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The Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PACCI) in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme Regional Service Center for Africa (UNDP-RSCA), and with the support of the Government of Canada, is carrying out a Regional Study to Assess the Status of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE) in the Private Sector and establish a community of practice of gender seal in the private sector in four Regional Economic Communities (ECCSA, ECOWAS, IGAD, and SADC).

Through the Gender Equality Seal Certification Programme, UNDP is supporting the private sector to close persistent gender gaps in the workplace. The programme recognizes private companies for meeting specific standards to promote gender equality and empower women. Designed as a means for the private sector to embrace gender equality and enhance women's economic and social empowerment, the Seal supports many corporations in making their human resources management systems more equitable and gender-sensitive. The Gender Equality Seal works towards eliminating gender inequalities in the workplace, while at the same time improving the lives of all employees and their families. Addressing gender equality and promoting women's empowerment is part of the core vision of both PACCI and UNDP and is seen as a major priority in what needs to be prioritized to achieve Agenda 2063.

PACCI's focus pillar on "Women and Youth in Trade" has pushed the organization to focus on empowering marginalized actors such as women. Within this context, PACCI is conducting a baseline assessment to examine existing gaps, and opportunities and inform the development of more concrete and context-specific targeted programme interventions.

PACCI is reaching out to various national chambers, organizations, conducting interviews and focus group discussions, and conducting in-depth field research to carry out and finalize its assessment of the GEWE in the selected regions.

For more information, contact Mamadou Y. Diarra at [mdiarra@pacci.org](mailto:mdiarra@pacci.org) and CC [info@pacci.org](mailto:info@pacci.org) or call our office at +251116910011.