



## **G7 GERMANY 2015**

### **G7 Forum for Dialogue with Women**

#### **New Opportunities for Women in a Digital World**

##### **Key Messages**

- **Agree on Equality: Value every person, not just 50 % percent!**
- **Digital is pervasive & changing everything. Comparable to invention of electricity, creation of assembly lines by Henry Ford.**
- **Digital World is an opportunity, but if not addressed proactively could be a problem / create a further gender divide.**
- **Girls today start with a deficit as documented from the OECD Study "The ABC of gender equality in education".**
- **Social Media provides global visibility on issues of inequality BUT is currently driven by men.**

**That's why we recommend to focus on five fields of action:**

- 1. Role of the education system / “Teach the teachers” (material, skills, curriculum) and create a culture that accepts failures & increases self confidence.**
- 2. Companies need to encourage and train the women / think about new approaches like reverse mentoring, improve recruitment process, improve/train skills, lifelong learning, cooperation with the public sector important.**
- 3. Role of the Family/Culture (including male family members): Break cultural stereotypes & offer girls chances from the beginning.**
- 4. Role model role: Role of women and of men (broad definition, including men, neighbors etc.). Role of men: Sponsoring / Mentoring / Truly value equality! Role of women: Active Mentoring / Women helping women / Create excitement.**

**5. Access is key both to electricity, technology and funding (in particular in developing countries, consider pilot programs for refugees).**

**As a summary of our discussions, we agreed on the following:**

**“The digital revolution is unprecedented and is constantly evolving. It has the possibility to level the playing field; taking advantage of it will require changes in every sector of society. For girls and women to fully participate and benefit from the digital revolution, it will require changes to the education system, corporate development, and culture/family stereotypes. Inspiring role models and access to mentors, quality skills, technology and funding are essential. Digital qualification is a prerequisite for digital empowerment and will have to be accompanied with building self-confidence and willingness to take risk.”**