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Hundreds Gather in Accra to Devise Solutions for Africa's Growing Digital Gender Gap

- 250 women from across the continent's tech industries will gather in Accra to determine the policy steps needed to close Africa's growing digital gender gap, which is the [largest in the world](#).
- We will soon pass a tipping point when 50% of the world is connected online, yet women remain amongst the least likely to be connected, which has far reaching consequences.
- High-level panels, lightning talks and hands-on workshops will focus on issues around affordable broadband, digital skills and entrepreneurship, and women's rights online.

2 October 2018. Over 250 of Africa's leading technology innovators will gather October 9-11 in Accra, Ghana for the second [Africa Summit on Women and Girls in Technology](#). The Summit — which comes at a crucial point in time when the world is set to reach 50% connectivity — aims to design solutions that will enable millions of African women and girls to benefit from access to technology and use their skills to build a better Africa for all.

The three-day event will feature lightning talks from young African female technologists, as well as high-level discussions with many of Africa's most prominent ICT policymakers and technology leaders today, including: Hon. Ursula Owusu-Ekufu, Minister of Communications, Ghana; Dr Omobola Johnson, former Nigerian Minister of Communication Technology; Bitilokho Ndiaye, Gender Technical Advisor at Ministry of Communication, Telecommunications, Posts and Digital Economy, Senegal; and many others.

Bridging the digital gender gap is a critical step toward the vision of a thriving Africa — yet research has shown that women in some communities are [up to 50% less likely than men to be online](#). In Africa, where nearly 75% of the population remains offline, this problem is particularly acute. The Summit will explore a range of relevant topic areas, with a focus on developing policy to advance:

- Access to affordable broadband
- Women's rights online
- Digital education and skills
- Digital entrepreneurship



The 2018 Africa Summit on Women and Girls in Technology is a collaboration between the [World Wide Web Foundation](#), [Alliance for Affordable Internet \(A4AI\)](#), [Ghana Ministry of Communications](#), [African Development Bank](#), [Open Society Initiative for West Africa](#), [Internet Society](#), [Facebook](#), [Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development \(Germany\)](#), [Google](#), [Swedish International Development Agency](#) and [UN Women](#).

All places at the event have been filled, but those unable to attend in person may follow online through the hashtag [#TechWomenAfrica](#).

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Notes to editors:

1. The 2018 Africa Summit on Women and Girls in Technology will take place October 9, 10, and 11 at the Labadi Beach Hotel in Accra, Ghana. Media interested in attending and/or covering the event should contact Mara Silvestri, Web Foundation Communications Officer, at mara.silvestri@webfoundation.org. With apologies, no financial support to attend the event is available.
2. Interviews with Summit speakers and organisers are available upon request.

About the Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI): The Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI) is the world's broadest technology sector coalition. Initiated by the World Wide Web Foundation in 2013, the Alliance today comprises over 80 member organisations from across the private, public, and not-for-profit sectors. These diverse actors have come together to advance the shared aim of affordable, universal access to both mobile and fixed-line Internet in developing countries, primarily through policy and regulatory change. A4AI's global sponsors include Google, USAID and SIDA. For more, please visit: a4ai.org

About the World Wide Web Foundation: Established by the inventor of the Web, Sir Tim Berners-Lee, the World Wide Web Foundation seeks to establish the open Web as a global public good and a basic right, creating a world where everyone, everywhere can use the Web to communicate, collaborate and innovate freely. Represented by more than a dozen nationalities working from hubs in London, Washington DC and Cape Town, the World Wide Web Foundation operates at the confluence of technology and human rights, targeting three key areas: Access, Voice and Participation. For more, visit: webfoundation.org



Spokespeople available for comment:

[Nanjira Sambuli](#), *Senior Policy Manager, Web Foundation* - A Nairobi-based researcher and analyst, Nanjira brings broad expertise as an advocate and consultant working at the intersection of technology with governance, media, culture and society.

[Onica Makwakwa](#), *Africa Coordinator, Alliance for Affordable Internet*- Onica has advocated for, managed and pioneered various international campaigns for consumer organisations on several issues including digital consumers' rights.

[Sonia N. Jorge](#), *Executive Director, Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI)* - Sonia has worked extensively to promote gender analysis and awareness in technology, and leads A4AI's mission to make the internet affordable for all. She is available for interview in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

[Nnenna Nwakanma](#), *Interim Policy Director Web Foundation* - Nnenna advocates for open data, open government and the open web across Africa, bringing together local and international stakeholders to advance the open agenda. She has worked with the UN, African Union and African Development Bank to put digital rights and affordable access at the top of the development agenda.

[Ana Brandusescu](#), *Research and Policy Officer, Web Foundation*- Ana is focused on driving a more inclusive use of data and enhancing digital rights, through various data, research and policy projects.

[Eleanor Sarpong](#), *Deputy Director, Policy Lead, Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI)*- She directs policy and has oversight on country engagements in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Eleanor has worked throughout the the private, public and not-for-profit sectors over the last 15 years doing consulting, public policy, advocacy, strategy, stakeholder management, communication and project management.