



Eramet and Women In Africa launch the Femmes d'Avenir programme in Senegal

Eramet and Women In Africa are continuing their programme to support female entrepreneurship in Africa with the official opening of the first Femmes d'Avenir intake in Senegal.

- 615 Senegalese female entrepreneurs will benefit from two mentoring programmes over three years:
- Each year, the “young start-ups” programme will enable 200 female entrepreneurs, divided into 4 groups, to complete comprehensive soft skills training,
- Each year, the “established female entrepreneurs” programme will provide tailored support to 5 women who have already set up in business.

Dakar, 19 October 2023 - Eramet and Women In Africa officially launched the Femmes d'Avenir programme at an opening ceremony at the Cercle de l'Union in Dakar. This event marks a significant milestone in the partnership between Eramet and Women In Africa (WIA), which aims to support economic and social development by encouraging female entrepreneurship on the African continent.

The Femmes d'Avenir programme is part of the 'Eramet Beyond for Contributive Impacts' programme, which aims to support local economic development by creating sustainable jobs outside the mining sector.

In Senegal, the Femmes d'Avenir programme offers two distinct pathways between 2023 and 2025 designed to meet the specific needs of the Senegalese entrepreneurial ecosystem.

- The “young start-ups” programme offers a full 208 hours of soft skills training to 200 female entrepreneurs, divided into classes of 50 women. This coaching will give them the tools they need to dare to be authentic, dare to negotiate successfully and dare to shine.
- At the same time, the “established female entrepreneurs” programme will offer tailored support over one year to 5 high-potential female entrepreneurs, particularly in the area of job creation, with the support of experts from the WIA network.

The opening ceremony took place under the aegis of the event's sponsors, Victorine Ndeye, Senegal's Minister for Microfinance and the Social Solidarity Economy, and Virginie de Chasse, Director of Sustainable Development and Corporate Commitment at the Eramet Group. The event was attended by representatives of the WIA network and Eramet in Gabon, Senegal and France, as well as two female entrepreneurs who won first prize in the first edition of the programme in Gabon last June.



WOMEN IN AFRICA

Victorine Anquediche Ndeye, Minister for Microfinance and the Social Economy, declared: *“Beyond our shared and ongoing desire to build a fairer and more egalitarian world, it seems necessary to pause for a moment, as women, to place our actions and our reflections in the context of the issues that challenge our future. The economic and social empowerment of women cannot be achieved without an appropriate response to our entrepreneurial ecosystem”.*

Virginie de Chasse, Director of Sustainable Development and Corporate Commitment at Eramet, said: *“Eramet is stepping up as a contributor to the economic development of the regions in which it operates. After Gabon, Senegalese female entrepreneurs will be able to benefit from strategic support through the Femmes d’Avenir programme, which will enable them to develop their activities over the long term and take their place in the world, thanks to their dynamism and initiative”.*

The first 50 beneficiaries of the Senegalese start-up programme were invited to the programme launch ceremony in Dakar. From October 2023 to June 2024, the 2nd, 3rd and 4th classes will start up successively in Dakar and in the regions. Each class will consist of 50 people and will benefit from 3 bootcamps.

The Top 5 in each of the 4 classes, identified on the basis of their motivation, their active involvement in the programme and their results, will receive a “bonus”:

- an additional bootcamp for these 20 women to further develop their business and create jobs
- a one-minute video highlighting their career paths and achievements

The 5 high-potential female entrepreneurs were also announced at the ceremony. The “established female entrepreneurs” programme will include a business diagnosis phase, after which the WIA network experts and the participants will work hand in hand to define their objectives and personalised roadmaps. Each month, their strategy, operations and personal development will be specially monitored. Each participant will be assigned a high-level mentor to provide long-term support.

For more information on the programme, visit <https://wia-initiative.com/fr/femmes-davenir-senegal/>

ABOUT ERAMET

Eramet transforms the Earth’s mineral resources to provide sustainable and responsible solutions to industrial growth and the challenges of the energy transition.

Its employees are committed to this through their civic-minded and contributory approach in all the countries where the mining and metallurgical group operates.



WOMEN IN AFRICA

Manganese, nickel, mineralised sands, lithium and cobalt: Eramet values and develops the metals that are essential for building a more sustainable world.

As a privileged partner of its industrial customers, the Group helps to make infrastructures and buildings robust and resistant, means of mobility more efficient, healthcare tools safer and telecommunications equipment more effective.

Fully committed to the metals era, Eramet is aiming to become a benchmark in the responsible processing of the Earth's mineral resources for the benefit of all.

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ABOUT WIA INITIATIVE:

Created in 2016, the Women In Africa (WIA) Initiative is the first international platform dedicated to economic development and to supporting African female entrepreneurs. At WIA, we are convinced that pan-African women, through their actions and the change and impact they bring about, can make a major contribution to the continent's progress. WIA's key programmes include:

- **WIA 54**, an annual pan-African competition for entrepreneurial projects led by women.
- **WIA HUBS**, which aims to provide local support for African female entrepreneurs.
- **WIA MENTORING**, a programme designed to mentor Africa's many talents.
- **WIA YOUNG LEADERS**, a programme to identify and support the continent's young leaders.
- **RESEARCH**: the WIA Institute collects and collates data on African women and the economy. In partnership with its sponsors, the Institute publishes relevant studies every year.

<https://wia-initiative.com>

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