

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY
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STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL GIRLS IN ICT DAY -2021



FROM DR. JABIRI K. BAKARI, DIRECTOR GENERAL, TCRA

THEME: “CONNECTED GIRLS, CREATING BRIGHTER FUTURES”

The United Republic of Tanzania joins other International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Member countries in the world to commemorate the International Girls in ICT Day which is celebrated every year on the Thursday of fourth week of April. This year's event will be celebrated on 22nd April, 2021 with the theme: **“Connected Girls Creating Bright Future”**. This year's event will be marking the 10th Anniversary of International Girls in ICT Day.

ITU is the United Nations specialized agency for Information and Communication Technologies – ICTs. It was founded to facilitate international connectivity in communications networks, to allocate global radio spectrum and satellite orbits, develop the technical standards that ensure networks and technologies seamlessly interconnect, and strive to improve access to ICTs to underserved communities worldwide.

In marking this day, the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), has been working with various stakeholders to build awareness on the gender digital divide, support technology education and skills training, as well as encouraging more girls and young women to actively pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

We are all responsible to inspire future generations to become technology leaders and active participants of the digital world regardless of gender, race background or preference. Girls in ICT event has a positive impact to create a meaningful shift in the gender gap.

In the effort to close gender digital access gap TCRA provides support to schools and communities in the provision of ICT equipment to schools, in particular girls' schools and community ICT centers "Telecentres". This year's theme calls for the communications sector players to focus more on the provision of ICT based services and ensure that more girls have access to ICT services including training and empowerment programs that will facilitate socioeconomic development activities and prepare them for their brighter future. Furthermore, TCRA has been organizing different competitions such as cyberstar competition to encourage girls in ICTs.

TCRA has licensed a number of Service Providers that includes Mobile Network Operators and Internet Service Providers so as to ensure wider coverage of ICT networks including rural areas. The licensing framework in Tanzania allows for service and technological neutrality, hence, enabling licensed entities to focus on ensuring innovation and penetration of services. The use of ICTs in improving people's livelihoods is enormous. We have been able to improve the lives of people using ICTs in various applications and services. ICTs have the potential to support rural development, increase the resilience of rural families, improve access of farmers to markets and other services that, at the end, will empower women and youths.

I take this opportunity to encourage girls and young women to consider studying Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, practice and utilize the power of ICTs and participating in the socioeconomic activities that will lead them to their brighter future.

THANK YOU