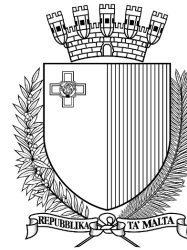




Royal Academy of Science International Trust



Ministry of Social Dialogue Consumer Affairs  
and Civil Liberties of Malta

## **Women in Innovation and Connectivity: The Role of the Private Sector**

(High-Level Event during the ECOSOC Science, Technology and Innovation Forum)

**Date:** 15th May 2017

**Time:** 15.00 – 18.00

**Venue:** Conference Room 11, United Nations Headquarters., New York

### **Concept Note**

#### **Background:**

The partnership between the Royal Academy of Science International Trust (RASIT) and the Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties of Malta illustrates Sustainable Development Goal 17.

The first fruitful result of this partnership was when the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution (70/212) proclaiming February 11 the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. The sponsorship of more than 68 countries and the approval of all Member States to the resolution signals the global community's interest in transforming our world through achieving gender parity in educational opportunity and scientific participation.

In both 2016 and 2017, the International Day was commemorated with participation at the highest levels of the UN system, with the Second Commemoration on 10 February 2017 being held in the General Assembly Hall and presided over jointly by Dr Helena Dalli, Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties and Her Royal Highness Princess Dr. Nisreen El-Hashemite, Executive Director of RASIT.

The Second Commemoration of this International Day revolved around the theme “Gender, Science, and Sustainable Development: the Impact of Media”. The theme of the sixty-second Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW62) looks forward in this regard, since the priority theme will be:

"Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls", with the review theme of CSW62 being entitled: "Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women."

### ***About:***

The Royal Academy of Science International Trust, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Social Dialogue Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties of the Republic of Malta, will hold its annual event focused on private sector support for the ECOSOC Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Forum, this year focusing on **Women in Innovation and Connectivity: The Role of the Private Sector**.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development established the STI Forum as a 'collaborative multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)'.

The theme of the 2017 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world", and the STI Forum will deal with "Science, Technology and Innovation for a Changing World – Focus on SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, and 14".

In line with its mandate, the STI Forum will address the following objectives: STI cooperation; Needs and gaps; Networking, and Technologies for the SDGs.

This Event will examine the particular contributions of women in innovation and connectivity, and will also prepare a set of recommendations that will be developed by the multi-strategic partnership brought together by RASIT and the Ministry of Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties of Malta, on this occasion.

Specific solutions and achievements will point the way forward to a road map for follow up action within national contexts.

New channels of opportunities for women in science shall be identified, which can support greater education for women, leading to increased well-being, health and advancement career-wise.

### ***Objectives:***

- ◆ To highlight Women in Science innovations that provide solutions targeted to the SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, and 14.
- ◆ To emphasize how Women in Science use the Internet in knowledge sharing and technology transfer.

### **Key Discussion Questions**

- ◆ How do digital tools and digital literacy skills lead to the creation of income generation for and with family members, bringing social cohesion through "intrapreneurship" in a family setting?
- ◆ Are women being trained and prepared to build the current and future generation of IT infrastructure?
- ◆ How will women, as well as men, overcome poor infrastructure, rigidity of social roles, fewer

- opportunities to access markets and poor business financing?
- ◆ Are the Millennials creating diverse teams of entrepreneurs to overcome the stereotypes that infrastructure development is “better given to men”?
  - ◆ What role are women in science and entrepreneurs playing in economic development?
  - ◆ What is the role of women entrepreneurs in supporting scientific research and domestic technology development and innovation?
  - ◆ What role do women in science play in increasing scientific knowledge, developing research capacity and transferring marine technology in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of countries?
  - ◆ Has the role of women in media been supportive of women in science innovations?
  - ◆ What examples of good practice show that the role of women entrepreneurs has been supportive of women in science?

### ***Structure of the Event:***

The event is designed to provide a platform for dialogue and facilitate interaction with a broad range of stakeholders. The panel will consist of a 90-minute overview presentation followed by a 60-minute moderated dialogue and interventions from participants. Media and social development partners will be invited to take on the role of commentators, reflecting on statements made by guest panelists and participants. A reporter for the panel will provide final highlights and conclusion of the panel.

#### **For Further information**

**Mr. Richard Jordan**  
Email: [nyun@rasit.org](mailto:nyun@rasit.org)

**Ms. Anneliese Sammut**  
Policy Officer - Permanent Mission of the Republic of Malta to the United Nations  
Email: [anneliese.sammuto@gov.mt](mailto:anneliese.sammuto@gov.mt)