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Written inputs for Zero Draft of the Pact for the Future: Recommendations for Chapter III with focus on human capital development in STEM for Africa.

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

Summary: If we need to focus on human capital development to achieve and build sustainable communities, especially in Africa; we have to invest in our populations and especially in closing the access gap to technology and science for women and girls. The future is 50% female and this indicates a potential opportunity area even in our response to women related issues. Advancing technology for girls in Africa is a multifaceted challenge that requires a holistic approach. Here are key points to consider in order to promote and support the involvement of girls in technology in Africa

1. Gender-Inclusive Curriculum:

Integrate technology and STEM subjects into the curriculum with a focus on gender equality. This will inadvertently position girls to see STEM as a means to solving issues related to them and within their immediate communities. Women and girls will become direct contributors to data driven initiatives and why not policies that close the access gap even for roles in STEM.

Promote learning materials and resources that are gender-inclusive and challenge stereotypes and encourage more girls to access quality education in STEM.

Promote and encourage children to pursue education in technology from an early age.

2. Community Engagement:

Engage communities to break cultural barriers and stereotypes that discourage girls from pursuing careers in technology.

Collaborate with local leaders, parents, and communities to create a supportive environment for girls in STEM. This can be done through awareness raising initiatives that show the communities the “advantages” and positive uses of technology to help clarify naysayers and reticence.

3. Skill Development Programs:

Implement skill development programs that provide practical, hands-on experience in technology.

Offer coding workshops, robotics clubs, and other extracurricular activities to foster interest and skills especially at pedagogical levels in schools.

4. Partnerships with Industry:

Forge partnerships with technology companies to provide internships, apprenticeships, and exposure to real-world applications of technology.

Facilitate industry-sponsored training programs for girls in collaboration with tech companies

Set quotas and targets especially for service provider agencies to develop Corporate social responsibility programs (CSR) that help close access gaps, as well as them being held