

# press release

## Standard Chartered Bank Ghana Limited launches a ‘*Women in Technology*’ incubator programme

- *Bank collaborates with Ashesi University’s Ghana Climate Innovation Center to implement the incubator programme*

**November 30, 2020 - Accra:** Standard Chartered Bank Ghana Limited has today announced the implementation of a **Women in Tech Incubator (WIT) Programme** in collaboration with the Ghana Climate Innovation Centre; an Ashesi University business incubator.

Championed by Standard Chartered, the Women in Tech Incubator Programme, is specifically designed for women-led or women-owned businesses that are applying technological innovation to their operations, or women owned tech start-ups.

For the duration of the programme, Standard Chartered Bank, through Ghana Climate Innovation Centre (GCIC) will offer a series of interventions to selected businesses including opportunities to pitch for and secure financial grants for scaling up their business and access to dedicated enterprise and portfolio managers. Additionally, these selected businesses will be given access to GCIC’s highly acclaimed High Values Mini MBA and the Women Entrepreneurs Transformation Programme.

Commenting on the initiative, **Mrs. Mansa Nettey, Chief Executive, Standard Chartered Bank Ghana Limited** said, “Empowering businesses founded or led by females is crucial to accelerating progress towards achieving our nation’s Sustainable Development Goals. The Women in Tech Incubator will provide an opportunity for women-owned or led businesses to thrive in a post COVID-19 digital world by tapping into the opportunities offered by technology adaptation.”

“Collaborating with Ashesi University’s GCIC is key due to their understanding of the Ghanaian entrepreneurial ecosystem, expertise and commitment to excellence is distinctively complimentary to Standard Chartered Bank’s values and brand promise *Here for good*. We look forward to all that will be accomplished through this initiative, including redefining entrepreneurship” Mrs. Nettey added.



**Ms. Olga Arara-Kimani, Regional Head Corporate Affairs and Brand & Marketing, Standard Chartered Africa & Middle East** said about launching Women In Technology in Ghana: “We have found that female techpreneurs face significant obstacles and structural inequalities in preventing them to scale their businesses, including financing and mentorship. With a thriving start-up scene, internet penetration at almost 50% and the country having the highest rate of women-owned businesses globally, we believe that the Women in Tech Programme will plug the gap for female techpreneurs looking to grow their business at scale and foster a stronger and more dynamic startup ecosystem in Ghana.”

Launched in 2014 in New York, Standard Chartered Bank’s WiT is now a global programme. In 2017 the first WIT incubator was launched in the Africa and Middle East region, with Kenya being the first market and have subsequently rolled it out in other key markets including Nigeria, UAE, Pakistan, Bahrain and Zambia with Ghana being the 7<sup>th</sup> market. In three years, the Bank has provided over \$500,000 to various programme cohorts in these markets along with financial backing, Standard Chartered also provides training, mentoring and access to a wider network of other companies for these entrepreneurs.

**Ms. Ruka Sanusi, Executive Director of the Ghana Climate Innovation Centre** said, “Collaborating with Standard Chartered to build the insight and resilience needed by women entrepreneurs to thrive in the innovation and technology sector is a huge privilege and responsibility. We look forward to providing the very best business advisory and support services as well as executive and leadership coaching to the selected women entrepreneurs.”

“Working with Standard Chartered, we are committed to building the tenets upon which women entrepreneurs can enjoy mindset optimization, vision clarity and tried and tested structure that aligns with the operations of their business and their overall personal aspirations,” she added.

The first cohort of Women in Tech business incubator will provide premium business incubation services to 40 women-owned or women-led businesses, with five selected top finalists receiving seed funding from Standard Chartered Bank Ghana Limited.

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**For more information or interview opportunities, please contact:**

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## **Standard Chartered Bank Ghana Limited**

Standard Chartered Bank Ghana Limited is Ghana's premier bank established in 1896. We are part of a leading international banking group, with a presence in 59 of the world's most dynamic markets and serving clients in a further 85. Our purpose is to drive commerce and prosperity through our unique diversity.

Our heritage and values are expressed in our brand promise, Here for good.

The Bank is listed on the Ghana Stock Exchange and has been one of the leading stocks over a sustained period.

Standard Chartered PLC is listed on the London and Hong Kong Stock Exchanges.

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