

Side Event Proposed Title: AfCFTA as a vehicle for gender equality towards Agendas 2030 and 2063: A normative framework perspective

Objectives of the Side Event

The objectives of this Side Event are a) to shed light on the significance of the AfCFTA in achieving gender equality towards achieving SDG 5 and Agenda 2063 in Africa; b) to discuss the challenges and prospects for utilising the opportunities presented by Trade and AfCFTA towards gender equality in the realisation of SDG 5 and Agenda 2063; c) to shed light on the importance of gender responsive policy and legislations to create an enabling environment to implement AfCFTA successfully, and to materialise the Agenda 2063 aspirations.

Format of the Side Event

It will be a Hybrid, or Online event.

Proposed Time (Kigali/Nairobi Time)

The dialogue will take place on March 1st, 2nd or 4th at: 09:30-10:30 or 11:00-12:30. The proposed event will have 1h30min duration.

Opening remarks

- UNECA Executive Secretary
- Rwandan Representative
- AU Commissioner for Trade and Industry or AfCFTA Executive Secretary General.

Moderator

UNECA-SRO EA representatives (TBC)

Proposed Speakers/Panellists: (TBC)

- FEMNET/ Gender Links continental network of women's rights of organisations, discussing the barriers to effectively develop and implement gender responsive legislations in the continent. (10 min)
- Akili Dada, to discuss the promising practices for youth engagement in transforming harmful norms. (10 min)
- Rwanda female Member of Parliament discussing the role of women's political participation to support gender responsive legislations and policy-making.
- Representative of Council of Traditional Leader in Africa (Nigeria, Niger, or Zimbabwe) on their role to transform norms around masculinity OR Faith-Based Network (Malawi). (10min)
- Ms. Candide Leguede, CEO, Ecowas Federation of Business Women and Entrepreneurs – FEBWE, discuss the innovative approach in the continent to foster women's economic empowerment. (10min)
- Douglas K. Baguma, Founder of Innovex Uganda (Winner of 2021 ITC Youth Ecopreneur Awards), discuss the role of young people and youth innovator to contribute to Africa Growth. (10min)
- Ms. Vanessa Erogbogbo, Chief of Sustainable and Inclusive Value Chains and Head of SheTrades Initiative or Judith Fessehaie, Senior Programme Officer, SheTrades Initiative, ITC, or ITC Executive Director (10min)

Questions and Answer / discussion: 20 min

Closing Remarks: UNFPA Deputy ED/UNECA (TBC)

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