularly in global trade, it is imperative to integrate cutting-edge technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) to empower Female Entrepreneurs and Executives and enhance their participation in the trade landscape.

Theme: The revised side event, "Leveraging AI and Innovation for Sustainable Development: Empowering Women in Global Trade," aims to showcase how the intersection of AI, innovation, and women's empowerment can catalyze sustainable economic growth and inclusivity in the global trade sector.

Objectives:

1. Demonstrate the transformative potential of AI in enhancing women's participation and leadership in global trade.
2. Highlight successful AI-driven initiatives led by Female Entrepreneurs and Executives contributing to sustainable development goals.
3. Facilitate partnerships between AI innovators, female entrepreneurs, and relevant stakeholders to promote inclusive and sustainable trade practices.

Target Audience: The event targets a diverse audience, including female entrepreneurs, AI experts, policymakers, trade agencies, and representatives from international organizations, fostering a collaborative environment for knowledge sharing and capacity building.

Alignment with ARFSD-10: By emphasizing the role of AI in empowering women in global trade, this event directly supports the ARFSD-10 theme of "Accelerating the Dual Agenda: 2030 and 2063 through Innovation and Resilience." It aligns with the forum's objective of leveraging innovation to advance sustainable development and economic resilience in Africa.

Promoting Gender Equality (SDG 5):

Emphasize the importance of gender balance in all aspects of sustainable development initiatives.
Showcase best practices and success stories promoting gender equality in trade and economic empowerment.

Sustainable Economic Growth (SDG 8):

Explore strategies for fostering sustainable economic growth that benefits all, including marginalized communities and Female Entrepreneurs and Executives.
Highlight innovative approaches to promoting inclusive economic development and job creation.

Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17):

Encourage collaborative partnerships among stakeholders to achieve sustainable development goals.
Promote multi-stakeholder engagement and cooperation to drive positive impact and support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

Empowering Female Entrepreneurs and Executives :

Focus on initiatives that empower Female Entrepreneurs and Executives through capacity building, access to markets, and financial resources.
Highlight the role of women in driving economic growth, innovation, and sustainability within the global trade landscape.

Inclusive Trade Practices:

Advocate for inclusive trade practices that benefit women-owned businesses and promote fair and equitable market access.
Discuss the importance of removing barriers and creating opportunities for Female Entrepreneurs and Executives to participate in international trade.

Event Agenda: Women in Global Trade Empowerment Forum

Topic 1: Theme: Leveraging AI for Data Analytics and Business Strategy (60 mins)

"AI Strategies for Enhancing Women's Participation in Supply Chain Management" (30 mins)

"Data Analytics for Women-led Businesses: Driving Market Insights and Growth" (30 mins)

Topic 2: Theme: Technological Solutions for Female Entrepreneurs and Executives in Global Trade (60 mins)

"Blockchain Technology and Gender Equality: Opportunities for Women in Trade" (20 mins)

"IoT Empowers Women in Global Markets: Smart Cities, Smart Trade" (20 mins)

"Fintech Innovations for Financial Inclusion of Women in Global Trade" (20 mins)

Topic 3: Theme: Policy, Security, and Trade Environment (60 mins)

"Cybersecurity Challenges for Female Entrepreneurs and Executives in International Trade" (30 mins)

"Policy Perspectives: Enabling Regulatory Frameworks for Women in Trade" (30 mins)

Note:

- Each panel discussion will be concise and impactful, focusing on key insights and actionable strategies.
- Q&A sessions and interactive discussions will be strategically incorporated to engage participants and encourage dialogue.
- The event will be structured to maximize engagement and ensure a comprehensive exploration of empowering women in global trade through technology and policy initiatives.

Expected Participants

- **Female Entrepreneurs and Executives and Innovators:** Trailblazers leading tech startups and businesses across Africa, looking to scale their operations and impact through innovative trade practices and AI integration.
- **Tech Industry Leaders and AI Solution Providers:** Visionaries at the forefront of artificial intelligence, blockchain, and digital platforms, offering solutions that can transform the landscape of women-led businesses in trade.
- **Impact Investors and Financial Institutions:** Forward-thinking financiers committed to sustainable development goals, seeking to invest in gender-responsive ventures and technology-driven enterprises with the potential for high social and economic returns.
- **Policy Makers and Government Representatives:** Key figures in shaping trade, technology, and gender policies interested in fostering an ecosystem that supports the growth of Female Entrepreneurs and Executives through innovative and inclusive strategies.
- **International Development Organizations and NGOs:** Entities focused on gender equality, economic empowerment, and sustainable development are looking to partner and support initiatives that leverage technology to advance women in trade.

Outcomes

- **Strategic Roadmap for AI Integration in Female-owned and led businesses:** Development of a comprehensive guide that outlines actionable steps for integrating AI and technological innovations into women-led businesses, aimed at enhancing competitiveness, market access, and sustainability.
- **Commitment to Policy Advocacy:** Formation of a coalition dedicated to advocating for policies that reduce the digital divide for women, promote access to technology and financing and support the inclusion of women's enterprises in the digital economy.
- **Partnership and Investment Declarations:** Securing commitments from investors, development partners, and governments to support and finance innovative, tech-driven projects led by Female Entrepreneurs and Executives, focusing on scalability and impact.
- **Publication of a White Paper:** Release of an insightful document capturing key discussions, best practices, and innovative solutions presented at the event, serving as a resource for stakeholders globally to replicate and adapt successful models in their regions.

Capacity Statement

The collaboration between the Ladies Entrepreneurship Club (LEC) and Raima represents a powerful alliance at the intersection of gender, trade, and technology. LEC's extensive global network of Female Entrepreneurs and Executives and its proven track record in fostering international trade connections provide a solid foundation for impactful engagement. With its innovative AI solutions and commitment to technological empowerment, Raima brings cutting-edge expertise and a visionary approach to solving complex trade challenges. This partnership is underpinned by a shared commitment to creating sustainable, inclusive economic growth through the strategic application of AI and technology.

Our combined resources, expertise, and networks position us to deliver a transformative event that inspires and equips Female Entrepreneurs and Executives with the tools and knowledge to thrive in the global trade ecosystem. We are committed to driving significant, measurable progress towards the SDGs and Agenda 2063, leveraging technology as a catalyst for empowerment, inclusion, and sustainability. Through this side event, we aim to set a new standard for engaging, impactful forums that resonate with the themes of the ARFSD and contribute to shaping a more equitable and prosperous future for all.