



PRESS RELEASE

International Women's Day

“DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality”

As the world is celebrating the International Women's Day on 8th of March 2023, TEN/MET, a national network of 184 CSOs engaged in transforming education for sustainable development in Tanzania, calls for the advancement of equal rights for women and girls.

For years, TEN/MET has been at the forefront in advocating for gender equality and promoting women's rights through various interventions. Ensuring that women and girls have equal access to education and opportunities. A need to bridge gender digital divide by promoting equal access to technology, digital training and to have zero tolerance to at such a time as this is imperative if gender equality is to be realized. With the existing inequalities in access to technology and the internet, girls and women are not able to equally participate in digital societies. Holding back girls and women in this area affects every aspect of their lives, including their ability to speak out and advance issues that affect their growth, democracy and participation. The road ahead is uphill, today over 90% of jobs worldwide already have a digital component (UN WOMEN, 2018) and most jobs will soon require sophisticated digital skills. If states equip girls with digital skills by prioritising edutech in teaching and learning, they will help girls and women thrive in economies where routine work has been automated and digital skills are prized.

Despite the progress made over the years in attaining SDG 5, women and girls still face numerous challenges that hinder their progress and limit their potential. From lack of access to education, to unequal pay and discrimination in the workplace, gender-based violence and harmful cultural practices, women and girls continue to be disproportionately affected.

On International Women's Day 2023, we call on governments, civil society organizations, development partners, community members, individuals and wider education stakeholders to take bold steps towards advancing the rights of women and girls. This includes ensuring that women and girls have access to quality education and STEM education, gender balance in teachers' deployment, eliminating all forms of gender-based violence and harmful cultural practices, promoting women's and girls' economic empowerment, bridging digital gap and increasing women's and girls' representation in leadership positions.

TEN/MET remains steadfast in ensuring that every woman and girl has access to quality education and opportunities for a better life. We urge everyone to join us in this journey towards attaining gender equality in Tanzania and achieving SDG 5 by 2030.

Thank you

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