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## PRAWA HAPPILY JOINS THE WORLD IN CELEBRATING THE 2023 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY.



We acknowledge and celebrate the resilience, strength, and beauty of Nigerian women and appreciate them especially for standing up for peace and unity at the home front and in our communities. Your efforts at peace building in spite of your incapacitation by gender discriminations/stereotypes and cultural/religious limitations are worthy of celebration. This year's theme "DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality" calls for collective efforts at challenging and eradicating gender bias and inequality using sustainable technological innovations.

The call for DigitAll innovation in furtherance of women's right is therefore both a call for positive action against all barriers and limitations women face generally and action against all that limits their productive involvement in the world of technology.

This year's celebration therefore awakens in us as Nigerians a commitment to ending the inequities that has kept the participation of women in the ICT world at below 30%. It is a call for an end to unequal remuneration of women as against men in the ICT world and a call for support to intentional efforts at putting an end to every other form of gender based violence perpetrated against women in the digital world.

Truth remains that to effectively and efficiently utilize technology as a tool for self assertion and access to basic human rights, Nigerian women should be able to flow with their counterparts all over the world in terms of building competences and capacities in the area of technology.



Technology stands out today as the driving force for change in all facets of life. Obvious and concerning is the fact that Nigerian women are not where they should be in the sphere of technological innovation.

It is therefore pertinent that efforts at actualization of the rights of women are strongly supported by programs and activities that will empower them technologically.

It is interesting to note that nations are moving beyond the equality mantra to equity. It is only equitable that women as much as men are exposed to opportunities that would enable them to strategically use technology to loud their voices on issues that affect them both in their private and public lives. This will help women effectively communicate areas of gaps in their quest for equality.

Women are better positioned to develop softwares to address issues of Sexual & Gender Based Violence , they are better positioned by virtue of their experiences to develop Apps that will help them navigate the trying processes and procedures of the systems of justice administration in Nigeria.

With the right digital competencies and capacities , women are better positioned to utilize technology to overcome the many educational, economic, social and political limitations they face in the society .

PRAWA specifically calls for women focused technology driven initiatives to address the discrimination and systemic barriers in workplaces especially in the Nigerian security sector. As Nigeria battles heightened security challenges across the federation , we posit that the age long gap in number and position between male and female security agents can begin to be covered by a commitment to building capacity of female officers in the digital management of information, communication and intelligence gathering generally.



Utilizing technology, we also look forward to Nigerian women making waves in education, entrepreneurship and politics.

Technology can be a tool for access to justice. It can also be used to support women entrepreneurs access funding/resources for startups and capacity building opportunities.

Technology can be deployed by Nigerian women to advocacy and campaigns targeted at challenging gender stereotypes.

Technology can help promote positive representations of women in media, advertising and other forms of digital content creation platforms that can help develop safe spaces online for women to connect, share experiences and build support groups against online harassment , cyber bullying and other forms of abuse that exclude women from active participation in issues of interest to them.

Finally, PRAWA congratulates ALL WOMEN and motivates them with the simple message that they alone can change the negative narratives that limit women. WOMEN HAVE ALL THAT IT TAKES TO CREATE AND ROCK THEIR WORLD.

Therefore, Arise Nigerian women, build capacities around technology and SHINE!!

Dr Uju Agomoh

Executive Director & Founder

PRAWA and Member UN Sub- Committee on Prevention of Torture

