



UNITED NATIONS
SAUDI ARABIA



Sustainable
Development
Goals

International Women's Day

DigitALL: Innovation & Technology for gender equality



8th March



17:30



UN House,
The Diplomatic Quarter

OVERVIEW

On the occasion of International Women's Day the United Nations in Saudi Arabia is organizing round table discussions under the theme of **"DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality"** celebrating the women and girls who are championing the advancement of transformative technology and digital education.

IWD 2023 will explore the impact of the narrowing down of digital gender gap on widening economic and social inequalities. According to the [Gender Digital Divide Index Report 2022](#), Saudi Arabia was among the top 10 countries in the ranking, based on indicators such as Internet coverage and affordability, programs to support women's STEM education, and little-to-no gender gaps in use of digital payments systems.

The event aims to raise awareness on the challenges and opportunities Saudi women are facing with specific gender digital divide and to contribute to a better understanding of the necessary steps to tackle these specific digital divides.

Agenda

17:30 Opening & Welcoming remarks, Dr. Rita Columbia, UN Resident Coordinator a.i.

17:40 – 18:30

Discussion I

Women in Technology and their contributions to economic growth:

This session aims to recognize the role of women in technology in economic growth, how reducing the gender gap in technology contributes to economic growth, and the importance of sex disaggregated data in representing a clear picture of the progress made.

Moderator:

Ms. Yara Sindi, Head of Data and Research Department, Ministry of Economy and Planning

Speakers:

Mr. Issam Abousleiman, World Bank Regional Director for the GCC

Mr. Yassir Alossami, Saudi Federation for Cyber Security and Programming

Ms. Maha Dighriri, Director of the Added Value – REEF, Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture

Ms. Zainab Alamin, VP, Digital Transformation & Sustainability, Microsoft

COFFEE BREAK

18:40 – 19:30

Discussion II

Accessible and inclusive digital solutions for women and girls with disabilities

Moderator:

Mr. Mohammed AlShareef, Certified Trainer in Self-development and Motivation.

Speakers:

Ms. Nahid Hussein, UNDP Resident Representative

Dr. Ohoud Al Faris, Supervisor of the General Administration of E-learning and Distance Education at the Saudi Ministry of Education.

Dr. Hadeel Ayoub, BrightSign Founder & CTO

Dr. Manal Al Makoshi, Director of International Cooperation, Authority of Persons with Disability

19:30 – 19:40 Closing remarks, Dr. Rita Columbia, UN Resident Coordinator a.i.