

WOMEN IN CYBER

A Newsletter by the UNODC Cybercrime Team in Africa



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LAUNCH OF AFRICA WOMEN IN CYBER GROUP

The UNODC Global Programme on Cybercrime has launched a professional networking group for women involved in the digital sector, including cybersecurity and the fight against cybercrime, particularly in Africa. It consists of monthly online group meetings, and includes sessions on cyber professional coaching and career development called 'Cyber Diva Bootcamp'.

In partnership with NAAW/Beautiful Soul, the UNODC Global Programme on Cybercrime has so far organized two Cyber Diva BootCamp sessions to strengthen the leadership and skills of women professionals in the sector.

The first session held on February 23, 2022 was "Manage Your Career and Clarify Your Near-Future Career Objective", and the second; organized on March 30, 2022, was "Using influence and assertive communication to advance in your career". The next session will be held on April 27 and under the theme "Breaking the glass ceiling".

CAMPAIGN LAUNCH: "HELP CHILDREN BE CHILDREN"

The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has joined forces with MTN Group, Meta, ICMEC (the International Center for Missing and Exploited Children) and Child Helpline International, with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), to launch the "Help Children be Children" and "Child Helpline International" campaigns.

From 2019 to 2020, the number of reports received by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) of child sexual abuse images and videos uploaded from the African continent increased by a staggering 81% to nearly 2.4 million.

The "Help Children be Children" Campaign and the "Child Safety Online Africa" portal has been launched to raise awareness about the impact of child sexual abuse and exploitation, and help prevent its spread on the African continent.

The "Help Children Be Children" Campaign and the "Africa Child Safety Online Portal" are part of a larger campaign supported by MTN and Meta (formerly Facebook) that aims to strengthen the fight against the distribution of Child Sexual Abuse Content (CASE) on the African continent. The campaign was launched on April 7, 2022.

FOCUS: WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN CYBERSECURITY AND CYBERCRIME IN AFRICA

Did you know that many women are leading ministries in charge of digital, electronic communications and telecommunications in Africa? Meet some women leaders in the digital industry in Africa.

Cameroon: *Ms. Libom Li Likeng, born Mendomo Minette, is Minister of Posts and Telecommunications since 2015. She particularly encourages girls and women in digital and does not hesitate to get personally involved in projects that strengthen the capacities of girls and women in the digital field in Cameroon.*





Benin: Ms. Aurelie Adam Soulé Zoumarou is a Telecoms & ICT Engineer, and currently Minister of Digital and Digitization since 2017 in Benin. One of the ministry's flagship projects is the Learning Lab for the reinforcement of digital skills.

Rwanda: Ms. Paula Ingabire is Minister of Information and Communication Technology and Innovation since 2018. The CyberTech Africa project in Kigali benefits from her leadership and expertise.



Togo: Ms. Cina Lawson is Minister of Digital Economy and Digital Transformation since 2019. Her ministry wants to make digital an important catalyst for the socio-economic transformation of Togo, necessarily involving the inclusion of women in this sector.

IAI-CAMEROON TRAINS GIRLS AND WOMEN IN ICT

The African Institute of Informatics - Cameroon Representation (IAI-Cameroon)'s mission is to reduce the digital gap between women and men. In addition to the ten or so specific initial training courses, this university computer training structure has initiated two special programs for women and girls, including "Operation 100,000 Women, Horizon 2012" which has trained 103,350 women in 629 training sessions organized in the ten (10) provinces of Cameroon.

The extension of this successful experience is "Operation MIJEF 2035" for the training of one million youth, children and women in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) by 2035. MIJEF 2035 is an exemplary project in terms of gender promotion and professional integration of youth and women. To date, 175,313 women have already been trained in ICT.

THE AMAZONS OF CYBER IN BENIN: ACADEMY OF CYBERAMAZONS

The Benin Association for Cybersecurity and Digital Promotion (ABCPN) was created in 2016 and participated in the consultations for the development of the digital code in Benin, endorsed by Law 2017-20 of April 20, 2018, and amended by Law No. 2020 - 35 of January 06, 2021. It was also involved in the consultations and preliminary work for the development of the National Security Strategy for the protection of digital data in 2020.



ABCPN launched the CyberAmazon Academy in 2022. Who can be a part of this program? See the criteria below:

- Girls and women between the ages 18 - 28
- Be passionate about cybersecurity and interested in starting a career in cybersecurity
- Be available and be fully committed to the program for 7 months
- Be a student or graduate
- Resides in Bénin

The main objective is to train 25 young women for 6 months, and grant them 2 or 3 international certificates and a professional insertion. Registrations are closed since April 15, 2022 and the interview and selection phase has begun. This is an excellent initiative for the integration of young people, especially young women in the fight against cybercrime in Benin and deserves all our encouragement.

FESTIVAL FEMME NUMÉRIQUE (FFNUM)

African Women in Tech Startups (AfricanWITS) was created in 2016 and recognized as a civil society entity in Cameroon since 2019 with the aim of expanding its activities internationally. AfricanWITS' main mission is to promote information and communication technologies (ICT) in favor of women and girls, boost female and youth technological entrepreneurship in Cyber.



Since 2019, as part of the celebration of the International Women's Rights Day, African WITS organizes the Festival Femme Numérique which plays a significant role in the reduction of the gender digital divide and access to technologies in favor of women and youth across Cameroon. The Festival Femme Numérique is supported by several ministries, including: the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, the Ministry of Women and Family Promotion and the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts of Cameroon.

The 3rd edition of 2021 FFNUM was marked by the presence of the Secretary General of the International Telecommunication Union, Mr. Houlin ZHAO at the official opening ceremony online.

Upcoming events

- 27 April 2022: Cyber Diva Bootcamp