



## **Europe's biggest digital conference presents highlights of the first re:publica in Accra**

**Berlin, October 11, 2018** – Yesterday re:publica – Europe's largest conference on digital topics and society – has announced the program of its first Ghanaian edition in a joint press conference with the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). re:publica, BMZ and local partners want to show that digital transformation creates perspectives and innovation locally. Under the banner "Next Level", re:publica Accra will take place for the first time on the African continent from December 14 – 15, 2018. The venue will be the stunning Round Pavilion at the trade fair in Accra.

### **Four stages, four topic lounges, over 100 program sessions and more than 150 speakers**

Today, the event organizers announced further first-class speakers and program highlights at the intercontinental press conference in Berlin and in Accra: among other speakers, Rebecca Enonchong will be speaking on the economic effects of internet shutdowns, Tefo Mohapi (the editor of iAfrikan) explains the conditions necessary for digital freedom of opinion and Professor Nii Quanor talks about the history and future of the internet in Africa.

"We are particularly glad that the majority of the over 240 submissions we received from our Call for Participation are from speakers from all over Africa and cover several exciting topics such as open data, message verification, digital art and Afro-futurism. This promises to be an enriching exchange between all players in digital society from the global south and north, both in Africa and with Africa", says Sandister Tei, curator of the thematic track "Media and Journalism". With the thread "Tech for Good", the main partner of re:publica Accra, BMZ, sets a focus on this topic and gives a platform to people who consider the opportunities which digitalization offers to solve global problems. Since 2013, the BMZ has cooperated with re:publica GmbH, and this was also their first year as the main partner of re:publica Berlin.

### **re:publica Accra: Next Level!**

Today the motto of the first re:publica in Accra was also announced at the press conference: with the "Next Level", re:publica wants to convey the trailblazing aspects of the event and emphasizes that it helps shape and promote the discourse on digitalization and social transformation. "We are proud of the diverse program we put together for the re:publica in Accra and look forward to the countless inspiring sessions – and of course the continent-wide dialogue with the communities!", says Andreas Gebhard, CEO and managing director of re:publica.

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### About re:publica:

re:publica is Europe's biggest conference on internet and digital society. Here, bloggers cross paths with politicians, scientists meet entrepreneurs, artists meet activists. More than 19,500 people from 80 countries came together at re:publica 18 over the course of the three-day conference in Berlin to discuss current questions about digital society. The next edition of re:publica will take place from May 6 – 8, 2019, in Berlin. In addition, at the end of the year re:publica will be launched for the first time on African soil in Accra, the capital of Ghana. As a strategic partner of the "Deutschlandjahr USA" it will put on five events in the United States. The shareholders of re:publica GmbH, newthinking communications and Spreeblick Verlag have been actively engaged in the areas of network politics, digital culture and digital society for over a decade. Read more at: [www.re-publica.com](http://www.re-publica.com)

### About BMZ:

The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) coordinates the German development cooperation. The BMZ supports at the moment about 380 digital projects in almost 80 countries worldwide. Through Initiatives such as "Digital Africa" BMZ provides about 150 Million Euros funding to digital projects. In the digital sector BMZ focuses currently on: building digital centers to foster sustainable development; applying technological innovation for sustainable development; on fostering public private partnership with the digital economy.

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