

## Strengthening Regional Partnerships towards Achievement of Agenda 2063 and 2030 Agenda Commitments on Eliminating Gender Based Violence and Harmful Practices

*A Side Event on the Margins of the 8<sup>th</sup> ARFSD*

### Introduction and Context

The African Union Commission, United Nations and European Union signed in April, 2020 an agreement to implement the Spotlight Initiative Africa Regional Programme (SIARP). The initiative is a continental programme working to end violence against women and eliminate in particular gender-based violence and harmful practices, including female genital mutilation and child marriage.

SIARP is a critical partnership for the wellbeing of young girls and women in Africa, aligning with Agenda 2063's commitment to "*eradicate all forms of gender-based violence and harmful practices against women and girls, especially child, early and forced marriages and female genital mutilation*". Furthermore, the partnership also responds to the global sustainable development goal five's target 5.3 on eliminating "all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation".

The initiative is building on country level actions and commitments by Governments, whilst galvanizing regional political action to strengthen accountability, use of evidence and data, collaboration and investments to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence and harmful practices. It highlights important experiences and opportunities to fast-track achievement of regional and global commitments for young girls and women empowerment and development outcomes. The side event seeks to convene a dialogue to examine continental progress, and challenges towards delivering on Agenda 2063 and 2030 Agenda commitments on eliminating gender-based violence and harmful practices.

### Expected Results

The dialogue will contribute to Africa's report on achieving sustainable development goal 5, within the context of Agenda 2063's aspiration 6. Discussions will revolve around SIARP's work, potential and opportunities for continental results.

### Format of the Side Event

The side-event will be convened virtually for two (2) hours. Participation will involve the participation of high-level representatives from the African Union Commission, United Nations and European Union. In addition, select African Union Member States will also be invited to contribute in the discussions, reflecting on key challenges and experiences from country level actions to achieve sustainable development agenda, and Agenda 2063 commitments on gender-based violence and harmful practices elimination.

### Agenda (Tentative)

Tentatively, the agenda will include;

1. **Opening** – Mme. Cisse Mariamma - Director, SDSC – AUC
2. **Keynote Statements** – Mireille Tushiminina, UNFPA; Nena Thundu, AUC
3. **Presentation** – Julius Otim, Regional Coordinator, SIARP
4. **Dialogue on country and regional Experiences**; Agnes Bangali, FGM Youth Consortium; Jullie Diallo, Innovation, UNFPA ESARO; Mrs. Bernadette Loloju, Kenya Anti-FGM Board; Niger Government Representative
5. **Closing** – Amandine, EU to AU